

РОЗДІЛ 3. ПОЛІТИЧНІ ПРОБЛЕМИ МІЖНАРОДНИХ СИСТЕМ ТА ГЛОБАЛЬНОГО РОЗВИТКУ

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The role of the national oil strategy in the strengthening and development of independent statehood

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The main goal of the article is to analyze the role of the national oil strategy in the strengthening and development of the independent statehood of Azerbaijan in the modern period. It is noted that Azerbaijan has been famous for its oil since ancient times. It is no coincidence that the phrase "land of fires", embodied in the name of Azerbaijan, also appeared here. The article notes that with the implementation of the "Contract of the Century" signed in 1994 on the joint exploitation of oil fields in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea with large companies from the leading countries of the world, the foundation of the oil strategy of independent Azerbaijan was laid.

Methods and methodologies. The article widely uses methods of analysis of legislative acts, analysis of political and effective facts in the modern history of the country's oil policy, the method of comparative analysis and methods of abstraction.

Novelty in the article. In the domestic socio-political literature, the country's oil strategy was analyzed for the first time along with other such important priorities as defense capability, successful foreign and domestic policy. It is noted that for the young Azerbaijani state, a consistent oil policy is an important component and priority direction of the concept of state building, which is defined as the presence of a solid economic base, which is an incomparable benefit for the Azerbaijani people, and which is formed and implemented as a guarantor of independence.

Results and conclusions. As a result of the analysis, the author comes to the conclusion that it is the oil strategy that occupies a special place and role in the history of independent statehood as a strategy for development and progress. The basis of political independence is, of course, economic independence and the oil strategy approved by the "Contract of the Century".

The signing of a contract between eleven experienced world oil companies, based on the implementation of Azerbaijan's oil strategy, is of great historical, political, regional and global significance.

Thus, to summarize the above, we can say that the geopolitical significance of the Caspian basin is manifested in a new quality, adequate to the peculiarities of international relations.

Key words: Oil strategy, Caspian basin, priority, cooperation, regional power.

Introduction. The young state of Azerbaijan is an important component and priority direction of the concept of state building, which is defined as having a strong economic base, which is an incomparable blessing for the people of Azerbaijan, and which is formed and implemented as a guarantor of independence. It is oil strategy has a special place and role included in the history of independent statehood as a development and progress strategy. If the country is economically weak and dependent, it is certainly not easy to conduct an independent policy. The basis of political independence is, of course, economic independence, and the oil strategy, which was approved by the "Contract of the Century", played an exceptional role in ensuring this in the transitional reality of Azerbaijan and is still playing it today [1].

On September 20, 1994, the world's well-known oil companies and the deep water of the Azeri, Chirag and Guneshli fields located in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea. The signing of the Agreement on the joint processing and distribution of production became a real turning point in the modern history

of our country, and provided a reliable guarantee for its current and future development [1].

Under the condition that 253 million tons will fall to Azerbaijan's share from three oil fields on the shelf in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea, 511 million tons of oil will be jointly extracted, transported and distributed over a period of 30 years to seven countries (Azerbaijan, Turkey, USA, Great Britain, Russia, Norway, Saudi Arabia). Signing a contract between eleven experienced oil companies and based on the realization of the oil strategy of Azerbaijan has a great historical-political, regional and global significance. The place and role of the national oil strategy in the strengthening and development of our independent statehood, as well as in the transformation of the Caspian region into a new global power center, is of exceptional importance [2].

The first success achieved in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea – on November 12, 1997, the occasion of the start of production and transportation of the initial oil under the "Contract of the Century", the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Haydar Aliyev said: "... Azerbaijan oil in the Caspian Sea" As a country that took the first steps in the discovery and exploitation of its fields, now – at the end of the 20th century, on the threshold of the 21st century, it has made outstanding initiatives in the field of using the great energy resources of the Caspian Sea for Azerbaijan, all Caspian littoral countries, and the world economy, and as a result of this, in the last three years, great initiatives have been taken" [1, p. 142-143].

