

# **THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

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## **ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

### **THE PLACE AND ROLE OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE FORMATION OF A MODERN CIVIL SOCIETY**

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## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

**Relevance of the topic and degree of development.** Radical changes occurring in all spheres of public life in the current development stage of our society require their scientific understanding and consideration in political practice. The realization of national priorities in the formation of the new democratic political system turns into one of the main directions of social policy, especially the rational and optimal implementation of the interests and demands of civil society and political institutions.

The most important guarantee, condition, and result of a democratic regime is the establishment of civil society and the rule of law. In this regard, National Leader Heydar Aliyev stated: “The establishment of the rule of law, the creation of a democratic civilization in our republic, and the assurance of human freedoms... are the principles we have adhered to from the very beginning”.<sup>1</sup> The rule of law is endowed with a set of common and unifying legal principles with civil society, which, in essence, carries a universal character.

In this context, the relevance of the dissertation topic and the necessity of its research can be expressed through the following points:

- In the rapidly globalizing modern world, the increasing significance of determining the influence of civil society on the agenda of world politics, its development, and the creation of public opinion around various processes with different characteristics is becoming more crucial day by day;

- As a key political institution in a democratic society, the systematic and comprehensive study of the regulation of the mutual relationship between the state and civil society is of paramount importance;

- The conceptual clarification of civil society at the theoretical level and the creation of its legal basis are of vital importance.

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<sup>1</sup> Əliyev H. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: çıxışlar, nitqlər, bəyanatlar, məktublar, müsahibələr. c.8. “Azər nəşr”. Bakı, 1998. səh.388.

- Different models of civil society institutions, legislative processes, and factors that condition the transformation of these groups in different geographical areas bring to light the formation of the interests of groups constituting civil society;

- The relationship and mutual interaction between political institutions and civil society demand serious scholarly attention;

- The establishment of a new, dynamic economic and democratic political system in Azerbaijan, meeting the requirements of the globalization era, and the elaboration and implementation of an economic and political line responding to these demands have created favorable conditions for the constant and continuous development of our republic, enrichment of moral values, and the creation of favorable conditions for civic harmony;

- The process of formation and development of civil society in Azerbaijan manifests itself in favorable conditions. All spheres of public life in our society undergo transformation, and in this lawful process, old social and political structures are replaced with new ones. The formation of civil society outside of such changes and the successful completion of the new positive socio-political change process is impossible;

- Investigating the adaptation of the activities of the third sector in Azerbaijan to national legislation and researching the development of new legal frameworks in a complex manner;

- Examining the specific strategy of President Ilham Aliyev related to increasing the country's influence in international relations, forming an image, and de facto recognition of the country's legal status with QHTs has scientific-practical significance;

- The display of various political parties demonstrating national unity during the Second Karabakh War and the increased relevance of research under conditions of popular-government unity;

Therefore, as indicated by the above statements, the investigation of the place, role, and implementation mechanisms of political institutions in the formation of civil society within the framework of political science in modern conditions, by comparatively examining the positive experiences of other states in the context of both

theoretical and political practice, gains special relevance. In this regard, the presented dissertation can be considered as a significant step in filling the gap in this field and addressing the formation of civil society in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The issue of civil society has attracted and continues to attract the attention of a wide circle of scholars engaged in various fields of science. When analyzing the literature on the subject, we would like to specifically highlight the diverse collection titled "Our Independence is Eternal,"<sup>2</sup> which comprises National Leader Heydar Aliyev's speeches, addresses, statements, and interviews. The valuable conceptual ideas put forward on the problems discussed here play a crucial role in forming the theoretical basis of the dissertation.

In the modern era, the issues related to the development and implementation of a democratic regime and civil society institutions in Azerbaijan have been of great importance and thoroughly studied through the speeches and collectively published materials especially "Development is our goal"<sup>3</sup> have gained great importance and have been deeply studied.

The creation of the national-legal state of the civil society in Azerbaijan also differs with its specific characteristics. Although the Western model of building a legal state and civil society is being formed, the national specificity of our country is also manifested in this process.

In recent years, the purposeful scientific activities of Sh.Baghirov in researching this existing problem hold particular significance. He not only emphasizes that the theory of civil society is primarily of Western origin but also conducts a comprehensive analysis of its unique Azerbaijani model, discussing how this theory can be translated into practical political realities. Bagirov notes that in the direction of forming civil society, the establishment of new relationships that define priority goals will ensure an independent political, economic,

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<sup>2</sup> Əliyev H. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: çıxışlar, nitqlər, bəyanatlar, məktublar, müsahibələr. c.8. "Azərənəşr". Bakı, 1998. səh.388.

