

3. Клецина, И.С. Психология гендерных отношений. Теория и практика / И.С. Клецина. – СПб.: Алетейя, 2004. – 408 с.
4. Яницкий, М.С. Адаптационный процесс: психологические механизмы и закономерности динамики: учеб. пособие. / М.С. Яницкий. – Кемерово: Кемеров. гос. ун-т, 1999. – 84 с.

UDC 327

**REGIONAL FRAMEWORK OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY****KAMAL MAKILI-ALIYEV****Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan**

*Azerbaijan is at the crossroads between East and West. Its geopolitical location is both its challenge and its major asset. This paper analyses the general state of relations of Azerbaijan with its largest and geopolitically important neighbors.*

Foreign policy of Azerbaijan, the state that has regained its independence only twenty-one years ago, can be well considered unique in a large scale of international relations. Indeed, for the landlocked, predominantly Muslim country, that is on the political map of Europe and has a post-soviet history, in conjunction with neighborhood that includes Russia, Iran and Turkey, effective foreign policy is not just an international relations instrument – it is a survival tool.

At the same time, such a geopolitical location provides a lot of opportunities. From the time of reestablishment of its independence, Azerbaijan was set exactly towards taking its chances with such opportunities. Located on the cross-roads of the major trade and energy routes between East and West and maintaining secularity of the state with Muslim heritage, Azerbaijan is a natural bridge between Europe and Asia, Muslim and Christian worlds and gateways to energy and transportation corridors for the whole region in which it's located. Such situation determines Azerbaijan as one of the most strategic states of former Soviet Union in terms of both regional and international security. Moreover, when it comes to the economic integration, the role of Azerbaijan in transit of hydrocarbons from the Caspian basin has also to be taken into account.

Being a part of South Caucasus, Azerbaijan ultimately is a part of the geopolitical area where regional powers such as Russia, Turkey and Iran have their economic and political interests. After reestablishing its independence Azerbaijan found itself in very complicated geopolitical regional framework. Engaged in the international armed conflict, Azerbaijan's fate depended a lot on its larger neighbors named above as well as on the handling of the armed conflict with Armenia. The foreign policy towards each of these states took its rightful part in shaping Azerbaijani state to its present form.

Presently the number one strategic partner for Azerbaijan is undoubtedly Turkey. Turkish-Azerbaijani relations have thrived since Turkey have recognized newly independent Azerbaijan in 1991 and was a first state to do so. Turkey and Azerbaijan are currently linked with projects that span political, military, economic, cultural and social spheres, while ties between peoples of these two states can be described only by the notion that is in the core of foreign policy of Azerbaijan towards Turkey: "One nation, two states". Energy cooperation in Azerbaijan-Turkey relations is essential. Two pipelines that deliver oil and gas are linking Azerbaijan with Turkey via Georgia. Thus, Turkey plays an essential role in transit of hydrocarbons from the Caspian towards European markets. Ties in energy cooperation are so close, that experts point out that they are moving from classical "low politics" relations to "high politics".[1, p. 83] Supremacy of the energy cooperation in relations with Turkey can be challenged only by relations in military field. Taking into account that Turkey after the inception of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has closed its border with Armenia, supporting Azerbaijan in establishing semi-blockade of the aggressor-state, it was inevitable that Turkey would be interested in assisting Azerbaijan in bolstering its military capacity. Thousands of Azerbaijani military officers and non-commissioned officers have acquired their military education in Turkey. Being a NATO member, Turkey assists Azerbaijan in the development of its armed forces to the highest standards promoted by the Alliance, thus creating favorable atmosphere for Azerbaijan's relations with NATO.

