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CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN AZERBAIJAN AND TURKIYE

Abstract: This article analyzes the characteristic features of scientific cooperation between Azerbaijan and Turkiye within historical, political, and cultural contexts. The study demonstrates that scientific, literary, and cultural relations between the two countries have emerged as a natural and historically grounded necessity based on a shared history, language, and spiritual values. However, the occupation of Azerbaijan by the Russian Empire in the nineteenth century and the subsequent period of Soviet totalitarian rule imposed severe ideological constraints, significantly hindering the development of these relations. During this period, research related to national and cultural roots, as well as Azerbaijan–Turkiye relations, could not be conducted in an objective manner.

Since the restoration of independence, Azerbaijan–Turkiye scientific and cultural relations have entered a new phase. In particular, cooperation mechanisms established between the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences and TÜBİTAK have created favorable conditions for the implementation of joint scientific and technical projects, the exchange of specialists, and the organization of joint conferences and publications. This cooperation has primarily covered such fields as fundamental sciences, information technologies, ecology, innovation, and technology.

The Ankara Declaration of 1992 and subsequent official initiatives have been aimed at strengthening integration in the fields of science, education, and culture, promoting the preservation of shared cultural heritage, the exchange of scientific information, and mutual engagement among students and scholars. The publication of scientific works, the exchange of journals and collections, and the establishment of information networks via the internet have served as practical forms of this cooperation.

In conclusion, despite historical limitations, Azerbaijan–Turkiye scientific and cultural relations have developed along an upward trajectory. The study concludes that there is considerable potential for the further institutionalization of this cooperation and its expansion within the broader framework of the Turkic world.

Keywords: Azerbaijan–Turkiye relations, scientific cooperation, scientific and cultural relations, shared history and culture, independence period, fundamental sciences, information technologies, integration of education and culture, Turkic world.

The scientific and literary–cultural relations between Azerbaijan and Turkiye, two countries possessing an ancient and rich cultural heritage, emerged as a historical necessity. The very existence of these peoples signifies their spiritual closeness and inseparable connection. However,

regrettably, following the occupation of Azerbaijan by Russia—beginning in the mid-nineteenth century—artificial obstacles and prohibitions emerged in the history and development of these relations. The seventy-year totalitarian regime of the Soviet Empire compelled many nations, including the Azerbaijani people, to perceive the world exclusively through the lens of Bolshevik ideology. In particular, even a modest inclination toward the native Eastern cultural context during the 1920s and 1930s was interpreted as a betrayal of socialism, leading to hundreds of highly educated intellectuals being subjected to the repressions of 1937 under the label of "pan-Turkism."

Those who served the policy aimed at completely severing Azerbaijan from its roots and origins—individuals from within Azerbaijani society itself—demonstrated exceptional zeal and activity in implementing this agenda. Certainly, we do not intend to disregard the numerous valuable studies on Azerbaijan–Turkiye relations produced over the past decades (Rasuli, 2001, p. 3). While acknowledging the scholarly efforts of researchers working in this field, it must nevertheless be noted that, as these studies were written within the framework of Marxist-Leninist ideology, they largely served communist doctrine and failed to analyze and evaluate Azerbaijan–Turkiye literary and cultural relations with full objectivity.

The twentieth century was a period of violent struggles and profound upheavals throughout the world, including the East, marked by resistance to injustice, social inequality, and imperial domination. Following the October Revolution of 1917, Russia's new imperial policy and its self-assigned role as the "elder brother" directed the culture and literature of the Azerbaijani people along a new path of development. In effect, Azerbaijan was distanced from its own historical roots. The fervent propagandists of the Soviet system effectively prohibited themes related to the South, Azerbaijan–Turkiye literary and cultural relations, and émigré literature. Soviet propaganda, which sought to confine national feelings and thought within the boundaries of Soviet identity, together with the forces that complied with it, dealt a severe blow to Azerbaijani literature and culture and, more broadly, to national and spiritual values.

Over the course of seventy years, Azerbaijan, while positioned at the forefront of internationalism within the so-called "multinational socialist society," became separated from Turkiye—a country sharing the same national, cultural, and spiritual roots—as well as from its culture and literature (Rasuli, 2001, p. 9). At a historic moment marked by the collapse of the imperial system, the downfall of the totalitarian regime, and the processes of national independence and self-identification among peoples, the development of scientific, literary, and cultural ties among Turkic peoples acquires even greater significance.

