

## MUTUAL RELATIONS OF THE CAUCASIAN COUNTRIES

Ilaha Zabil Aliyeva\*

---

DOI: 10.24193/subeuropaea.2017.4.04

Published Online: 2017-12-29

Published Print: 2017-12-29

---

### Abstract

*The paper provides a brief review of establishment and development of relations in Azerbaijan over the last 25 years. It describes the different phases of this development and how cooperative country has traditionally dealt with the benefits. The paper notes that to expand an effective cooperation the nations need to work on a particular field following various rules. The author mentions specific tips and groups of communication culture and etiquette that is very important to set up on a firm and evolve the mutual cooperation and relations between countries.*

*The cooperation of individual states in a certain format in the Caucasus region, which is one of the most geopolitically vulnerable regions, can cause various reactions. If we take into account the fact that historically the Caucasus was in the focus of attention not only of regional forces but also of global forces, the expected backwardness of these reactions is expected. Therefore, it is important to emphasize the importance, first of all, of the political will for the trilateral cooperation of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey.*

*The basis of tripartite cooperation between Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey was built on the basis of economic interests and meets the national interests of all three countries. Since Azerbaijan is a source and producer of hydrocarbon resources, Georgia has a favorable geographical location and transit potential, Turkey has domestic energy demand and is a regional hub, all this is a natural basis for tripartite cooperation. The joint creation of economic and transport corridor makes this approach a historical necessity.*

---

\* Ali Imashoghlu Aliyev (Bilasuvar) is an Associated Professor of Economics within the chair of "Accounting and Audit", Baku Business University Baku, Azerbaijan.

Contact: fyi.s@mail.ru.

*Thus, the trilateral format of cooperation between Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey can be called a successful model, which can serve to build sustainable peace and progress in the Caucasus.*

**Keywords:** cooperation, development, communication, etiquette, culture, relations

## **Introduction**

The new world order, formed after the collapse of the socialist pole at the end of the 20th century, led to the emergence of completely new forms of relations between countries. If in the past century, in some cases, even the closest neighboring states could not cooperate, because of their representation of different poles, then in the new world order, mutually beneficial economic cooperation between geographic neighbors seems to be a priority. In this regard, it is possible to highlight the Caucasus as one of the most geopolitically vulnerable regions of the world.

Historically, the Caucasus has identified relations between neighboring states, as well as changes in borders based on the interests of regional and global power centers. So, if in ancient times and in the Middle Ages the positions of regional power centers were predominant in the Caucasus, then at the beginning of the 19th and 20th centuries, an important role here played the interests of such global forces as the United States, Britain, Germany and others that were far from the region. After the establishment of Soviet power in the Caucasus, a completely different configuration arose<sup>1</sup>.

The countries of the South Caucasus included in the Soviet Union were deprived of the possibility of any cooperation with neighboring Turkey and Iran, because of their representation of different poles.

The Soviet period of the Caucasian countries can be characterized as a complete separation from the historical traditions of geographical proximity. New forms of cooperation in the Caucasus began to form only after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Georgi M. Derluguian, *Bourdieu's Secret Admirer in the Caucasus: A world-System Biography*, Chicago: University of Chicago, 2005, pp. 116-118.

## **Relations of Azerbaijan with the countries of the Caucasus**

After gaining its independence in XX century, which was adopted by the supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan SSR in 1991, new-formed country, Azerbaijan made big steps in enlarging its relations with other countries.<sup>2</sup>

Young Azerbaijan is closely linked to its position in the international arena, the mutually beneficial relations that meet the national interests of different countries and intensification of integration into the world community. In that case, it is essential for a new formed country to regulate the relation with influential states or countries which take a particular place in the international arena for the political weight, educational system and economic potential of countries playing a leading role in formation of world politics for a decent place in Azerbaijan's international relations system.

It should be noted that in the third millennium a new format of cooperation was added to Azerbaijan's foreign policy. Since the first years of independence, the priority of our republic in the system of international relations has been cooperation, both in bilateral and multilateral formats. At the new stage, Azerbaijan added to its foreign policy a trilateral regional cooperation format. Azerbaijan is the initiator and participant of several trilateral formats at the regional level. Such formats as Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey, Azerbaijan-Iran-Turkey, Azerbaijan-Turkey-Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan-Russia-Iran are important initiatives in terms of implementing joint projects, in-depth development of cooperation relations, as well as discussing regional issues.<sup>3</sup>

This new trend, at the same time, shows that Azerbaijan attaches great importance to mutually beneficial relations with all neighboring countries with the exception of Armenia. The first trilateral format of cooperation, initiated by Azerbaijan, is the Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey format. Such trilateral cooperation in addition to the South Caucasus also includes such a strategic area, which unites the basins of the Caspian-Black-Mediterranean Seas.