<sup>3</sup> Əliyev, İ. İnkişaf - məqsədimizdir: yüz iyirmi beşinci kitab: yanvar 2023-fevral 2023. – Bakı: Azərənəşr, - 2023. -392 s.

legal, cultural, and spiritual space. Sh.Bagirov's book "Political Aspects of Building Civil Society in Azerbaijan" <sup>4</sup> is important from the point of view of studying the building of civil society and attracts attention from the point of view of taking into account the historical realities in relation to European states.

The issue of the formation and development of civil society has been investigated in certain aspects in research works in our republic. N.Alakbarova highlighted some aspects of political institutions and civil society in her book "Modern Problems of Political Science"<sup>5</sup>, K.Seyidov investigated the problem of democratic political regime and civil society in the research work "Democratic political regime and civil society"<sup>6</sup>.

In E.Ahmadov's book "Heydar Aliyev and Azerbaijan's State Policy Based on National Interests", a number of important issues aimed at protecting the national interests and interests of our country in all fields during the time when National leader Heydar Aliyev led Azerbaijan were extensively investigated<sup>7</sup>.

A.Guliyev in his dissertation "Place of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Socio-Political System: National and International Experience"<sup>8</sup> discussed the structure and development directions of civil society organizations. The dynamics of development of NGOs, which are an important component, the place and role of NGO institutions in modern Azerbaijani political science were investigated, the topic was widely analyzed at the level of international experience.

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<sup>4</sup> Bağırov Ş. "Azərbaycanda vətəndaş cəmiyyəti quruculuğunun siyasi aspektləri". Bakı, 2007, 165 s.

<sup>5</sup> Ələkbərova N. Siyasi elmin müasir problemləri.- Bakı. -"Elm və təhsil".-2013.- 372 s.

<sup>6</sup> K. R. Seyidov Demokratik siyasi rejim və vətəndaş cəmiyyəti [Mətn] : siyasi e. üzrə fəls. d-ru e. dər. al. üçün təq. ed. dis-nın avtoreferatı : 5904.01 / Prezidenti Yanında Dövlət İdarəçilik Akademiyası.-Bakı, -2016. -23 s.

<sup>7</sup> E.İ.Əhmədov Heydər Əliyev və Azərbaycanın milli maraqlara əsaslanan dövlət siyasəti.- Bakı,-"Zərdabi LTD" MMC,- 2023, -200 s.

<sup>8</sup> Quliyev A. "Qeyri-hökumət təşkilatlarının ictimai-siyasi sistemdə yeri: milli və beynəlxalq təcrübə". Bakı, 2013

In the work "Citizenship and National Ideology: The Philosophy of Political Processes in Azerbaijan" <sup>9</sup> I.Mammadzade compares conceptual approaches to civil society. The research particularly focuses on analyzing changes, especially those that have occurred in the post-Soviet space, in relation to civil society, political regimes, and the ways of transformation during transition periods.

In H.Babaoglu's book "Political Aspects of Heydar Aliyev's Political Legacy"<sup>10</sup>, civil society is viewed as a system of non-state, social relations and institutions that express the various interests, needs and values of the members of the society, which create an opportunity for people to realize their civil rights.

Regarding the topic, A.Mirzazade comprehensively examines one of the important aspects of the problem that we are studying, "Features of the formation of a multi-party system in the Republic of Azerbaijan"<sup>11</sup>, comprehensively researched the fact that citizens can actively and directly participate in the management of the state through political parties and public organizations, and at the same time, we note the special relevance of this process for the Azerbaijani society, while M.Hasanov's dissertation entitled "The role of multi-party in the decision-making and development of democracy in the Republic of Azerbaijan" attracts attention. In his dissertation, the author conducted research on the development of democracy in the country, the establishment of civil society, the protection of basic human rights and freedoms, the provision of political pluralism, freedom of speech and expression, and the main priorities of the state.

Points that are partially related to the research work or not directly related to it, as well as those related to one or other aspects of the current problem, have been expressed in foreign political science literature. To some extent, K.Popper "Open society and its enemies",

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<sup>9</sup> Məmmədzadə İ. "Vətəndaş cəmiyyəti və milli ideologiya: Azərbaycanca siyasi prosesin fəlsəfəsi. Bakı, 1995

<sup>10</sup> Məmmədov H. "Heydər Əliyev siyasi irsinin politoloji aspektləri". Bakı, 2013, 456 s.

<sup>11</sup> Mirzəzadə A. "Azərbaycan Respublikasında çoxpartiyalı sistemin formalaşması xüsusiyyətləri". Bakı, "Azərbaycan", 2001

R.Dahl "On democracy", A. de Tocqueville "Democracy in America", R. Aron "Democracy and totalitarianism" are related to this topic to some extent." and S. Huntington's "Third wave. Democratization at the end of the 20th century" <sup>12</sup>etc. have given a special place in their works. A. de Tocqueville studied the formation of American democracy, the values and specific characteristics of civil society.<sup>13</sup> The Scottish intellectual Adam Ferguson, who stated that civil society has its own principles, in his work entitled "Essay on Civil Society"<sup>14</sup> written in 1767, defined the concept of civil society in a technical or narrow sense as a society with orderly management and political commitment, in a word, the state, in a broad sense. it used civilization, i.e., civilized society, in contrast to primitive or barbarous society and all forms of despotism. A. Seligman<sup>15</sup> paid attention to the idea of civil society and the study of some of its aspects.