At the same time, linked so close with Georgia, both states of Azerbaijan and Turkey are interested in the development of regional projects and maintenance of energy security in the region. It is worth mentioning that the interests of Turkey to become the regional energy hub are largely supported in Azerbaijan. Energy projects and close cooperation in developing economy-friendly energy policies are the trademarks of Azerbaijan-Turkey

relations. Azerbaijan is also providing Turkey with the link to Central Asia, to which the ethnic Turks are linked both culturally and historically. As Azerbaijan remains a part of post-Soviet space it can better facilitate such cooperation. In addition to security issues Azerbaijan is dedicated to support Turkey in its fight with PKK terrorists, which is one of the highest policy points in Turkish national security agenda.

Largest Azerbaijan's neighbor Russia on the other hand can be considered a success story if one would look at the transformation of bilateral relations between states from negative (some might even refer to them as hostile) in 1990-s to the firm strategic partnership that started forming in the beginning of 2000-s. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union most of the post-Soviet space experienced some period of mutual mistrust and concern in relations with Russia. For Azerbaijan, the experience of the active phase of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with Armenia have resulted in number of stereotypes that made it difficult for the prompt and effective developments in bilateral relations. On the other hand, Russia's foreign policy orientation in 1990-s was not helpful as well, and ultimately led to a very long warm-up in reaching of mutual understanding between two states. However, positive changes in Russia's foreign policy orientation in the beginning of 2000-s, combined with the increased numbers of high-level mutual visits have marked a new level of bilateral relations and cooperation that brought several agreements between states establishing and then reaffirming friendship and strategic partnership [2, c. 9].

Bilateral relations of Azerbaijan with Russia presently include variety of spheres including close cooperation in economic and military areas. Azerbaijan is number one trade partner for Russia in South Caucasus and the direct investment of Russia to Azerbaijan has grown almost seventeen times compared to 1990-s. In its own turn Russia is number one trade partner for Azerbaijan in non-oil sector. Military cooperation between countries includes not only educational and training areas, but also arms trade and military maintenance. Regional security is another point on bilateral agenda of these states, where close cooperation of both countries' security and police forces contribute to the maintenance of safe regional environment. There is also close cooperation in the Caspian Sea basin issues. After Azerbaijan and Russia were able to come to agreements on their respective sectors of the basin in 2002-2003 [3, c. 133], the barriers for the effective partnership in this area were essentially lifted.

Generally, Azerbaijan's foreign policy toward Russia reflects its dedication towards development of the strategic partnership both in matters of political and economic relations as well as in matters of humanitarian and cultural cooperation. Azerbaijan remains in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), however without furthering the integration in its extending format, not the least due to the membership of Armenia in the same organization. At the same time Azerbaijan's stance on the integration projects promoted by Russia (the Customs Union, the Eurasian Union, etc.) remains neutral. This is due to the balanced approach that Azerbaijan maintains in its foreign policy and at the same time the position of Russia in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (military-political union with Armenia).

Foreign relations of Azerbaijan with Iran are as complicated as the current situation around Iran's nuclear program. Since the independence was reestablished in Azerbaijan, its relations with Islamic neighbor have always maintained a certain level of tension, which unnerved both states that have a lot of common history and culture. However, both Azerbaijan and Iran have made considerable efforts to overcome such tensions and come up with common points of understanding and cooperation and in certain cases, such as cultural and trade relations, have even made certain success.

Nonetheless, it has to be taken into account that there is a large minority (at least 16% of the total population) [4] of Azerbaijani ethnic origin living in Iran that is of constant concern to the Iranian regime that sees Azerbaijan as possible kin-state and fears separatists' movements that might arise in its northern provinces closest to Azerbaijan. The fact that Azerbaijan tried to distance itself from such notions, seems not to have reassuring effect on Iran. From the other hand secular Azerbaijan is very concerned with the Iran trying to exercise its influence among the religious parts of Azerbaijani population through application of religious expansion and teachings among Shia Muslim groups. That kind of behavior is naturally treated with suspicion and considered "shadowed" threat in Azerbaijan. Very close and strategically "warm" relations between Iran and Armenia are not helping for confidence building and cooperation with Azerbaijan either, as Azerbaijan finds them a direct assistance to the aggressor-state. There is a certain level of the reciprocity in the attitude coming from Iran, as its regime is very concerned with the close cooperation of Azerbaijan with West, namely US, EU, NATO and Israel. The differences between two states are also not yet settled in the Caspian basin, due to the lack of agreement on where their respective naval borders lie.

