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Transatlantic Relations

Abstract

The meaning of transatlantic relation is a historical, cultural, political, economic, social relationship between countries on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. The term sometimes refers particularly to relations between the North American countries (the United States and Canada) and particular European countries or organizations; there are, however, other meanings.

There are a number of issues on which the United States and Europe generally disagree. Some of these differences are cultural, such as the use of the death penalty in the United States, while others are international, such as the Middle East peace process, in which the United States is seen as pro-Israel and Europe as pro-Arab, and many others are trade-related. Current U.S. policy often is unilateral, whereas in Europe and Canada it is frequently said that a more multilateral approach has been adopted that relies more heavily on the United Nations and other international institutions to help resolve problems, but there are also many other issues on which they agree.

"The Republic of Azerbaijan is an important, in many cases decisive state in regional cooperation in the Caspian-Caucasus region". Being at the geographical junction of the Eastern and Western worlds, it builds its international cooperation with both regional and non-regional countries. In this regard, the configuration of the region to which Azerbaijan belongs is based on the Caspian-Caucasus region and such countries of regional cooperation as Russia, Turkey, and Iran.

Keywords: *North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Azerbaijan regional relations, Azerbaijan and Russia diplomatic relations, Azerbaijan Turkey diplomatic relations*

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Transatlantik əlaqələr

Xülasə

Transatlantik əlaqələr Atlantik okeanının hər iki tərəfində yerləşən ölkələr arasında tarixi, mədəni, siyasi, iqtisadi və sosial əlaqələrdir. Bəzən bu termin xüsusi olaraq Şimali Amerika ölkələri (ABŞ və Kanada) və konkret Avropa ölkələri və ya təşkilatları arasındakı münasibətlərə aiddir, baxmayaraq ki, başqa mənalarda da mümkündür.

Birləşmiş Ştatlar və Avropanın fikir ayrılığına düşdüyü bir sıra məsələlər var. Bu fərqlərin bəziləri ABŞ-də ölüm hökmünün tətbiqi kimi mədəni, digərləri isə ABŞ-nin İsrail, Avropanın isə ərəb tərəfdarı kimi göründüyü Yaxın Şərq sülh prosesi kimi beynəlxalq xarakter daşıyır. ABŞ-nin hazırkı siyasəti çox vaxt birtərəfli olur, halbuki Avropa və Kanadada problemlərin həllinə kömək etmək üçün Birləşmiş Millətlər Təşkilatına və digər beynəlxalq qurumlara daha çox arxalanan daha çoxtərəfli yanaşmanın qəbul edildiyi tez-tez deyilir, lakin bir çox başqa məsələlər də var.

"Azərbaycan Respublikası Xəzər-Qafqaz regionunda regional əməkdaşlıqda mühüm, bir çox hallarda həlledici dövlətdir". Şərq və Qərb dünyasının coğrafi qovşağında yerləşərək, beynəlxalq əməkdaşlığını həm regional, həm də qeyri-regional ölkələrlə qurur. Bu baxımdan Azərbaycanın mənsub olduğu regionun konfigurasiyası Xəzər-Qafqaz regionu və Rusiya, Türkiyə və İran kimi regional əməkdaşlıq ölkələrinə əsaslanır.

Açar sözlər: Şimali Atlantika Müqaviləsi Təşkilatı, Azərbaycan regional əlaqələri, Azərbaycan və Rusiya diplomatik əlaqələri, Azərbaycan Türkiyə diplomatik əlaqələri

Introduction

Transatlantic relations can refer to relations between individual states, or between groups of states or international organizations with other groups or states, or within a group. For example: "Intra-NATO relations" or "Canada-NATO" relations within a group.

Transatlantic relations and NATO transformation. NATO perceives and assesses events in the international arena differently. It is well known that differences of opinion on various issues have always existed among the Allies. Sometimes they even led to crisis situations. However, it is noteworthy that the Alliance has always managed to overcome them by easing tensions, sometimes by finding a compromise between very different views and positions.