From the first years of our independence, a number of significant steps began to be taken in the field of scientific and cultural relations between Azerbaijan and Turkiye. Among the most important of these was the establishment of scientific and technical cooperation between the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkiye (TÜBİTAK) and the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences (Saray, 1993, pp. 142–144). On the basis of the agreement concluded between the scientific institutions of the two countries, the parties unanimously confirmed that the time had come to initiate reciprocal cooperation on a number of issues. Taking into account their mutual interest and shared aspiration to advance existing collaboration in the scientific and technical sphere; affirming their belief that cooperation in science and technology constitutes one of the fundamental pillars of relations between the two countries and represents an essential element of bilateral engagement; recognizing the necessity of strengthening such cooperation at a time when scientific knowledge is rapidly developing and disseminating, and when scientific research has acquired an increasingly international character; and expressing their desire to render bilateral cooperation in the scientific and technical field more effective, particularly in light of the new political, economic, and social environment associated with reforms in Azerbaijan, as well as the broader processes of integration taking place in various regions of the world, the parties reached agreement on the following provisions:

– The parties shall establish and further develop scientific and technical cooperation in the field of Azerbaijan–Turkiye cultural relations on the basis of mutual benefit and balance (Saray, 1993, p. 142).

– The parties shall promote and expand cooperation in the field of fundamental research.

– Recognizing that foreign investment holds particular importance for technological advancement and, consequently, for the accelerated development of their economies, the parties shall endeavor to cooperate in scientific research—especially in the field of advanced technologies—while ensuring the proper protection of intellectual and industrial property rights.

– The parties shall support the implementation of joint projects and facilitate the more active participation of specialists from both countries in carrying out such initiatives.

– Cooperation in science and technology shall be further specified and expanded within the framework of joint initiatives, particularly in the fields of fundamental sciences (mathematics, physics, astronomy, chemistry, etc.), environmental protection, information technologies, and related disciplines.

– Within the framework of this agreement, cooperation may be implemented in the following forms: the establishment of joint research facilities; the mutual provision and installation of research instruments and equipment for the conduct of scientific research and the implementation of technological projects; the creation of joint technology exchanges, technoparks, commercial enterprises, and organizations; the exchange of scientists and specialists; the organization of joint scientific conferences, symposia, and working meetings; the exchange of scientific and technical information and documentation, primarily via electronic communication; and the exchange of students, among other forms of collaboration (Saray, 1993, p. 143).

Emphasizing the special ties between the two peoples arising from their shared history, language, and culture; affirming that a spirit of brotherhood, solidarity, and cooperation prevails in their relations; expressing their determination to further strengthen relations and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of the principles of independence, sovereignty, respect for territorial integrity, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and equality; and declaring their desire and political will to jointly contribute to peace, security, stability, and development in Eurasia within the framework of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, and other documents adopted in the process of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the parties convened in Ankara on 30–31 October 1992 to exchange views on issues of mutual interest, common concerns, and regional and international problems. Several provisions of the eleven-article Declaration, presented below, were directly oriented toward the future integration of science, education, and culture between our countries:

– The Heads of State and Government reached a common understanding regarding the strengthening of cooperation among cultural institutions, the joint organization of cultural activities, and collaboration in the preservation, restoration, and promotion of works constituting the shared cultural heritage within their countries, with the aim of enriching international and contemporary human civilization through their common culture.

– The Heads of State and Government resolved to facilitate the necessary simplifications to increase contacts at all levels, in order to further develop and deepen relations between peoples sharing a common historical heritage. They also agreed to encourage the organization of regular joint meetings among official and private institutions and organizations, municipalities,

universities, media and publishing institutions, literary and artistic associations, and other professional bodies.

– The Heads of State and Government expressed satisfaction with ongoing joint efforts in the fields of education and culture and strongly supported initiatives aimed at revitalizing the shared elements of their nations' cultures, including their language.

– The Heads of State and Government, affirming their belief in the value of continued dialogue, resolved that the summit meetings—first convened in Ankara—should be held on a regular basis. Within this framework, it was envisaged that the next summit meeting would take place in Baku in October 1993. The exact dates of the meeting were to be determined through diplomatic channels. Furthermore, the parties noted the possibility of convening additional summit meetings whenever deemed necessary. This Declaration was signed in Ankara on 31 October 1992 in six copies, in the Turkish and Russian languages (Saray, 1993, pp. 145–146).

Scientific cooperation between our countries has emerged as a historical necessity within the broader framework of the scientific and literary-cultural relations between Azerbaijan and Turkiye—two nations possessing ancient and rich cultural traditions. The very existence of these peoples signifies their profound spiritual affinity and enduring, inseparable bonds.

The twentieth century was marked worldwide, including in the East, by violent struggles and upheavals against injustice, social inequality, and imperial domination. Following the October Revolution of 1917, Russia's new imperial policy and its assumed role as the "elder brother" redirected the development of Azerbaijani culture and literature along a new trajectory. In effect, Azerbaijan was distanced from its historical roots. The fervent propagandists of the Soviet regime effectively prohibited themes related to the South, Azerbaijani–Turkish literary and cultural relations, and émigré literature. Soviet propaganda, along with the forces aligned with it, sought to confine national sentiments and intellectual thought within the framework of Soviet identity, thereby inflicting severe damage upon our literature and culture, and upon our national and spiritual values as a whole.