Some aspects of the studied problem have not escaped the attention of Russian scientists. In the encyclopedic dictionary of political science published under the leadership of Y.I.Averyanov, civil society is characterized as follows: "Civil society is a developed economic, cultural, legal and political relationship between the members of that society, which is independent of the state, but connected with it."<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Popper K. The Open Society and Its Enemies.-London and New York. -2012 -735 p.Robert A. Dahl. On Democracy. Yale University Press. 1998. 288p.Токвилль А. «Демократия в Америке». М., 1992. Арон Р.Демократия и тоталитаризм. М., Мысль, 1993, 303 с.; С.Хантингтон Третья волна. Демократия в конце XX века  
<sup>13</sup> Парсонс Т. Система современных обществ. М.: Аспект Пресс. 1998, 270 с.  
Seliqman A. Vətəndaş cəmiyyəti ideyası. Bakı, "Nurban", № Pб, 205, 240 s.  
Санестебан Л. Государство и общество. Диалог. М.: 1993, №5-6. Михаев Р. Т. Теория политики М.: Юнити, 2005, 623 с.

<sup>14</sup> A.Ferguson: An Essay on the History of Civil Society (Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought. Cambridge University Press.1996. 322 p.

<sup>15</sup> Seliqman, A.B., Vətəndaş cəmiyyəti ideyası. – Bakı: "Nurlar" NPB. – 2005. – 240 s.

<sup>16</sup> Averyanov, Y.I. Политология: Энциклопедический словарь. - Изд-во Моск. коммерч. ун-та. – 1993. – 431 с.



Y.M.Reznik<sup>17</sup> tried to interpret the sociological analysis of civil society in the aspect of philosophical development of civil society, V.A.Vityuk citizen society, the essence of Apato's civil society concept, and V.Khoros general approaches to civil society. Russian scientists L.Y.Grudina, V.A.Malchev, B.Z.Kapustin, and the services of other researchers<sup>18</sup> are also of interest.

It is possible to find many studies of Turkish scientists related to the topic. Thus, I.Doghan in his book "Civil society in the tradition of liberal and totalitarian thought" <sup>18</sup> emphasizes civil society as the multifaceted interaction of free and equal citizens that cannot be solved with the help of the state in the conditions of the market and democratic legal statehood.

G.Tunjel, who problematizes the relationship between civil society and politics in his work "Civil Society and the State"<sup>19</sup>, examines the relationship between civil society. Along with society, state and historical processes, it discusses the impact of these organizations on today's new social transformations.

A.R.Abay's book "Civil Solidarity and Non-Governmental Organizations in the Context of Civil Society and Democracy" <sup>20</sup>often emphasized the claims that representative democracies are entering a crisis of representation, and presented the concept of civil society and

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<sup>17</sup> Резник Ю.М. Гражданское общество как объект социологического анализа. Автореф. Дисс. Канд. Философ. Наук. М.: 1990, 21 с

<sup>18</sup> Витюк В.В. Становление идеи гражданского общества и ее историческая. М.: Юнити, 1995, 91 с. Хорос В. Гражданское общество: как она формируется (и сформируется ли) в постсоветской России. М., МЭИМО, 1997. №5. Грудцына, Л. Ю. Государство и гражданское общество: моногр. / Л.Ю. Грудцына. - Москва: Юрккомпани. - 2010. - 464 с. В.А Мальцев, Основы политологии. Moskova: 1997 Капустин, Борис Гражданство и гражданское общество / Борис Капустин. - Москва: Высшая Школа Экономики (Государственный Университет). - 2011. - 224 с. <sup>18</sup> Doğan İ. Sivil Toplum Özgürlükçü ve Totaliter Düşünce Geleneğinde. Alfa yayınları. 2003. 307 s.

<sup>19</sup> Tuncel G. Sivil toplum ve devlet. Bilsam yayınları 2011. 352 s.

<sup>20</sup> Abay, A. R. Sivil Toplum ve Demokrasi Bağlamında Sivil Dayanışma ve Sivil Toplum

Örgütleri:2011.<http://baskanlikreferandumu.siyasaliletisim.org/wpcontent/uploads/2011/01/siviltoplumvesivildayanisma.pdf>

civil organizations as a recipe for getting out of this crisis. In his book "Conceptual Foundations of Civil Society and Turkey's Perspective"<sup>21</sup>, A.G Akpınar examines the philosophical foundations of the concept of civil society from the past to the present, and because he discusses the ideas of each thinker on civil society as a whole, he offers an important source for readers interested in the ideas of a certain thinker on this topic.