Research

The 1990s were a sort of transition period for NATO, quite important for the organization. It was during this period that the main tasks of the Alliance were reviewed, which was accompanied by the emergence of new threats and challenges—the activation of terrorist organizations, the spread of technologies for producing weapons of mass destruction, drug trafficking on an unprecedented scale, the growth of conflicts on religious and ethnic grounds, etc. The emergence of new missions required also a new way of constructing NATO's armed forces.

Recently, the North Atlantic Alliance has passed through a very difficult period in its history. First of all, this is due to the presence of allies (Baran, 2005).

The forces had to be more compact, mobile, deploy more quickly, interact better with each other and be able to operate outside the Alliance's area of responsibility. All these innovations were reflected in NATO's 1999 Strategic Concept.

Yet, the Alliance still provides a forum for discussing pressing issues of American-European cooperation. Thus, in connection with the Balkan crisis, the inadequacy of Europe's military capabilities and the need for Europe to take better care of its own security were brought again to the agenda. The discussions were not new, but they acquired a different quality at the end of the twentieth century.

With the coming to power of the George W. Bush administration in the United States, and especially after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the situation changed significantly, which was reflected in a radical turn in American foreign policy.

Bush declared a "total war on terrorism" not only against terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda, but also against states and regimes that directly or indirectly support terrorists. At the same time, Washington focused on methods of combating force.

The Europeans also tried to curb terrorism and its various manifestations, but they believed that diplomacy, peacekeeping, assistance in the development of the economy and democracy played no less important role than the use of force during the anti-terrorist campaign. In addition, the Europeans were wary of the militarization of international relations (Mammadov, 2013, p. 264).

The differences in the allies' approaches to security were even more pronounced during the Iraq crisis. In general, this became an additional catalyst in determining the approaches of the American administration and European governments to world events.

When discussing the crisis in transatlantic relations caused by the operation against the regime of Saddam Hussein, scholars and analysts ask how this crisis differs from previous ones. Some, like R. Kagan, consider it a harbinger of a deep split between the allies, while others, for example, F. Gordon, believe that the interests and value systems of Europeans and Americans are not contradictory (Shevyakov, 2004).

Of course, the structure of Euro-American relations is influenced by the differences in the power levels of the allies. But more important are the qualitative changes taking place in the foreign policy of the United States and European countries. If the main thing for Europe is its regional tasks, the Americans are focused on global obligations and interests. Accordingly, these problems are solved in different ways and methods.

In the post-war period, the United States tried to establish and then maintain control over the European region, and it succeeded. When Europe as a whole became peaceful and democratized in the 90s, NATO became the main institution protecting pan-European security.

After the September 11 terrorist attacks, America's departure from its mainly European orientation became increasingly noticeable. From a strategic point of view, Europe is now not the main object of American policy, but plays a secondary role.

The George W. Bush administration began to pursue a unilateral policy based on American power and new global foreign priorities, and most importantly, on America's global superiority. This is especially reflected in the new US National Security Strategy. As a result, the United States has become less reliant on international institutions and treaties, especially NATO, and less concerned with how its actions affect the interests of other states. At the same time, consultations with allies have turned from a means of seeking a common line of conduct into a way of convincing other countries of the correctness of the American choice.

Thus, Americans put their national interests above all else in their policies, and what is especially important is that they look at various threats in the world through their own prism. The motto was:

“If not with us, then against us” practically gave the United States the freedom to choose allies in temporary coalitions. According to the famous political scientist S. Hoffman, the Americans could easily choose from among various international norms and treaties the one that best suited them to maintain international order (Gusarov, 2003).

Features of the regional policy of Azerbaijan at the present stage: At the present stage, geopolitics has become one of the main factors in the development of states and regions. As a result, the fate of any state and nation depends on various geographical factors and positions occupied in a given space by geopolitical power centers, the steps they take and the policies they pursue.

The region in which Azerbaijan is located is a geopolitical space capable of influencing the formation of a new world order. From this point of view, it would be correct to analyze the events taking place in the Caucasus and the Caspian Sea basin, which are considered to be among the most sensitive regions of the world, not only in the context of ongoing processes in the world and the interests of power centers in the region, but also from the point of view of geopolitics carried out here for centuries.