---

<sup>2</sup>Ibrahim Zeynalov, *20 Years On: 1991-2011 Independence Gained*, Baki, 2005, pp. 8-12.

<sup>3</sup> Sergey S. Zhiltsov, Igor S. Zonn, Andrey G. Konstyanoy, *Oil and Gas Pipelines in the Black-Caspian Seas Region*, Switzerland: Springer International, 2016, pp. 70-79.

Based on the formation of such a triangle, there are historical and cultural ties, geographical proximity, the desire to become an integral part of a single transit corridor, as well as a favorable condition for joint economic cooperation and political will. All three countries are strategic partners. So, Azerbaijan is a strategic partner of both Turkey and Georgia, at the same time, strategic partnerships exist between Georgia and Turkey.

On May 5, 1997, a bilateral "Declaration on the deepening of strategic cooperation between Turkey and Azerbaijan" was signed. On February 18, 1997, the "Declaration on further deepening of strategic cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Georgia" was signed. The year 2017 was a landmark in the history of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan, both between Turkey and Georgia.<sup>4</sup>

Thus, this year marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey, as well as between Azerbaijan and Georgia. The Republic of Azerbaijan, which gained its independence in 1991, began establishing diplomatic relations with foreign countries since 1992. For the whole of 1992, diplomatic relations with 69 countries were established, an interesting coincidence is that the first country with which Azerbaijan established diplomatic relations was brotherly Turkey (January 14, 1992), and the last country was Georgia (November 18, 1992)<sup>5</sup>

### **Development of relationship between countries in politics, economy and education**

Caucasian countries are among the countries that determine the direction of world politics for their ability to influence international relations and are the countries with the most weight in addressing the most pressing problems in the international arena. Establishing mutually beneficial cooperation and friendly relations with all the countries of the world including the largest and most influential states of the Caucasus is of great political and international significance for the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Because of mutual cooperation of the influential states and countries in all spheres of the state of the country both sides, in this sense, related

---

<sup>4</sup> Mitat Çelikpala, Cavid Veliyev, *Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey: An Example of a Successful Regional Cooperation*, Kadir: HAS University Press, 2015, pp. 1-24.

<sup>5</sup>Amina Nazarly, *Azerbaijan and Turkey ties: All-weather Friends*, AzerNewsAz, 2017.

countries get a great chance to develop their government in politics, economy and education as well. Not only Azerbaijan but also countries in the world are naturally attracted to cooperate with the Republic of Azerbaijan which has international politics, fundamental economy and prospective education.

In order to establish relations with newly independent states, conduct democratic reforms, found market economy infrastructure, develop trade, transport and customs, the EU launched the TACIS programme in the 1990s and finances it. The EU's other initiative is the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia Project (TRACECA) project launched in May 1993 at a Brussels conference featuring representatives of Central Asian and Caucasian nations. The project implies restoration of Great Silk Way in new conditions, reinstatement and development of transport-communication infrastructure. The EU provides assistance to the Project via a technical aid programme.

The key point in implementation of TRACECA was the international conference held in Baku on September 8-9, 1998 featuring representatives of 32 nations and 13 international organizations. The Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia Corridor that reflects technical and economic aspects of implementation of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia Corridor was signed in the conference. Intensive activity of TRACECA has had a significant role in socio-economic life of Azerbaijan, including in shipping profits, development of transport infrastructure, opening of new jobs, etc. The Permanent Secretariat of the TRACECA Inter-Governmental Commission was officially opened on February 21, 2001 and implements coordination.<sup>6</sup>

The Treaty of Partnership and Cooperation signed on April 22, 1996 opened a new stage in relations between Azerbaijan and the EU. The treaty that came into force in 1999 and is a legal-normative basis of mutual relations was characterized by National Leader Heydar Aliyev as "a historic event for Azerbaijan". The treaty aimed at development of mutual relations in different fields of society such as political, economic, cultural, social, and so on. According to the treaty, the aims of the partnership are following:

---

<sup>6</sup> See [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-92-54\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-92-54_en.htm)

- \* Developing political dialogue between the parties and establishing relevant frame for it.
- \* Strengthening democracy and assisting in completing transition to market economy.
- \* Expanding trade and investment between the parties for achieving sustainable development.
- \* Establishing a basis for cooperation in legislative, financial, civil, scientific, technological, and cultural fields.<sup>7</sup>

After the Treaty of Partnership and Cooperation came into force, one of the positive changes in relations between the EU and Azerbaijan was structural organization of these relations. Activity of the established bodies – the Cooperation Council and committee on parliamentary cooperation secured sustainability, regularity and systematization of mutual relations.