At the same time it has to be taken into account that despite all the tensions in the bilateral relations with Iran, Azerbaijan was trying its best to maintain the positive level of cooperation and good neighboring. It has taken constructive approach in the Caspian Sea talks, remained the only one of Iran's neighbors neutral to the

rising tension around that country's behavior on international level and tried to provide numerous assurances that Azerbaijan's territory would never be used against Iran, such as non-aggression pact of 2005 [5]. However, for Azerbaijan principles of building the bilateral relations with Iran were always equality, constructivism and reciprocity. These notions were probably misunderstood in Iran as the response to the Azerbaijani rapprochement was clearly illustrated in the first part of 2012, when aforementioned concerns of Iran have probably capitalized and "...prompted Tehran to start an information war against Azerbaijan in its media, following attempts to assassinate Israelis on the Azerbaijani soil by specially trained armed groups" [6, p. 116]. As a result, bilateral relations remain "chilly".

Meanwhile, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains the number one topic on the foreign policy and security agenda of Azerbaijan (and South Caucasus region as a whole) and the gaping wound on Azerbaijani nation. As a result of Armenian aggression during the active stage of hostilities in 1991-1994 former territory of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast' as well as other seven regions of Azerbaijan remain under occupation. Presently, aggressor-state maintains "puppet" regime on the occupied territories that financially and administratively depend on Armenia, while promoting the international recognition of so-called "the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" that Armenia itself fails to recognize for obvious reasons. Not a single state in the world have recognized that illegal entity, while Azerbaijan's territorial integrity is universally recognized fact.

In 1993 UN Security Council have adopted four resolutions (822, 853, 874, 884) [7] that demanded unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from Azerbaijan, however none of these resolutions were implemented or enforced. Moreover, both Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe and European Parliament have adopted respective resolutions that condemn the occupation of Azerbaijani territories [8], however their adoption did not lead to any sanctions as well. The peace process and negotiations in the conflict are led by the Minsk Group established under the auspices of CSCE (presently OSCE) in 1994, after the cease fire-agreement was reached between Azerbaijan and Armenia. In 1997 the "triple" co-chairmanship was introduced in the format of Minsk Group including Russia, France and US [9, p. 22-23]. Until today, the mediation of Minsk Group has led to no crucial results and no resolution of the conflict was reached.

Through all the stages of the conflict Azerbaijan has adopted a constructive and pragmatic stance on the peace talks and negotiations. Azerbaijan even chose not to use its right to self-defense provided by the UN Charter Article 51 in favor of peaceful resolution of the conflict. That said, Azerbaijan made all the compromises possible in the boundaries set by the Minsk Group in form of two of the principles of international law – territorial integrity of states and right of peoples to self-determination. Azerbaijan proposes the largest possible autonomous status for Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan. Basically, demanding more concessions from Azerbaijan means the breach of the principles established by the international community and adopted for the peace process. However, Armenian side is not ready for compromise and demonstrates that it has no interest in relinquishing its control over occupied territories, especially when emboldened by the military-political union with Russia.

Azerbaijan on the other hand is in difficult position as the Minsk Group format generally puts Azerbaijan – victim-state – to the same status in negotiations as Armenia – aggressor-state. For Azerbaijan it is also very hard to convince Co-chairs of Minsk Group to apply any pressure to Armenia and force it to compromise as these states are the ones with the largest Armenian Diasporas in the world. Such Diasporas are able to influence the decision-making in their countries very effectively, thus hampering the will of the respective states to facilitate prompt resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Nonetheless, Azerbaijan is dedicated to building strong economy and becoming the South Caucasian transportation hub attractive to foreign investment, while maintaining its active efforts to solve the conflict peacefully.