Oil strategy of Azerbaijan. Thanks to joint activities and close cooperation with 20 companies representing 12 countries of the world, Azerbaijan will strengthen its independence and its position as a worthy member of the world community" [1, p. 294-295]. As one of the first important results of the realization of the "Contract of the Century", on November 12, 1997, the day on which oil production from the "Chirag-1" field in the Caspian sector of Azerbaijan began – Derick Fachetti, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Great Britain, described the historical success of independent Azerbaijan, its "many challenges ahead as the beginning of their success" and said: "Azerbaijan has such rich natural resources that many states and countries can only wish for. The oil and gas resources to be extracted from the Caspian Sea will greatly contribute to the improvement of the material well-being of the people of Azerbaijan. This will give Azerbaijan the opportunity to rise to the level of developed democratic states of the world" [1, p. 281]. Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yılmaz expressed his views on the transformation of the Caspian region into a new global power center and its necessity in his speech at the solemn ceremony as follows: "One of the important factors that will shape international politics in the 21st century will be oil again. The wealth of the Caspian basin in terms of oil, which is a strategic raw material, has made this region a center that attracts the interest of the whole world. In terms of creating an environment of cooperation and peace instead of conflict and competition, it is of great importance to evaluate this environment with a sense of responsibility. We believe that oil should be a uniting element among the countries of the region, not a dividing one. The amount of oil available in the Caspian Basin, which has the third largest oil reserves in the world, indicates that not one but several pipelines will be needed. Thus, the issue of oil and pipelines requires multilateral and very wide cooperation between the countries of the region and other related countries" [1, p. 272].

Haydar Aliyev, who considered the rich oil and gas resources of Azerbaijan to be the most important factor for the current and future development of the country, its state independence, and the well-being of the people, highly appreciated the importance of the "Contract of the Century". This agreement opened a glorious page in the history of Azerbaijan's oil and new

economy, and laid the foundation for the dynamic development of Azerbaijan in the 21st century. The "Contract of the Century", which is a bright manifestation of the implementation of the oil strategy, gave a strong impetus to the revival and development of the economy of independent Azerbaijan through the oil industry. As a result of the realization of this agreement, which played a fateful role in the life of the people of Azerbaijan, the signing of which is considered an important event in the history of independent Azerbaijan, a radical change is taking place in the oil industry of Azerbaijan, which is the historical flagship of the world oil industry. The successes achieved on this basis create real and prospective opportunities for the revival of the country's economy and its development based on market relations, and for its integration into the world economy, which is the main leading trend of the globalization era. The success of the oil strategy created a reliable guarantee for investments in the economy of Azerbaijan. These successes became the basis for the dynamic and rapid development of Azerbaijan's oil industry, as well as the revival of other areas of the economy. It is important for Azerbaijan to become a strong trade partner by establishing extensive trade relations with various countries of the world, and at the same time, to exchange dozens of free technologies, ideas, etc. gave the opportunity to exchange [2, p. 34-35].

By opening the door to the world economy in the direction of the implementation of the oil strategy, Azerbaijan gained wide opportunities for the development of its own economy based on civilized market relations, its integration into the world economy, and the export of oil and gas to foreign countries. Oil, which is the national wealth of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan, which has become a full and equal system of international relations, not only has an important impact on the development of the country's economy based on market relations, but also has an important global importance. That the role of the oil factor is increasing as the global struggle for energy resources becomes more intense. In such a complex period, the problem of obtaining favorable opportunities against the background of mutual understanding to solve the difficulties related to the oil factor is of particular importance. In this regard, the oil strategy policy of independent Azerbaijan is a perfect example of a peaceful solution to such a global problem through beneficial cooperation. History shows that if foreign policy and economic interests coincide, greater understanding is created between the countries of the world, and the ground is laid for cooperation that will ensure a successful future. The "Contract of the Century" on the joint production of rich hydrocarbon resources in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea with the most influential companies of the world's major powers confirms this once again. This oil agreement, which has no ana-

logues in the world, marked the beginning of a new era – the era of international cooperation and trade, development and progress in the efficient use of energy resources in the Caspian region, which is located in the most complex geopolitical space.