There are a number of facts that appeal to other countries with friendship and cooperation with Azerbaijan. First and foremost, Azerbaijan's favorable and substantial geopolitical situation and its location in the centre of Europe – Asia transport and communication relations; secondly, the establishment of fully independent policy, building a democratic, legal and secular state and market economy; thirdly, the tendency of form policy to the west, the transformation of Europe into the main sphere of influence and interest in the region and other factors are able to mention about the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Thus, all the political, economic and other factors mentioned above have made and required the establishment of relations between Azerbaijan and other countries on mutually beneficial cooperation and partnership relations. The heads of the states and governments of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Caucasian countries who appreciate this necessity and appreciate the benefits that each country can give and give to each state, have taken valuable steps in the development of mutual relations after the establishment of diplomatic relations and have signed numerous documents regulating bilateral relations. Since Azerbaijan declared its interest in relations with the European Union and Caucasian countries as well and started to set relations with these countries in different fields.

---

<sup>7</sup> Cf. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A12012M%2FTXT>

## **The effects of communication, etiquette and culture on the relations of the countries**

Azerbaijan's advantageous geographic location, rich natural resources and people in science make our country fascinating for other countries. The relations of Azerbaijan with neighboring countries are being implemented mostly within the framework of different programs and various spheres. Since 1999, inter-parliamentary cooperation has been intensively developing. One of the main directions of these was the inter-parliamentary cooperation with the first meeting held in April 2000. The discussion of the document titled "Caucasian nations towards European Union membership: new challenge from the European Parliament in committee meeting was a reflection of the progress in the relations. On this issue the presidents of the countries in the Caucasus set a number of cooperation projects and signed them. Appropriate institutions and delegations continued the hard work on particular aspects to develop the mutual cooperation and at the same time to establish firm socio – economic, political, flourished life of the state. As a result of joint cooperation the countries share their culture, languages, etiquette with each other. International business deals not only cross borders.<sup>8</sup>

There are several ways of exchanging these factors: *through media; through tourism; through internet; through the mutual cooperation.*

Culture profoundly influences how people think, communicate and behave. It also effects on the way of life of people in any country. For example, in modern time people in our country have an opportunity to communicate with the people from different countries and Caucasian (neighboring) countries, in a word people in the world from different continents. They put it into practice with help of Media, Internet and surely travelling. Doing one of these they are able to pass their ancient traditions to the world, and at the same time carry some points of culture to our country and expand them.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> *Relations between the European Parliament and National Parliaments*, Mid-term Report. 2016. pp. 2-34.

<sup>9</sup> Nancy J. Adler, Allison Gundersen, *International Dimensions of Organizational Behavior*, Cengage Learning Press, 2007, p. 35.

Another example for this is heading International Games and festivals in different countries. Recently, the Islamic Solidarity Games, multinational, multi – sport event held by Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation was held in Azerbaijan. The first event was held in 2005 in Saudi Arabia, the second event, originally scheduled to take place in October 2009 in Iran, was later re-scheduled for April 2010, but then cancelled. The third games took place in 2013 in Indonesia. Azerbaijan was delighted when the eighth elective General Assembly of the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation based in Feddah, Saudi Arabia, chose Baku to be the host city of the fourth Islamic Solidarity Games in 2017. Above mentioned event is the real example of exchanging culture and other factors between the countries.

Moreover we should stress the etiquette and its norms that needed spread among the people in different spheres and business institutions which leave negative and positive traces in developing relations between countries and certainly in development of a particular country and population. Etiquette is the customary code of polite behavior in society or among members of a particular profession or group.

Etiquette can be divided into groups given below according to several situations: Basic Social Etiquette; Communication Etiquette; Dining Etiquette; Business Etiquette; Out and around Etiquette; Family Etiquette.<sup>10</sup>

Each of those groups has its own rules and norms that should be followed in order to create a peaceful, friendly and healthy society for current people and for future generation.

Each of the above mentioned points one is closely related to one another like chain. Having any gap in one of them can lead to the negative results and may damage the future of the society, the state of affairs in these or other countries.

Another significant factor of developing the relations between countries is communication. Communication is the imparting or exchanging of information by speaking writing or using some of the

---

<sup>10</sup> Ron Scapp, Brian Seitz, *Etiquette: Reflections on Contemporary Comportment*, SUNY Press, 2012, pp. 3-17.



medium. It also means transferring the messages in interpersonal and intrapersonal groups, coding and decoding the information.<sup>11</sup>

The ability to communicate effectively with people in any sphere is essential, no matter what industry you work in or in which area you are. Workers in a particular field must know how to effectively convey and receive messages in person as well as via phone, email, social media, meeting or international assembly. There are some tips or rules of communications skills to achieve an effective result.

