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Political views of regional representatives of the Parliament of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918–1920)

UDC 342

DOI <https://doi.org/10.24195/2414-9616.2025-5.7>Стаття поширюється на умовах ліцензії
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The main objective of this study is to examine the political views of regional deputies in the Parliament of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and their representational activities in various factions. The study analyzes the process of determining the socio-political composition of deputies representing regions in the Parliament of Azerbaijan and the exchange of opinions on various issues between factions. The study utilized analytical and synthesis methods, examining events within the context of a specific historical period. A comparative analysis of facts was conducted to determine the reliability of information from various sources. This allowed for an objective study of the problem.

Research Methods. *The study utilized analytical and synthesis methods, examining events within the context of a specific historical period. A comparative analysis of facts was conducted to determine the reliability of information from various sources. This allowed for an objective study of the problem.*

The scientific novelty *of this article lies in its first focus on the political views of regional representatives in the Azerbaijani Parliament and their factional representation in Parliament. Despite the diverse socio-political composition of regional representatives in the Azerbaijani Parliament, they all took similarly active positions in discussing and resolving issues affecting the districts they represented in Parliament.*

In conclusion, *it should be noted that, despite the differences in their political views and political leanings, their work in the highest legislative body serves a common goal: strengthening the foundations of national statehood and addressing the socioeconomic and cultural problems of the regions. The work of the Azerbaijani parliament, including the active participation of regional representatives in the legislative assembly, was a striking example of the widespread adoption of parliamentary traditions in the republic and the republic's status as a state that embodies democratic values based on the principles of multiparty politics and political, national, and regional representation.*

Key words: *Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, parliament, region, district, deputies, faction.*

Introduction. The Azerbaijan National Council, which was established on May 27, 1918 and declared Azerbaijan's independence a day later, has gone down in history as the first Parliament of Azerbaijan in legal terms [1, p. 4; 2, p. 11–12]. The establishment of the republic also brought about a revival in the regions of Azerbaijan and led to an increase in the political activity of its population.

With the establishment of the independent Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the political forces of Azerbaijan faced completely different tasks: protecting and strengthening the independence of Azerbaijan, establishing the foundations of national statehood. Among these tasks, the establishment of the supreme authority in the country – the Constituent Assembly, which was supposed to be formed on the basis of all-democratic principles, occupied an important place. Although the establishment of the supreme authority in the country – the Constituent Assembly – was envisaged within six months in accordance with the decision of the National Council of Azerbaijan dated June 17, 1918, this task was not fulfilled for a number of reasons, mainly due to the events taking place in the region and the world [1, p. 5–6; 2, pp. 28–31; 3, p. 2128]. Since the results of the First World War did not allow holding general, multi-party elections in Azerbaijan, the establishment

of a temporary parliament – the Majlisi-Mabusan was considered necessary in order to ensure the legitimacy of the government. Taking into account the newly created conditions, the National Council of Azerbaijan resumed its activities, at its meeting held on November 19, 1918, it was decided to convene a temporary Parliament – the Majlisi-Mabusan, and a law on the establishment of the Parliament was adopted [3, p. 2129; 2, p. 36].

The Parliament, called the Majlisi-Mabusan (Assembly of Deputies, Representatives), became the supreme representative body in which all regions of Azerbaijan were equally represented in terms of population. The Parliament, in addition to playing an important role in the development of the national identity and national statehood of the Azerbaijani people, became a decisive factor in the implementation of political, economic, and administrative changes in the country, including in the regions, and the main body where the socio-cultural needs of the regional population were brought up for wide discussion [4, p. 211]. An analysis of the 17-month legislative activity of the Parliament shows that among the laws adopted by it during this period, laws related to the socio-economic, political-administrative, cultural-educational issues of various regions of Azerbaijan occupied an important place.

Analysis of the activities of the Parliament shows that deputies from the regions of Azerbaijan were closely involved both in the legislative sphere and in the implementation of internal and foreign policy. The main factor determining the activities of regional deputies in the Parliament was their representation in various factions (some sources use the term "faction" along with the term "parliamentary department" – N.M.), and the declarations voiced by the factions at the first meetings of the Parliament were also their programs of action. The factions and groups of the Parliament, along with national goals, also acted on the interests and ideology of the political force, national minorities they represented [5, p. 158].

The main purpose of the research is to study the political views of regional deputies in the Parliament of Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan and their representative activities in various factions. The historical chronology of the research covers the years 1918–1920s.