One of the principal forms of scientific cooperation is the publication of scholarly works, and in this regard the scientific and cultural relations between Azerbaijan and Turkiye merit particular recognition. In 1992, for example, the *Dialectological Dictionary of the Azerbaijani Language* was prepared and published in Turkiye, followed subsequently by the *Azerbaijan–Turkiye Dictionary of Frequently Used Words*. Moreover, physicists from the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) regularly contributed their research articles to the *Turkish Journal of Physics*. Azerbaijani scholars were also represented on the journal's editorial board, further reflecting the depth and institutional character of bilateral scientific collaboration.

Another significant dimension of Azerbaijan–Turkiye scientific cooperation has been the exchange of scientific information, and substantial efforts have been undertaken to advance relations in this sphere. For instance, the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) transmitted to Turkiye a range of its scholarly journals and collections, including *Reports*, *Proceedings*, *Chemistry*, *Computational and Mathematical Problems*, *Differential Equations and Selected Issues of Functional Theory*, as well as other academic publications. In order to strengthen information exchange between Azerbaijan and Turkiye, and in accordance with Resolution No. 9 of 13 April 1994 issued by the Presidium of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, the Department of Automated Control Systems of the Academy, in cooperation with Turkiye's Scientific and Technological Research Council (TÜBİTAK), prepared a project to connect to the INTERNET computer network. The implementation of this initiative was successfully initiated and brought to completion. An analysis of the issue demonstrates that

although Azerbaijan–Turkiye scientific relations did not fully correspond to the potential capacities of the two countries, they developed along a steadily ascending trajectory, and all necessary conditions were created for the further strengthening of these ties (Huseynov, 2003, pp. 21–22).

Activities within the sphere of Azerbaijan–Turkiye scientific and cultural relations have consistently remained at the forefront of attention at the official level in both countries. Political leaders, scholars, and cultural figures distinguished for their successful contributions in this field have been awarded academic and honorary titles in recognition of their efforts. Among the prominent personalities whose contributions in this direction were highly valued at the highest levels, the National Leader of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, occupies a distinguished place. On 5 December 1995, the Academic Council of Dokuz Eylul University in Izmir unanimously adopted Resolution No. 210/2 conferring upon the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, the honorary doctorate in International Relations in recognition of his contributions to Azerbaijan's independence as well as to the development of Azerbaijan–Turkiye cultural relations (Azerbaijan–Turkiye Relations and Heydar Aliyev, 2002, pp. 78–79).

"In Azerbaijan, scholars, research centers, and universities conduct numerous studies and research projects concerning Turkiye and the Turkic world. These efforts are significant in themselves. At my initiative, a center dedicated to the study and research of the legacy of the great Ataturk has been established in Azerbaijan. This center will function as an independent institution. The most knowledgeable specialists in this field—both from the Academy of Sciences and from all universities across the country—will be brought together within this center. As President of Azerbaijan, I also serve as its honorary chair. I believe that this center will once again examine and demonstrate, from a scientific perspective, the extent and depth of the historical ties between Azerbaijan and Turkiye. This will create further opportunities for broad cooperation. The Head of State emphasized that he was particularly pleased that your university maintains direct ties with the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences. Therefore, I express my desire that Ankara University cooperate with the center under my chairmanship in the study of Ataturk's legacy and in research on the history and historical unity of the Turkic peoples" (Heydar Aliyev, 2002, pp. 245–248).

On 16 September 2001, the Ankara Association of Businesswomen, which had been active since 1993, took a significant step toward strengthening linguistic unity between the two brotherly countries. In recognition of the historic decision to transition to the Latin alphabet as of 1 August 2001, the Association selected the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, as the "Wise Statesman of the Year 2001" (Azerbaijan–Turkiye Relations and Heydar Aliyev, 2002, p. 175). Subsequently, on 10 October 2001, the Executive Board of the Foundation of Writers and Artists of the Turkic World (TÜRKSAN) unanimously resolved to confer upon President Heydar Aliyev the "Special Award of the Turkic World" for the year 2001. When addressing Azerbaijan–Turkiye scientific and cultural relations, it should also be noted that, as in other spheres, relations between Turkiye and the Turkic Republics have been developing rapidly in the field of Turkology. In particular, in Azerbaijan, research has been conducted and books, theses, and scholarly articles have been produced on topics related to Turkiye, the Turkish language and literature, history, and culture. Likewise, in Turkiye, numerous studies and publications concerning other Turkic states and Turkic communities have been undertaken. However, despite these extensive scholarly efforts, a noticeable fragmentation remains evident. There exists a need in each country for these works to be systematically compiled and ultimately published in a comprehensive and integrated form (Tuylu, 2005, p. 105).

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