As a result of Heydar Aliyev's repeated coming to power in 1993, the political course of Azerbaijan underwent changes, and the protection of the national interests of Azerbaijan became key. Taking into account his rich experience in matters of state building, President Heydar Aliyev outlined new foreign policy priorities. The term “Heydar Aliyev's course” has taken root in the expert community, revealing the essence of Azerbaijani policy as based on a balance of interests. Thus, in a relatively short period of time, he was able to: build trusting ties with regional neighbors – Russia and Iran; stop the first Nagorno-Karabakh war and transfer it from a military to a political and diplomatic channel; concretize foreign policy (Milan, 2024).

US and Azerbaijan transatlantic relations: There are stable bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and the US that develop in various directions. The US is a very important partner for Azerbaijan in the fields of security, energy, combating terrorism, and promoting democratic reforms. The most important aspects of cooperation are energy security- especially in the context of the Caspian Sea and trans-Caspian pipelines-along with the fight against extremism and illicit drug trafficking. - Azerbaijan is involved in all US-supported international operations, including the peacekeeping missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Azerbaijan-Russia relations as a factor of regional stability: After the adoption of the Constitutional Act on the Independence of Azerbaijan in October 1991, the study of the history of statehood, the study of history and the development of relations with neighboring states became a very relevant topic. In this sense, at the present stage, the study of cooperation with the neighboring Russian Federation in the political, economic and cultural spheres is of particular importance. As is known, the political changes taking place in the USSR, as well as in the world, starting from the late 1980s, led to the collapse of the socialist system. It should be noted that during the Soviet period,

Azerbaijan's relations with other republics were not a subject of discussion, since relations with the union republics were established in agreement with the central government in Moscow. However, with the collapse of the USSR, the Republic of Azerbaijan gained independence and the establishment of new relations with other states became a priority. Strengthening cooperation with the Russian Federation in all areas has gained the Republic of Azerbaijan a reliable strategic ally (Matsepuro & Zhidkov, 2012).

Azerbaijan and Russia are united by strong friendly and good-neighborly relations. Currently, relations with the Russian Federation occupy a very important place in Azerbaijan's foreign policy. On February 22, 2022, a Declaration on Allied Cooperation was signed between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

It is necessary to specially note the role of friendly relations formed between the heads of state of the two countries within the framework of the progressive development of cooperation. Political dialogue between the states is at a high level. Heads of state and high-ranking officials of the two countries regularly meet and discuss various aspects of cooperation. In 2018, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev held 4 meetings with President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, and in 2019 - 2. In 2022, Ilham Aliyev and Vladimir Putin held more than 5 meetings. This gives impetus to the development of bilateral relations, which are confirmed within the framework of official, business and friendly visits of the presidents and representatives of both countries (Chto izvestno o Rossiysko-Azerbaydzhanskikh otnosheniyakh).

The head of state of Azerbaijan participated in the "Valday Discussion Club 2019" held in Sochi at the invitation of the President of Russia. During the talks, the very broad agenda of relations was reviewed and satisfaction was expressed with the constant development of relations in all directions. First Vice-President of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva noted that "Azerbaijan attaches great importance to bilateral relations with Russia. Our countries are united by strong, long-standing friendly and good-neighborly relations. Thanks to the political will of the presidents of Azerbaijan and Russia, as well as the joint efforts of both sides, today our relations are characterized as a strategic partnership. There is an active political dialogue. The presidents of Azerbaijan and Russia hold regular meetings. These meetings give a strong impetus and dynamism to the development of relations in almost all areas" (Novikova, 2022).

Economic cooperation is one of the most important components of the bilateral agenda between Azerbaijan and Russia. In accordance with the spirit of dynamic political dialogue between the states, economic relations between the two countries are also developing adequately. Economic cooperation is one of the most important components of the bilateral agenda between Azerbaijan and Russia. Expressing her views on this issue, the First Vice-President of Azerbaijan said: "There is no doubt that economic cooperation is one of the most important components of our bilateral agenda. "Russia is one of Azerbaijan's main trading partners and ranks first in imports of non-oil products".