On the basis of the realization of the “Contract of the Century”, where Azerbaijan is the initiator and the geo-economic execution space, the Caspian region is no longer in the sense of competition and struggle, but in the sense of beneficial cooperation for ensuring energy security, becoming a new global power center. With this agreement on the joint development of oil fields in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea, the foundation of international cooperation in the Caspian Sea was laid. The “Contract of the Century”, which is a bright manifestation of the implementation of the oil strategy of independent Azerbaijan, gave rise to the popularity of the Caspian Sea as a water basin with the richest energy resources in the world, and aroused serious interest in the Caspian states. The rich hydrocarbon resources of the Caspian Sea are of real significance in terms of the macro-economic revival of not only Azerbaijan, but also the South Caucasus as a whole, as well as Central Asia, and ensuring Europe’s energy security. As mentioned above, the creation of a modern model of statehood during the period since the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan led to the formation of new priorities at the same time. Among these priorities, the transformation of Azerbaijan into the leading state of the region, the place where transnational power centers are settled, is the most serious concern of political scientists. Here, it is necessary to comprehensively consider a number of factors that determine such a setting of the issue. First of all, the features of the region should be taken into account, the interests of international factors should be taken into account, the geostrategic situation of the South Caucasus and the Caspian basin factor, and other determinants should be analyzed from a political perspective. It is known that until recent years, Azerbaijan was considered and analyzed as a model country of the South Caucasus [3, p. 145].

However, the evolution of the processes in the region has already opened the way for the emergence of new geo-geographical conditions, which has left its stamp on the geopolitical palette of the region. The factor of political polarization is already accompanied by manipulations and tactics related to economic resources. As these political movements become permanent, they become system-creating elements, and the relations here have a more permanent character [4, p. 17-18].

In this context, the Caspian basin, where Azerbaijan plays a leading role, is also ambitious for the role of a new political power center. The main reason for saying this is that not only the leading and basin states in the region, but also the countries that are not

directly connected with this geography are constantly strengthening their activities. This brings new content to the nature of geopolitical games and increases the struggle for supremacy in the region. The place and role of Azerbaijan in this struggle is evaluated from different points of view. At the same time, the geostrategic importance of the Caspian basin, its place and role in regional cooperation, geopolitical development prospects are in focus not only from the perspective of this region, but also from the point of view of modern trends of international relations as a whole. The intersection of regional, national, and global interests at this geopolitical level gives grounds for concluding that Azerbaijan is considered the main center of gravity of the Caspian region, which is transforming into the leading geopolitical arena of Eurasia. According to Kazakh sociologist Askar Nursh, the Caspian region currently acts as one of the main factors of international relations, which increases the planetary importance of the region [3, p. 154]. The Second Caspian Corridor Conference 2014, held with the support of the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), the International Bank of Azerbaijan, the British-Azerbaijani Business Council (Britain – Azerbaijan Business Council, BABC) and the well-known British organization “Asia House” held at the London Stock Exchange. Azerbaijan’s Minister of Energy, Natig Aliyev, during the extensive presentation dedicated to the region’s geo-economic and energy potential, noted that the Caspian region has a strategically important position and actively cooperates with foreign companies, including British companies. He emphasized that the proven oil reserves of the Caspian region are 48 billion barrels or 3.5% of the world’s total oil reserves, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are the most important oil exporters among the countries of the Caspian region. Internet page of the International Bank of Azerbaijan [5, 14].