In the book "Civil Society and the State"<sup>22</sup> authored by O.Chacha, he examined the structure and characteristics of civil society, classic and modern concepts of civil society, and in the book "Civil Society and Pressure Groups"<sup>23</sup> by Necdet Aksoy, the social technology of solving civil society conflicts was revealed.

**The object and subject of the research.** The object of the research is the activity of political institutions on the formation of civil society, and the subject is the ways and means of influence of political institutions on this process.

**Research goals and objectives.** The main goal of the research is to analyze the theoretical aspects of the problem of citizen formation and development, to study the role of political institutions in this process based on the experience of world states and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

To achieve the goals we have set for our research, we have identified the following tasks in the course of our investigations:

- Scrutinize theoretical-conceptual approaches to the formation of civil society.
- Determine the structure of civil society.
- to analyze the mechanism of civil society formation;
- to investigate the mutual relationship between the state and the civil society;
- Clarify the impact mechanisms of political parties on the development of civil society.

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<sup>21</sup> Akpınar, A.G. – Düşünsel Temelleri ve Türkiye Perspektifi, 2001

<sup>22</sup> Çaha Ö. Sivil toplum ve devlet. Orion kitabevi ders kitapları. 2016. 350 s.

<sup>23</sup> Aksoy N. Sivil toplum ve baskı grupları” Kaknüs yayınları. 2008. 270 s

- to analyze the role of National Leader Heydar Aliyev in the formation of civil society in the independent Republic of Azerbaijan;
- reveal the main directions of Ilham Aliyev's strategic course in the development of civil society;
- to investigate and investigate the forms of activity of civil society institutions during the 44-day Patriotic War and in the post-war period;

**Research methods:** Systematic and synergistic approach methods are important in the study of a specific and complex problem such as civil society. General logical methods such as analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, systematic, structural-functional, comparative-historical analysis methods, as well as political analysis, forecasting, and content analysis methods, which are considered special political science methods, were used in conducting the research. Our goal in this selection is to achieve the scientificity of our analysis and the results we draw.

**The main provisions defended** are as follows:

- the formation of civil society is a multilateral process, and the role of political institutions is of particular importance to this process.
- The state takes steps through non-governmental organizations, playing a key role as the main element of civil society formation, to more accurately respond to the needs of society.
- The role of the state is crucial in the development, formation, and determination of cooperation directions of civil society institutions. Assisting in ensuring the normal functioning of civil society institutions, expanding cooperation between the state and non-governmental organizations, and increasing the role of non-governmental organizations in public oversight are among the main priorities of developed countries.
- political parties influence the formation and development of civil society and influence the development of relations between the state and civil society.
- In Azerbaijan, the development of civil society, characterized by the uniqueness of non-governmental organizations turned into driving forces, also plays a role in defining the country's role in expanding international cultural relations.

- The Heydar Aliyev Foundation contributes to the development of civil society.

- Civil society institutions contribute to the implementation of a complex strategy aimed at ensuring the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. This campaign serves to strengthen the just positions of our country on the international stage.

**Scientific novelty of the study.** The scientific novelty of the dissertation is, first of all, related to its choice of topic, as well as the goals and objectives. In order to prepare the necessary theoretical basis for our research, we have focused on the development history of the civil society, which is a very under-developed field of political science, and its successful moments, making the necessary generalizations, drawing relevant conclusions, evaluating the role of political institutions in the formation of the civil society, and using it in this process.

The main conclusions derived from our analytical process are as follows:

- Existing theoretical conceptual approaches related to civil society were analyzed and systematized, the author presented generalized provisions;

- Clarity has been brought to the relationship and interaction between the state and civil society.

- The impact mechanisms of political parties as political institutions on the development and activities of civil society have been highlighted.

- Exploration and differentiation of the existing three models of civil society.

- Non-governmental organizations have been identified as a specific and essential element in the improvement system of civil society.

- In the context of the formation of a democratic political system in the independent Azerbaijan society, the organizational features of the civil society founded by the National Leader Heydar Aliyev were investigated;

- President Ilham Aliyev's strategic course for the development of civil society in Azerbaijan was presented in an argumentative manner and the directions of the ongoing policy in this field were analyzed;

- The main features of the current stage of civil society in the Republic of Azerbaijan and the directions and tendencies of this process have been determined.

**Theoretical and practical significance of research.** From the results of the study of the place and role of political institutions in the formation of the civil society in modern conditions, the interests and activities of the civil society are determined, justified from a scientific point of view, in the creation and improvement of the conceptual legal framework, in the selection of implementation methods and means, in political-scientific researches, higher it can be used in lectures and seminars, propaganda and discussions on various specialty structures in political science and sociology subjects in schools.