According to the Federal Customs Service of Russia, 0.4% of the total foreign trade turnover of the Russian Federation falls on Azerbaijan. Russia ranks third among the republic's trade partners after Italy and Turkey (data from the State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan; State Customs Committee).

At the end of 2023, the volume of mutual trade between the countries increased by 17.5 percent compared to the previous year, reaching \$4 billion 358 million. According to the State Customs Committee, in January-July 2024, the trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Russia amounted to \$2.573 billion, which is 5.2 % more than in the same period of 2023.

At the same time, on August 9, 2024, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Chairman of the Russian part of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan, Alexey Overchuk, stated that the mutual settlement of national currencies between the two countries in January-May 2024 amounted to more than 73 % (Bayramli, 2023).

Azerbaijan-Turkey Transatlantic Relations: The analysis of relations between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Azerbaijan is of great relevance. These countries are generally

considered allies in many foreign policy issues. The observed growth of Turkey's influence both globally and regionally shapes the balance of power in the Middle East and the world geopolitical arena. The South Caucasus is of great strategic importance for Turkey for two reasons:

1. The Caucasus connects Turkey with the countries of Central Asia, which do not have common borders with Turkey.

2. The Caucasus has a direct impact on Turkey's energy stability.

Already on December 9, 1991, Azerbaijan was recognized by the Republic of Turkey, one day after gaining independence.

Cooperation in the field of trade, economy and energy: The first years of the AKP's rule in Turkey created an image of a state aimed at realizing its intellectual, diplomatic and resource potential. Turkey and Azerbaijan have achieved great success in energy cooperation. In 2007, the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline was opened (atlantic relationstexnTransatlantic relations refer to the, side of the Atlantic Ocean).

Also, Azerbaijan is one of the important markets in the Caucasus for Turkish goods. Turkey's exports to Azerbaijan have increased more than 9 times in 10 years (2001-2011).

Turkey is Azerbaijan's most important partner in the military sphere. In 2003, the governments of the two countries reached an agreement on the provision of training and logistical assistance to the State Border Service of Azerbaijan by the armed forces of the Republic of Turkey. The Turkish Armed Forces cooperate closely with the Azerbaijani National Army in various fields. Turkish instructors conduct training for Azerbaijani servicemen on the border with Nagorno-Karabakh (Isayeva, 2023).

Azerbaijan has always played a key role in ensuring relations with other, mainly Turkic-speaking countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Caspian region for Turkey. For Azerbaijan, Turkey is an "ally and support in the international arena". On August 16, 2010, the two states signed an Agreement on Strategic Partnership and Mutual Assistance.

After the 44-day period ended, the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia between September 27 and November 27, 2020, and the "Shushi Declaration" signed between the Republic of Turkey and Azerbaijan, the relations between the two countries have crossed borders. They have reached the level of friendship and alliance (Transatlanticheskiye Otnosheniya: V Povestke Dnya– "Novoye partnerstvo", 1999).

Conclusion

As can be seen from the research, transatlantic relations are experiencing a period of rapid development both in the world and in the Azerbaijani state. Transatlantic relations are increasingly influencing the development of international politics at all levels – national, regional, global. As a key aspect of this influence, we can say that the preservation of international stability and broad cooperation as necessary prerequisites for progress is the issue of global problems, in the solution of which the main role falls to developed countries, are becoming an increasingly important factor in partnership interaction. This ultimately determines the nature of transatlantic relations and the new quality of world politics.

It is worth noting that NATO and Azerbaijan have partnership relations, but the latter is not a full member of the Alliance. It participates in such NATO programs as the Partnership for Peace, in various operations and peacekeeping missions.

Regarding security, defense, and modernization of its armed forces, Azerbaijan cooperates with NATO. Interactions are especially important to the context of instability in the Caucasus and Central Asia region.

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