At the conference “The Caspian region in the context of the crisis of international law and security” in Moscow, it was emphasized that the continuation of discussions on the perspectives of the region once again confirms that the formation of the Caspian basin as an international power center has largely been completed [3, p. 234]. Along with the states of the region, a number of European countries also openly express their interest in the Caspian region. In this context, Greece’s interest in the Caspian region, which functions as a corridor from the East to Europe and therefore has a special position on the continent due to its geopolitical importance. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece, Spiros Kouvelis, noted: “For our country, the Caspian region is of strategic importance, and we believe that Azerbaijan plays an important role in this region. The relations between our countries are firm and sincere.” According to him, it is good for the improvement of bilateral relations. There are opportunities and the develop-

ment of these relations is of mutual interest for both Greece and Azerbaijan. Another important element of getting out of the economic crisis in our conditions is Greece's main communication link with the European Union, Southeast Europe, Mediterranean and Black Sea basin countries. In the geographical region, our country is an important and reliable partner that supports and advances the efforts of other countries in establishing business relations with each other, as well as developing and modernizing the infrastructures of those countries, and creating institutions at the political and economic level" [3, 102]. Active in the struggle for interest in the region one of its subjects is China. An approach that characterizes China's interests in the region states: "The Chinese factor has become a competitor of Russia and Iran in a broader sense. Beijing is already implementing major energy, economic and cultural (especially linguistic) projects in Central Asia. The visits of Chinese officials to this region have intensified significantly in the last year. Now it is said that this state is preparing to invest 50 billion US dollars in the economy and energy carriers of the Central Asian states. There is no doubt that this moment gives reason to conclude the existence of a new serious geopolitical player in the Caspian basin" [6].

The role of the Caspian Sea in oil strategy.

We mentioned that the claims of the basin states in the Caspian region have already expanded. From this point of view, the policy initiative implemented by the Islamic Republic of Iran can be evaluated as an attempt to seize control. G. Khalilov notes in this regard: "One of the active participants in the geopolitical struggle over Caspian oil largely coincides with Russia's position. The ruling circles of Iran, like Russia, consider it more undesirable for the interests of their country to expand the activities of Western capital in this region year by year. Iran, which was unable to take part in the "Deal of the Century" especially at the request of the US government, changed its position on the status of the Caspian Sea and became the most stubborn defender of the "condominium" principle, which involves the joint use of the resources of the Caspian Sea [7, p. 12]. Professor Ali Hasanov noted that Azerbaijan has its own historical approach to security issues and military-geostrategic problems of the South Caucasus, Caspian Basin and Central Asia region. According to experts, Iran, in general, is not interested in interregional conflicts and the resulting instability. In this country, they know well that in recent history, for example, in the Balkans and other regions, any conflict has led to the intervention of foreign forces [8, p. 451]. Vladimir Yevseyev, director of the Russian Social and Political Research Center, said at the round table on "Geopolitics in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea region: security problem" held in Baku: "Azerbaijan is a leading country in the South Caucasus. This development is an indicator of the country's great

potential. Russia and Azerbaijan with such capabilities is interested in further strengthening the relations". In this regard, the statement of an American political scientist is noteworthy: Frederick Starr, the chairman of the Central Asia and Caucasus Studies Institute of Johns Hopkins University, advised the US authorities to pay attention to the needs of the states in the region. He said: "Washington should discuss issues related to the countries of the South Caucasus and the Caspian basin directly with those countries, and should not do anything over anyone's head." If the US meets its security needs with the help of these countries, it should, in turn, pay attention to the security problems of these countries [9, p. 3].

Azerbaijani researchers have also conducted analyzes in this regard. "Azerbaijan, which has become the subject of geopolitics, is the way out to the West for the states of the Caspian basin. Azerbaijan, which is becoming one of the main stakeholders in Europe's supply of oil and natural gas, is increasingly increasing its ability to influence the political processes taking place in this geographical area [10, p. 2]. "The independent energy policy of Azerbaijan, which has large and rich oil and gas reserves in the Caspian region, is to increase the volume of oil and gas production, electricity production year by year, a wide transport transit network, including the huge Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum. owning gas pipelines, achieving real diversification of oil and gas flows in the region, favorable geographical position and other opportunities have greatly increased the interest and attention of many countries of the world, and especially the European Union, which unites 27 states, to our country" [11, p. 12].