**Approval and application.** The main conclusions reached by the author in the process of researching the subject were presented to the scientific community by finding their reflection in the articles published in the republican and foreign press. The dissertation work was approved in the preliminary discussion held at the Department of Political Science and Sociology of Baku State University, where the author studied at the correspondence doctoral level.

The name of the organization **where the dissertation work was performed** is Baku State University.

**The total volume of the dissertation.** The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, seven paragraphs, a conclusion and a list of used literature and a list of published scientific works reflecting the main results of the dissertation. Introduction - 17314, Chapter I - 94073, Chapter II - 53100, Chapter III - 78013, Conclusion - 13930, total volume - 256430 signs.

## THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the introduction, the relevance and degree of development of the topic is justified, the goals and tasks of the research are determined, its scientific novelty, theoretical-methodological and source science base, the main terms defended, as well as the theoretical and practical importance are indicated, the level of study of the problem is reviewed.

The first chapter is called "**Civil society as an important stage of democratic development of society**". In the first sub-chapter of this chapter entitled "**The essence of civil society and theoretical-conceptual approaches to the problem of its formation**", it is shown that the concept of "civil society" entered the scientific circulation from the 17th century and attempts were made to study it from the 18th-19th centuries. As a whole, this concept is examined as economic, cultural, legal and political relations between individuals, which are independent of the state, but have a relationship with the state, created voluntarily. Civil society is a higher stage in the development of society. Civil society is a non-political public association that has a mechanism of self-management and self-regulation, formed as a result of the voluntary association of civilians..<sup>24</sup>

Although there are different approaches to the concept of civil society in the history of political thought, two main classic theories in this direction attract more attention:<sup>25</sup> The liberal tradition that developed in England and America within the framework of the Scottish Enlightenment is a fundamental dynamic defining civil society-political society relations. These countries, synthesizing their historical and social accumulations with modern institutions, are governed by broad-based social dynamics formed by the compromise of aristocrats and local communities rather than the central determination of political society. The Anglo-Saxon model prioritizes

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<sup>24</sup> Политология: Энциклопедический словарь. М.: «БИГ», 1993, с. 75

<sup>25</sup> Seliqman, A.B., Vətəndaş cəmiyyəti ideyası. – Bakı: "Nurlar" NPB. – 2005. – 240 s

the individual and regards civil society as a balancing force against the potential pressure of the state or political power on society.

The French model follows a totalitarian line that prioritizes the state in state-civil society relations and advocates that civil society be under the control of a transcendental state in which sovereignty is inalienable and unquestionable. Another specific conception of civil society is the Marxist approach. This concept contradicts Hegel's liberal views on the primacy of the state over civil society. Marx considered the civil society as the basis of the global society, and the life activity of the individual as the decisive factor of historical development. He considered civil society as a social organization that develops directly from production. According to Marx, the citizens of the bourgeois state are precisely the owning classes and social groups. It is no coincidence that in German the words "bourgeois" and "citizen" act as synonyms for each other.

According to some authors, private property is the main reason for the formation and activity of civil society, which is a more developed institution of democratic society, and its transformation into the most powerful selforganizing structure. According to I. L. Kermon and K. Komar, the manifestation of civil society, the ability to influence the state sphere, and the ability of citizens' needs to find themselves in state regulations is the product of a long and complex historical process.<sup>26</sup> Of course, one can agree with the opinion of these authors and this in the context, it can be concluded that private property is a more developed institution of the democratic political system and is characterized as one of the main general reasons for the organization and formation of civil society and its transformation into a perfect self-organizing social structure. The second general reason for the formation of civil society is the free market economy. Finally, another common reason for the formation and functioning of civil society is precisely the democratic society's attempt to satisfy the interests and needs of its citizens at the maximum level.

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<sup>26</sup> Комар К. Гражданское общество. М., 1994, с. 21.

The second sub-chapter of this chapter is called "**Civil society structure and formation mechanism**", and here the content and structural elements of civil society are studied, and the concept of "**civil society**" is clarified. The functional nature of civil society is conditioned by its structural elements. Civil society is represented by its organizations and associations in all spheres of public life.<sup>27</sup> Its structure is characterized by these organizations and associations.

By summarizing the various opinions and judgments about the nature and content of civil society, we can come to the following conclusion: firstly, civil society is a community of people formed and developed in democratic states. It is characterized as a set of economic, social, spiritual, religious and other non-state relations, secondly, the uniqueness of the set of organizations that condition the civil society is created not by the state, but by the citizens themselves and various enterprises, they have an autonomous character in relation to the state, without a doubt, within the framework of the existing laws; finally, as an important part of democratic political reality, civil society serves its political power, which is manifested in a specific form, being the expression of public opinion as a whole.