- a) Being a good listener is one of the best ways to be a good communicator
- b) Body language tells much about a person
- c) Good communication means saying enough – not too much
- d) Friendly tone in communication, simply a smile will encourage your partner to communicate with you
- e) It's important to be confident in all of your interactions with others
- f) Respect smooth all sharp corners
- g) Be open to listening to and understanding the other person's point of view
- h) It's important to get and listen to feedback
- i) You should know what form of communication to use: formal or informal.

Each of the above specified paragraphs has its own deep meaning that actually deals to productive and successful communication in small or big groups and even at the international level.

## Conclusion

The effective cooperation of the Caucasian countries is based on the factors of the economics, politics and education. The relations with the countries of the Central Asia also occupy an important place in the foreign policy of Azerbaijan. The accession of the Central Asian states to projects participated by Azerbaijan, along with the closeness of historical and cultural roots, also contributes to the development of the economic, political and educational cooperation between these countries. As a result of this policy Azerbaijan turned into the reliable bridge to Europe and European markets for the countries of the Central Asia. Azerbaijan attaches

---

<sup>11</sup> Stephen Battersby, *Clay's Handbook of Environmental Health*, NY: Routledge, 2016, p. 90.

a great importance to the bilateral relations with different foreign countries, including the neighboring states.

Thus, the successful and measured foreign policy of Azerbaijan results in the establishment of favorable conditions predetermining the happy and safe future of Azeri nation, the strengthening of the positions of Azerbaijan in the international arena and its becoming the leading country in the Caspian-Caucasus region.

All factors, effective communication, successful etiquette norms and acts, and global or productive culture exchanging, are the parts and even the most important feature of relationship between countries. Each makes a good relationship between countries and one is necessity thing for the country which wants to expand its wealth and develop healthy cooperation with other countries.

## References

1. Abdullayev, A.S. (1968), *About speech etiquette and speech skills*, Baki: AzerPublish.
2. Adler, Nancy J.; Gundersen, Allison (2007), *International Dimensions of Organizational Behavior*, Mason: Thomson Cengage Learning Press.
3. Anar, Valiyev (2011), "Azerbaijan and the North Caucasus: A Pragmatic Relationship", in *Caucasus Analytical Digest*, Baki.
4. Battersby, Stephen (2016), *Clay's Handbook of Environmental Health*, London: Routledge.
5. Çelikpala, Mitat; Veliyev, Cavid (2015), *Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey: An Example of a Successful Regional Cooperation*, Kadir: Kadir HAS University Press.
6. Derluguian, Georgi M. (2005), *Bourdieu's Secret Admirer in the Caucasus: A World-System Biography*, Chicago: University of Chicago.
7. German, Tracey (2016), *Regional Cooperation in the South Caucasus: Good Neighbours or Distant Relatives?*, New York: Routledge.
8. Ismayilov, Murad; Graham Norman A. (2016), *Turkish-Azerbaijani Relations: One Nation – Two States?*, London: Routledge.
9. Kraus, Sidney; Davis, Dennis (1976), *The effects of mass communication on political behavior*, Pennsylvania State University Press.
10. Kunkel, Lilly Marlene (2010), *International Business Etiquette and Manners: An Investigation of the Key Differences in Practice between the*

- United States of America and Japan and their Effects upon Communication and Working Relationships*, Germany: GRIN Verlag.
11. Langford, Beverly Y. (2005), *The Etiquette Edge: The Unspoken Rules for Business Success*, New York: Amacom Div American Mgmt Assn.
  12. Little, Angela W., Leach Fiona E. (2013), *Education, Cultures, and Economics: Dilemmas for Development*, New York: Routledge.
  13. Nazarly, Amina (2017), "Azerbaijan and Turkey ties: All-weather Friends", in *AzerNewsAz*, 3 January 2017.
  14. Neuliep, James W. (2014), *International communication: A contextual Approach*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, London: SAGE Publications.
  15. Petersen, Alexandros (2016), *Integration in Energy and Transport: Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey*, PhD Thesis at the Department of International Relations of the London School of Economics, London: Rowman&Littlefield.
  16. Reece, Barry; Reece, Monique (2016), *Effective Human Relations: Interpersonal and Organizational Applications*, London: Cengage.
  17. Scapp, Ron; Seitz, Brian (2012), *Etiquette: Reflections on Contemporary Comportment*, NY: SUNY Press.
  18. Sengupta, Nilanjan (2007), *International Human Resource Management*, ND: Excel Books India.
  19. Youngman, Frank (2000), *The Political Economy of Adult Education and Development*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
  20. Zeynalov, Ibrahim (2011), "20 Years On: 1991-2011 Independence Gained", in *Visions of Azerbaidjan*, Baki, in <http://www.visions.az/en/news/317/06e6f475/>.
  21. Zhiltsov, S. Sergey; Zonn, Igor S.; Konstyanoy, Andrey G. (2016), *Oil and Gas Pipelines in the Black-Caspian Seas Region*, NY: Springer.