It should be noted that the significance of the Caspian basin as a geopolitical factor in the modernizing world order will take on a new meaning in the 21st century due to Europe's energy security. It is in this context that the basin specializes in its mission as an outlet for new energy and transit spaces. Alternative factors, minimization of interdependencies, new form of West-East conflict and so on can be mentioned among the factors determining this. Due to such factors, the world's leading countries, as well as some developing countries, have actively joined the fight for this space. Let's consider one idea in this regard: "The geopolitical relevance of the Caspian basin has never decreased in the last 20 years. The struggle of the world's great powers for this space has temporarily weakened at some point, but in general it has kept its tension. In particular, although the "Arab Spring" overshadowed the Caspian issue to a certain extent, its importance for global geopolitics has not decreased in the slightest. Strong countries in the region continue their policies with all intensity. This problem began to manifest itself more in connection with the formation of independent states after the collapse of the USSR and the exploitation

of energy carriers in the Caspian basin" [12]. Ali Hasanov notes: "According to the researches of some independent researchers, if the hydrocarbon reserves of the Caspian basin and the Central Asian region are saved from any external influences and freely exported to the European markets, they will be able to provide the continent's energy needs without interruption for at least 100 years in the third millennium and Russia's current monopoly in this field" [12].

Azerbaijan's independent domestic and foreign policy course, the implementation of tasks arising from the "Near Neighborhood Policy" program of the European Union, the reflection of the principles of international politics in its diplomacy. The success of Azerbaijan, a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, is based on the fact that President Ilham Aliyev continues the current course on a new quality and stage. As a result of the reforms carried out by the head of state and the realized projects, Azerbaijan is in the group of leaders as the fastest, dynamically developing country in the world in terms of economic development. Thus, Azerbaijan was the only CIS country representative at the summit meeting of the "Big-20" held in Mexico.

By turning the Caspian Sea into a diversification corridor, Azerbaijan contributes to the strengthening of the joint safe cooperation platform of all the countries of the world. Strengthening the policy of diversification in the transportation of rich energy resources of our republic increases the interest in this region, leads to the realization of new initiatives, and created a favorable ground for the creation of a system of energy routes. The government of Azerbaijan has implemented trans-energy projects with the political will it has demonstrated. He realized the creation of the Euro-Asian Oil Transport Corridor system. Azerbaijan, which plays an important role in the fuel supply of world countries, is taking intensive steps to create the Caspian-Black-Baltic-Mediterranean Sea corridor, which leads to the enrichment of the world's energy map. The political will of the head of state of Azerbaijan played a dominant role in laying the foundations of the TANAP and TAP projects, which are the most important corridors in the Caspian region.

The decision of the state of Azerbaijan regarding the selection of a pipeline for the delivery of natural gas produced within the framework of the "Shah Deniz-2" project to Europe – the principle of signing a memorandum of understanding on the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) project, which is the most profitable, safe, efficient and commercial for transporting gas to the West. The decision is an indication of the regularity of Azerbaijan's energy policy at a new historical stage.

The Caspian region is the main target in Europe's search for new "gas sources". Development, exploitation of existing oil and gas fields, as well as promising structures located in the sector

of the Caspian basin belonging to the Republic of Azerbaijan, construction and installation of modern oil and gas platforms, detection, assessment and taking of adequate measures against threats to the main export oil and gas pipelines and terminals Azerbaijan. It is one of the most important directions of action for ensuring the national security of the Republic [12].

According to another approach, it confirms that the military show of muscle comes to the fore against the background of intensifying competition in the Caspian basin. There is no doubt that the geopolitical importance of the region is increasing. The fact that this process is taking place against the background of the geopolitical struggle of the great powers indicates certain dangers. However, it is possible to prevent this danger with a well-thought-out and correct energy policy.