The second chapter of the dissertation called "**The influence of modern political institutions on the formation process of civil society**" includes two subchapters. In the first sub-chapter called "**The role of the state in the formation of civil society**", the state is revealed as the main political institution, its interaction and relationship with civil society is emphasized, and the features that distinguish them from each other are taken into account.

The relationship between the state and civil society is one of the most important issues. Undoubtedly, this mutual relationship is formed precisely with the formation of civil society.

In modern political science, civil society is studied as a complex multifaceted system of state relations and non-governmental structures. Civil society is such a universal and powerful social practice that the state is forced to reckon with. Of course, the state is

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<sup>27</sup> Андрианов, Н. В. Гражданское общество как среда институционализации адвокатуры / Н.В. Андрианов. - Москва: Либроком. – 2015. – 304 с.



not indifferent to the implementation of those initiatives and studies the demands of the civil society in different forms (by defending or disapproving of these demands). The relationship between the state and civil society should be seen as a partnership, each helping the other, but also exercising control over the other.<sup>28</sup>

The basic type of communicative relations in which civil society subjects participate is not a "dominion-subordination" relationship, but a cooperative relationship in which the interacting parties see each other as equal allies with their own interests and needs. It is also a well-known fact that in societies where civil society is strong, democracy is built on stronger foundations, and in cases where there is no civil society or it is open to state intervention, democratic movements turn into authoritarian structures over time. Therefore, while a strong civil society is necessary for democracies, the existence of civil society alone may not be sufficient for democracy.<sup>29</sup>

In the author's dissertation, the experience of NGOs in foreign countries was analyzed. Based on the analysis and generalization of the provisions of the legislation of many states, in a democratic pluralist system, non-governmental organizations help to create a polyphonic environment in society where individuals can freely express their opinions. Undoubtedly, in democratic systems, freedom of expression, like all other freedoms of the individual, has a wide area of protection. Cooperation between the state and NGOs, which form the core of civil society, and working towards a common goal is of vital importance. In the dissertation, the necessity of this process is connected with several objective factors. Thus, the vast majority of NGOs solve issues that state bodies do not pay enough attention to due to various reasons.

As public institutions of the modern era, non-governmental organizations play an important role in legal state building, democratization of social and political life, protection of human rights and freedoms, and ensuring harmonious and stable development in

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<sup>28</sup> Əfəndiyev M.Ə. Politologiya. B., "Elm" 2013. s. 345

<sup>29</sup> Василенко И.А. Диалог цивилизации: социокультурные проблемы политического партнерства. М.: Логос. 1999, с. 4-5.

society. National leader Heydar Aliyev firmly stated that "if the people of any country understand their rights and are able to protect them, then even the smallest state becomes as strong as the largest country."<sup>30</sup>

As the leading force of the civil society, non-governmental organizations make a great contribution to the social and economic development of the third sector, society in general, to the provision of peace and security, peaceful coexistence, and to solving the problems of humanity. In recent years, we have witnessed great public interest in the activities of NGOs.

The role of political parties in the organization, formation, development and activity of civil society is investigated in the second **sub-chapter called "Possibilities of influence of political parties on the development and activity of civil society"**. In the liberal-democratic socio-political system, civil society and the legal state are inextricably linked. In addition, there are a number of institutions and phenomena that can be attributed to both the civil society and the state sphere. From this point of view, political parties and organizations belong to both the state and civil society spheres in various aspects and act as a connecting and coordinating tool between them.

Political parties are an integral part of a democratic society. As noted by the English scientist Dawes, parties are the most political among social organizations. Political parties are the main elements that guide the formation and development of political will in the country. This political institution is a type of public association that expresses the political interests of its members, plays a special role in the formation of the political will of the people, and whose main purpose is to participate in the exercise of power through the state authority and its representatives.

Political parties are distinguished by their goals, methods of operation, opportunities to influence the government and other characteristic features, as well as significant opportunities to influence the development and activity of civil society. The activity of political parties has now become an integral part of the political life of the

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<sup>30</sup> Əliyev H. Ə. Deyilən söz yadıgandır. Azərbaycan Atatürk Mərkəzi, 2011, s. 10

world. A part of some new social movements mainly accepted the functions of parties as expressing and representing social interests.<sup>31</sup> It can be concluded that the political parties established in the civil society are, in a certain sense, a necessary leading component of the political system rather than the civil society.