Research Methods. During the research, analysis and synthesis methods were used, and the events were approached in the context of a specific historical time. A comparative analysis of facts was carried out to determine the validity of information from various sources. All this made it possible to objectively study the problem.

The scientific novelty. For the first time in the research study, the political views of regional representatives in the Parliament of Azerbaijan and their faction representation in parliament were highlighted as the object of research. In this research, the political views of regional deputies were highlighted in terms of their representation in various factions. Although the socio-political composition of representatives of regions in the Azerbaijani Parliament was different, they took the same active position in discussing and solving the problems of the districts they represented in Parliament. Since the political views of deputies from the regions were different, they were represented in different factions in Parliament.

Literature Review. The first steps towards highlighting the activities of the Azerbaijani Parliament were taken during the Republic, and many authors touched upon various aspects of the work of the Parliament in the pages of periodicals. In this regard, the work "Azərbaycan Cümhuriyyəti" [6] written by the leader of the national movement M.A. Rasulzadeh in 1923 should be specially noted. In the work, the author, along with many aspects of the history of the Republic, also highlighted the activities of the Parliament, and provided extensive information about the establishment of the legislative body, the decisions it made, and the composition of the factions.

After Azerbaijan regained its independence in 1991, ample opportunities arose for an objective study of the history of the ADR, as well as many dark

pages of recent history. During the years of independence, Azerbaijani historians wrote many generalizing works, monographs, and books reflecting the history of the ADR.

Among the research the article by S. Rustamova-Tohidi entitled "Azərbaycan Parlamenti necə yarandı" [7], the processes taking place in Azerbaijan on the eve of the establishment of the Parliament of the Republic and the political conditions that necessitated the establishment of the Parliament are extensively analyzed, and detailed information is provided about the opening ceremony and first session of the Parliament.

In the first volume of the 2-volume work "Azərbaycan parlamentarizmi tarixi" jointly written by M. Gasimli, B. Muradova and V. Gafarov [5], the history of the bodies performing parliamentary functions in Azerbaijan is reflected on the basis of rich sources and literature, and the establishment and activities of the National Council and Parliament of Azerbaijan are highlighted in the general context.

It is necessary to specially mention the 2-volume Encyclopedia of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic [2; 8] and N. Yagublu's book "Cümhuriyyət qurucuları" [9]. These publications, along with other leaders of the Republic, also contain information about the deputies who represented the regions of Azerbaijan in the Parliament.

The article by Gadimaliyev, A. R. entitled "Organization of parliamentary institutes in Azerbaijan Democratic Republic" examines the constitutional and legal development issues of ADR Parliament [3]. In his another research, named "Evolution of parliamentarism in Azerbaijan: from the 20th century to the present" gives vast analysis of ADR parliament, its activity and composition [4].

The research by Jagodzińska, M. B. "Declaration of Independence of The Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan (1918–1920) – Legal Analysis" author investigates the wide range interpretation of the process of establishment and declaration issues of ADR [1].

Among the sources used when studying the problem, the 895th fund of the State Archive of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where the documents of the Parliament and the personal files of the deputies are stored, was widely used in the research article.

Political views of regional deputies and faction representation in Parliament

The party affiliation of the deputies representing the regions of Azerbaijan in the parliament was diverse. They were represented in each of the four main factions (Musavat and independent, Ittihad, Ahrar, Socialists Union) [10, w. 1–6]. 11 factions and groups were represented in the parliament. By January 16, 1919, the parliament had 83 members, so the quorum for making decisions was set at 41 people [11, p. 55], a year later the number of deputies reached 96 [5, p. 196], but throughout its existence,

the parliament did not have the 120 deputies stipulated by the law. This was due to the fact that as a result of the admission of new members, the departure of some deputies from the parliament, and the change of their factions, the composition of the parliament and the factions was never stable. At the session of the Parliament held on February 25, 1919, the Chairman of the Parliament, H. Agayev, presented the following figures on the number and composition of the factions: Musavat faction 23, Ittihad 11, Ahrar 8; Hummet 4; Socialist Union 7; Neutrals 12; Russian-Slavic Society 5, Armenians 6; Independents 2 deputies [12, p. 303]. However, this composition was not stable and was constantly changing until the last moments of the Parliament's activity.

Most of the regional deputies, when declaring their faction affiliation in the Parliament, indicated the Musavat and Independent faction. These are R. Agabayov (Goychay city), R. Akhundzade (Javad district), B. Rustembayov (Salyan city), A. Sheikhalibayov (Shikalibayov) (Shamakhi city), M. Akhundov (Guba district), H.S. Akhundzade and G.H. Kazimbayov (Lankaran district), A. Rzayev (Ganja city), A. Taghiyev (Aghdash city), M.A. Efandizade (Aresh district), M.S. Akhundzade and J. Sultanov (Zangezour district) [8, p. 233].