According to the general opinion of Khatija political scientists, who talk about the geo-economic position strengthened as a result of the balanced policy of the independent state of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan is of great importance in the world market. It is expected that the proven and potential resources of the Caspian Sea in the Azerbaijani sector will stabilize the world energy supply [12, p. 4].

The implementation of such large transnational projects, initiated by Azerbaijan, are important factors that play an important role in transforming the Caspian region into a new power center, solving the global energy security problem of Azerbaijan, expanding beneficial cooperation and mutual relations on a regional and international scale, and minimizing the risks of conflict.

Conclusion. Thus, all this is a clear manifestation of the transformation of the Caspian region into a new global power center as a result of the progressive geopolitical course and geo-economic position of independent Azerbaijan, which is calculated for a successful future. Summarizing what has been mentioned, we can say that the geopolitical importance of the Caspian basin is manifested in a new quality, adequate to the characteristics of international relations. Factors such as interdependencies, changes in the internal content of interests, risks in the nature of partnership relations and others have a decisive influence on this. The role and functions of Azerbaijan as the main factor of the Caspian basin are subject to innovations in the environment of competition between West-East, Europe and Asia and other civilizations. In other words, the uniqueness of the region and the interests of the conflicting powers open up new opportunities for maneuver for Azerbaijan. Ensuring the priorities of strengthening statehood within these possibilities becomes the main criterion. The fact that the socio-economic achievements of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the course of foreign policy complement each other suggests that the main strategy for determining

the priorities of statehood has determined a convenient format for modern state building. As the leading country of the Caspian Basin, Azerbaijan, which is the vanguard force of transnational projects, will directly depend on the deepening of the diversification of the economy, the equal distribution of economic resources across the country, and the sustainability of political reforms. This will also allow Azerbaijan to actively influence world politics not only with its energy resources, but also with its geopolitical capabilities.

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Роль національної нафтової стратегії в зміцненні і розвитку незалежної державності

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*Головна мета статті – проаналізувати ролі національної нафтової стратегії у зміцненні та розвитку незалежної державності Азербайджану в сучасний період. Зазначається, що Азербайджан здавна славився своєю нафтою. Невипадково тут також виникло словосполучення «земля вогнів», втілене в назві Азербайджану. У статті наголошується, що з реалізацією підписаного у 1994 році «Контракту століття» про спільну експлуатацію нафтових родовищ в азербайджанському секторі Каспійського моря з великими компаніями провідних країн світу було закладено основу нафтової стратегії незалежного Азербайджану. Методи та методології. У статті широко використані методи аналізу законодавчих актів, аналіз політичних та дієвих фактів у сучасній історії нафтової політики країни, метод порівняльного аналізу та методи абстрагування. Новизна. У вітчизняній суспільно-політичній літературі вперше проаналізовано нафтову стратегію країни поряд з іншими такими важливими пріоритетами як обороноздатність, успішна зовнішня та внутрішня політика. Зазначається, що для молодої Азербайджанської держави послідовна нафтова політика є важливою складовою та пріоритетним напрямом концепції державного будівництва, яка визначається як наявність міцної економічної бази, яка є ні з чим не порівнянним благом для азербайджанського народу, і яка формується та реалізується як гарант незалежності. Висновки. У підсумку аналізу автор приходить до висновку, що саме нафтова стратегія займає особливе місце та роль в історії незалежної державності як стратегія розвитку та прогресу. Основою політичної незалежності є, звичайно ж, економічна незалежність і нафтова стратегія, затверджена «Контрактом століття». Підписання контракту між одинадцятьма досвідченими світовими нафтовими компаніями, заснованого на реалізації нафтової стратегії Азербайджану, має велике історико-політичне, регіональне та глобальне значення. Таким чином, підсумовуючи вищесказане, можна сказати, що геополітичне значення Каспійського басейну проявляється в новій якості, адекватній особливостям міжнародних відносин. **Ключові слова:** Нафтова стратегія, Каспійський басейн, пріоритет, співпраця, регіональна держава.*