**The third chapter called "The role of the state and political parties in the formation and development of civil society in the Republic of Azerbaijan" consists of three subchapters. In the first sub-chapter of this chapter called " The role of National Leader Heydar Aliyev in the formation of civil society in the Republic of Azerbaijan", the characteristics of the emergence, development and formation of various civil society organizations in Azerbaijan are investigated in the process of building a democratic society.**

In 1991, after the adoption of the Constitutional Act "On the Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan" on October 18, 1991, the Republic of Azerbaijan declared its independence, soon after the end of the rule of totalitarianism in our republic, which was dominated by a single party, a single ideology, and which strictly controlled every area of society. the process of creating a civil society and a legal state has begun.<sup>32</sup>

The philosophy of Azerbaijanism founded by the great leader included the basis of our idea of national statehood, laws were prepared in this area, legislation was strengthened, the foundation of solidarity of Azerbaijanis of the world was laid, and legal reforms were implemented. As a result of Heydar Aliyev's incessant work in this field, the problem of national statehood, which has been on the agenda for a long time as a serious issue for our state, has been removed from science and started to be implemented practically. It goes without saying that it is possible to ensure the welfare, rights and freedoms of citizens in a strong state with a political structure that meets the needs of the society and fully formed socio-political institutions. Seeing all

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<sup>31</sup> Пугачев В. П. Соловьев А.И. Введение в политологию. М.: Аспект Пресс. 2010, с. 113.

<sup>32</sup> Bağırov, Ş.S., Vətəndaş cəmiyyəti: yaxında və uzaqda.Qloballaşma və Azərbaycan mədəniyyəti. – Bakı: "Araz". – 2004. – 440 s.

this, Heydar Aliyev paid great attention to the socio-political institution at the core of state building. In particular, one of the most important features of the adoption of the Constitution of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan by universal vote in 1995 is the priority of forming a democratic state and civil society in our republic.<sup>33</sup>

While mentioning the process of formation of a democratic state by the Great Leader, of course, it is necessary to mention separately the work done by the leader to improve the existing political system in the republic. Thus, the pluralism established in the country has been the point at which useful domestic policy has arrived. This process manifests itself in the political sphere created for the operation of different political institutions and a large number of political parties in the territory of the country. There is no doubt that the time when political pluralism began to be ensured in Azerbaijan falls on the same date. If we are talking about pluralism and civil society in a state, it is important to note the main role of socio-political movements and political parties in the path of democratization.

One of the most important features of the formation of civil society in Azerbaijani society was the creation of local non-governmental organizations. The newly formed third sector of the country needed comprehensive support. This support could only come from international organizations. The next successful step taken by National Leader Heydar Aliyev was the implementation of the "Local NGOs Development Program" project in 2000, which was considered an important event in this direction..<sup>34</sup> Some people working in the country, especially in state bodies, did not understand the work correctly and evaluated it negatively. The continuation of the situation made the already complicated situation of the public sector in the country tense. The National NGO Forum took a very important step at

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<sup>33</sup> Bələdiyyə bələdçisi. ABŞ-ın "Demokratiyanı himayə fondu" (NED).N.P.M. Bakı, 2000, s. 3.

<sup>34</sup> Bağırov, Ş.S., Vətəndaş cəmiyyəti quruculuğu: Yerli özünüidarəetmənin perspektiv istiqamətləri. Sosial-siyasi problemlər. IX buraxılış. – Bakı: ADPU mətbəəsi. – 2003. – 283 s.

this time. For the first time, the project "Development program of local NGOs" was prepared. The NGO Resource and Training Center of the UN Development Program and the World Bank supported the implementation of this project. These measures were of great importance for the NGOs to act from a single position in solving the problems existing in different fields.<sup>35</sup>

**The second sub-chapter is devoted to the issue of "President Ilham Aliyev's strategy for civil society development in Azerbaijan and its realization".** As one of President Ilham Aliyev's services to the Republic of Azerbaijan, it is appropriate to touch since the beginning of his activities as the head of state, the steps of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev towards a number of socio-economic and political changes in the country have been widely studied.<sup>36</sup> Currently, a qualitatively new stage in the formation of an active civil society in our republic is being implemented through the State Support Agency for Non-Governmental Organizations. Agency development of nongovernmental organizations, improvement and promotion of cooperation mechanisms between public-private and non-governmental organizations, evaluation of initiatives, programs and projects put forward by nongovernmental organizations on issues of importance to the state and society and giving feedback on them, as well as the public acting in the fields of development of international cooperation relations of non-governmental organizations is defined as a legal entity.<sup>37</sup> It is important to note that the most important political values in the modern world include: political freedoms, equality, justice, human rights, democracy, political pluralism, tolerance, political education, citizenship, patriotism, etc.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Dadaşova, E.X., Azərbaycan respublikasında vətəndaş cəmiyyətinin formalaşmasında demokratik prosesin rolu. – Bakı: Elm. – 2007. – 188 s.

<sup>36</sup> Mehdiyev R. Vətəndaş cəmiyyətinə yol açan ideyalar. Bakı: Polygraphic Production, 2006, s. 193.