Most of the members of the Ahrar faction were elected deputies from the regions: among them were H.H. Efendiyev from Goychay district, H.M.A. Nuruzade from Ganja district, G. Karimov (Kerimoglu) from Nukha district, B.N. Kichikhanov (Kichikkhanli) (Zagatala district), A. Gabulov and B. Gabulov (Zagatala city) (he initially represented the faction of independents. However, at the 133rd session of the parliament on March 11, 1920, B. Gabulov and Mashadi Samad Mammad oglu appealed to the Parliament about their belonging to the "Ahrar" faction [13, p. 848].

As can be seen, unlike other party factions, those represented in the Ahrar faction mainly represented the northwestern (Zagatala and Sheki regions) and western regions (Ganja, Goychay) of Northern Azerbaijan. Unlike other factions, the members of the Ahrar party faction also mainly consisted of people living in the regions.

Many deputies who represented the Ittihad faction were elected members of the Parliament from the districts. I. Akhundov from the Shamakhi district, H. A. Afandizadeh from the Guba district, A. Zizikski from Guba city, J. Lamberanski from Javanshir district, M.A. Efandizade from Arash district, Z. Vazirov from Shusha city, B. Vazirov from Jabrayil district were members of the "Ittihad" faction in the Parliament [8, pp. 72–73].

Most members of the factions that formed the left wing of the Azerbaijani Parliament (Hummet and the Union of Socialists) entered the Parliament as members of the South Caucasus Seym

and the Azerbaijan National Council when it was formed. Many of them (A. Safikurdski, G. Jamalbeyov, I. Abilov, A.H. Garayev, B. Rzayev and others) were originally from the regions, but participated in the Parliament as members of the Socialist faction co-opted on the general party list. Of them, only H.K. Sanily directly represented the region – the Gazakh district [2, p. 463].

The majority of deputies from the regions were represented in the Musavat faction. In the declaration voiced by the faction leader M.A. Rasulzadeh at the parliament meeting on December 10, 1918, the faction, which considered itself a federalist, Turkist and national-democratic force, stated that it would work for the legal strengthening, organization and protection of Azerbaijani independence from abroad, the peaceful resolution of all disputed issues with neighboring states, the establishment of friendly relations with other states, the provision of all political and civil rights and freedoms in the country, and the recognition of the right to cultural and national autonomy of all national minorities [14].

The Socialist faction (14 people) in the parliament was represented by two trends – "Hummet" (Menshevik) and Muslim socialists (national socialists). Three deputies – A. Safikurdskiy, A.A. Sheikhuislamov and A.J. Pepinov – spoke in the Parliament regarding the declaration of the Socialist faction. A. Safikurdskiy stated that the first priority was to address the problems of the peasants, who constituted ninety percent of the population, and that it was important to ensure parliamentary control over the government and resolve border issues between the three republics – Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia [12, pp. 58–63].

The "Ittihad" faction, which formed the right wing of the parliament, was represented in the parliament initially with 11 and later with 14 deputies. Most of the members of the faction were elected members from the regions when the parliament was established – J. Lamberanski, B. Vezirov, H. A. Afandizadeh, Z. Vezirov, A. Zizikski, G. Aliverdiler, A. Amirov, A. Safaraliyev. The party's declaration, read by G. Garabeyli, stated that the main task of the faction was to convene the parliament on democratic grounds, defend the independence of Azerbaijan, and ensure unity among the peoples [15; 16, p. 52–54].

There were several reasons why the Ahrar faction, unlike other factions of the Parliament, submitted its declaration a month later than the opening of the Parliament. The faction itself was organized after the establishment of the Parliament – in late December 1919. Almost all of the members of the faction (A. Gardashov, H.M.A. Nurizade, M.A. Efandizade, K. Kerim, B.N. Kichikkhanov, A. Gabulzade) were elected from the northern and northwestern regions of the country [12, pp. 131–137]. The declaration emphasized that the Azerbaijani Turks were a nation

worthy of independent existence in every respect, that they had the right to occupy a position among civilized nations, and that the main task of the Parliament was to organize a reliable and strong government and ensure control over it, and to draft a fair law for the organization of the parliament. The faction proposed the introduction of an 8-hour working day and a progressive income tax [12, pp. 166–172].