<sup>37</sup> Əliyev, İ.H. Nitqləri, çıxışları, bəyanatları, müsahibələri. Xarici siyasət fəaliyyətləri. Bakı: Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin İşlər İdarəsinin Prezident kitabxanası, - 2017, 115 s.

<sup>38</sup> Мангейм Дж.Б., Пач П.К. Политология. Методы исследования: Пер. с англ. М., 1997, с.333

At present, the activity of this field is regulated by several documents, including the Constitution, Civil Code, Law on NGOs (public associations and foundations), Law on state registration and register of legal entities, Law on Grants, Law on volunteering, relevant decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, it is also regulated by decrees and orders, as well as other regulatory legal documents governing this area. At the same time, according to the Constitution, the activities of NGOs are regulated by a number of international legal documents. These international acts include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, etc. includes. In addition to the creation of a solid legislative framework for the effective activity of NGOs in our republic, ensuring the rule of law and transparency in all areas of public administration, reducing the scope of negative situations, as well as taking continuous measures aimed at increasing citizen satisfaction, the formation of an optimal environment for the activity of non-governmental organizations provides<sup>39</sup>.

**The third sub-chapter of the third chapter is called " Features of the modern stage in the development of civil society in the Republic of Azerbaijan".** In this sub-chapter, the features, trends and perspective of civil society building in our country are examined. Social and political organizations and various associations capable of ensuring the democratization of the Azerbaijani society, the formation and development of the legal state, the construction of civil society, the active participation of citizens of various social groups and strata in political processes, the realization of their needs and interests, and the implementation of the political line of the government. makes its formation a necessity. The President of the country, Ilham Aliyev, made the following statement on this issue: "Without serious public

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<sup>39</sup> Qeyri Hökumət Təşkilatları Haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikasının Qanunu, Ümumi Müddəalar, (<http://ask.org.az/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/QHT1%C9%99rhaqq%C4%B1nda-qanun.pdf>)

control, the implementation of our planned programs may face difficulties." In the study, the socioeconomic and socio-political processes taking place in Azerbaijan contribute to the democratization process against the background of the civil society, the joining of the most diverse representatives of the society to the NGO movement in the integration of Azerbaijan into world politics, and the creation of new NGOs are also analyzed.

The state of Azerbaijan always pays serious attention to the construction of civil society in the country, the formation and development of civil society institutions. Currently, there is a favorable legal framework regulating the activities of public organizations in our society.

The author, drawing attention to the victory in the Second Karabakh War, notes that the victory created ample opportunities for the development of the civil society. In this successful victory, the state worked together with the people and civil society organizations, and at the same time, civil society institutions, especially NGOs, united and showed their support for the state during this great victory. It is thanks to their multifaceted steps that the continued success in the military was also manifested in the information war. NGOs supported by presenting joint statements and reports in the transfer of the most accurate information to the world community and in conveying the facts of the war crimes committed by Armenia to everyone. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation, which was specially selected for its successful steps during this period, continues to do great work to publicize the consequences of the war in the international world even after the war. Likewise, the political parties operating in our country also declared that they unequivocally support the activities of the head of state and declared that this victory is the most successful way for the whole country.

**As a result**, the research was concluded, and also ideas, theoretical and practical suggestions and recommendations were put forward for solving the problem. The main result of the research is that The main result of the research is that political institutions, including the state and political parties, play an important role in the formation

of civil society, and civil society acts as an important aspect and necessary sphere of a democratic, legal state. This reality is clearly manifested in the example of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The policy of formation and development of civil society, which was founded by National Leader Heydar Aliyev in the Republic of Azerbaijan, was enriched and successfully continued by his worthy successor, President Ilham Aliyev.

**The main content of the dissertation is reflected in the following published scientific works of the author:**

1. The idea of civil society: its concept and main essence. //Baku State University, History and its problems. Theoretical, scientific, methodical magazine, №4, 2016
2. The role of democratisation principles in civil society formation//Baku State University, Journal of economic and political sciences. Scientificanalytical. Practical magazine, №3 (8),2017
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5. Проблема взаимоотношений государства и гражданского общества в истории политической мысли// Politicus. Научный журнал, №4,2018
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10. Heydar Aliyev's policy in the formation of civil society in Azerbaijan // Baku State University, Azerbaijanism, statehood and diplomatic legacy of national leader Heydar Aliyev, May 7-8, 2019 Основные тенденции формирования и функционирования неправительственных организаций в Азербайджане//East European science journal (Warsaw, Poland), 02 (54),2020
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13. E-government and e-democracy relationships in state administration//The XXX International Scientific Symposium “Building cultural bridges to the future”, dedicated to the 30th anniversary of cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Kazakhstan The 30th of September 2022 Astana/ Khazakstan
14. Electronic government: theoretical foundations and directions of an action// Political Science and Security Studies Journal (Przeworsk, Poland), Vol. 4 No. 2 (2023)



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