The last faction to make its declaration on behalf of the factions was the Non-Parties faction. In fact, this faction was not a stable faction either in terms of its political position or composition. Some individuals who were initially in the Non-Parties faction joined other factions or acted independently [12, p. 303].

At the 8th session of the Parliament on January 16, 1919, Yusif Ahmadov presented the declaration of the Non-Parties faction. The declaration, which consisted of 8 points, included the organization of a strong army; the election of the Parliament with a four-way system; the implementation of all civil rights and freedoms, the application of a progressive income tax, and the protection of the rights of minority nationalities [17].

Conclusion. It is necessary to specially note the activity of the representatives of the Parliament of the regions of Azerbaijan in strengthening the political, economic, and cultural foundations of national statehood and independence in the country. They actively participated in the discussion of laws, both as members of the faction and as independent deputies, and voiced national issues from the parliamentary rostrum. A number of regional deputies submitted laws to the Parliament for discussion and justified their adoption.

The activities of the Parliament and its members representing the regions, the laws and decisions adopted regarding the situation and development of the regions were of great importance in terms of strengthening the foundations of Azerbaijan's independent statehood and determining the path of its future development.

Despite their short-term activities, the figures representing the regions in the supreme legislative body played an important role in the formation of the tradition of the parliamentary institution formed on the basis of multi-party, multi-mandate elections in the country. Therefore, repeated consideration and study of the lives and activities of these individuals is of exceptional importance in terms of preserving statehood traditions, national-historical values, and passing them on to future generations. At that time, the supreme legislative body openly discussed the country's urgent problems, exchanged views on various issues between factions, sent inquiries to executive authorities, etc. It still retains its relevance today and is a valuable experience in terms of improving parliamentary democracy in Azerbaijan.

Of course, since they were represented in different factions, the attitudes of the deputies elected from the regions to the issues discussed and, in general, to the development problems of an independent state were also different. However, although their political views and political affiliations are different, their activities in the supreme governing body serve one goal – strengthening the foundations of national statehood, solving the socio-economic and cultural-spiritual problems of the regions.

The activities of the Azerbaijani Parliament, including the active participation of regional representatives in the work of the legislative assembly, were a clear example of the widespread presence of parliamentary traditions during Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, and the Republic being a state that is a bearer of democratic values, based on the principles of multi-party, political, national and regional representation.

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Політичні погляди регіональних представників парламенту Азербайджанської Демократичної Республіки (1918–1920 рр.)

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Основною метою дослідження є вивчення політичних поглядів регіональних депутатів у Парламенті Азербайджанської Демократичної Республіки та їхньої представницької діяльності у різних фракціях. У дослідженні проаналізовано процес визначення громадсько-політичного складу депутатів, які репрезентують регіони в Парламенті Азербайджану, та обмін думками з різних питань між фракціями. У ході дослідження використовувалися методи аналізу та синтезу, події розглядалися у контексті конкретного історичного часу. Проведено порівняльний аналіз фактів визначення достовірності інформації з різних джерел. Усе це дало змогу об'єктивно вивчити проблему.

Методи дослідження. У ході дослідження було використано методи аналізу та синтезу, а події розглядалися в контексті конкретного історичного часу. Проведено порівняльний аналіз фактів визначення достовірності інформації з різних джерел. Усе це дало змогу об'єктивно вивчити проблему.

Наукова новизна статті полягає в тому, що вперше як об'єкт дослідження було виділено політичні погляди представників регіонів у Парламенті Азербайджану та їхнє фракційне представництво у Парламенті. Незважаючи на те, що соціально-політичний склад представників регіонів у Парламенті Азербайджану був різним, вони займали однаково активну позицію в обговоренні та вирішенні проблем округів, які вони представляли у Парламенті.

На закінчення слід зазначити, що, незважаючи на відмінність їхніх політичних поглядів та політичних уподобань, їхня діяльність у вищому законодавчому органі є єдиною метою – зміцненню основ національної державності, вирішенню соціально-економічних та культурних проблем регіонів. Діяльність парламенту Азербайджану, включаючи активну участь регіональних представників у роботі законодавчих зборів, була яскравим прикладом широкого поширення традицій парламентаризму в республіці і того, що республіка є державою, яка є носієм демократичних цінностей, заснованих на принципах багатопартійності, політичного, національного та регіонального представництва.

Ключові слова: Азербайджанська Демократична Республіка, парламент, регіон, округ, депутати, фракція.

Дата першого надходження рукопису до видання: 26.10.2025
Дата прийнятого до друку рукопису після рецензування: 21.11.2025
Дата публікації: 15.12.2025