#### REFERENCES

1. Rzayeva, G. *Azərbaycan-Türkiyə enerji münasibətləri: çağırışlar və perspektivlər* / G. Rzayeva // *Azərbaycan-Türkiyə əlaqələri son 20 ildə: uğurlar və imkanlar* / SAM. – Bakı: ATİB, 2011.
2. Бахревский, Ю. *20 лет политических взаимоотношений России и Азербайджана. История и основные проблемы* / Ю. Бахревский // *Российско-Азербайджанские отношения за 20 лет. История и перспективы* / RISS, SAM. – Баку, 2011.
3. Пивовар, Ю. *Российско-Азербайджанские отношения. Конец XX – начало XXI века* / Ю. Пивовар. – М.: Kremlin Multimedia, 2012.

4. The World Factbook: Iran // CIA [Electronic resource]. – 2014. – Mode of access: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ir.html#People>. – Date of access: 31.01.2014.
5. Blank, S. New Military Trends in the Caspian / S. Blank // CACI Analyst [Electronic resource]. – Washington D.C., 06.01.2005. – Mode of access: <http://www.cacianalyst.org/?q=node/3072>. – Date of access: 31.01.2014.
6. Karimov, R. Is Time Running Out for Iran? / R. Karimov, K. Makili-Aliyev, H. Tabak // Caucasus International. – 2012. – Vol. 2, № 1.
7. UN Doc. S/RES/822 (1993); UN Doc. S/RES/853 (1993), UN Doc. S/RES/874 (1993), UN Doc. S/RES/884(1993)
8. Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 1416 (2005) (The conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference); European Parliament resolution of 20 May 2010 on the need for an EU strategy for the South Caucasus (2009/2216(INI)).
9. Makili-Aliyev, K. Enforcement of International Law in Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict / K. Makili-Aliyev. – Tbilisi: UNIVERSAL, 2008.

UDC 37 / 502

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AS A DETERMINANT  
OF THE SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**MATEUSZ JAKUBIAK**

**AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow, Poland**

*The aim of the article is to show the link between eco-education and sustainable municipal waste management. Ecological education in Poland, especially informal, is a relatively new issue. Its intensive development is caused by Polish accession to the European Union, rising ecological awareness of citizens and the development of new, active non-governmental organizations.*

The concept of anthropogenic homeostasis describes relations between man and nature. It points out that in the second half of the XX century human civilization began the stage of “total exploitation of the environment”. Global interference within the biosphere and the disappearance of the last enclaves of the natural environment are characteristic for this stage [1]. Population growth and the rapid technological and industrial progress caused disappearance of areas free from the influence of human activity on Earth. Socio-economic aspects as well as political systems largely determine human intervention in the natural environment. Economists like Adam Smith, David Ricardo and Tomas Malthus based their considerations on the strong interactions of social, ethical and environmental issues. Adam Smith wrote in 1776 in his book "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations" that what brings benefits to the majority cannot be a problem for others. He emphasized the importance of natural resources as a common good that should be protected [2].

Economics, sociology, natural and technical sciences form the theoretical basis for environmental protection and sustainable development. Various economic disciplines approach the sustainable development, natural capital, sustainability and valuation of the environmental and ecological services in a different ways. Despite this, the mutual support of various disciplines of economics and benchmarking produces synergistic effects [3]. Unfortunately, even with the full cooperation of specialists from many fields and high availability of data about the deteriorating state of the environment, the degradation process is hard to be stopped. To intermit this process, it is necessary to raise the environmental awareness of residents of industrialized areas. Raising environmental awareness is an important mechanism in environmental management. It allows to implement effectively the concept of sustainable development by sensitizing the society on environmental issues. This effect is obtainable only with an extraordinary focus on environmental education. The task of eco-education is not only to provide knowledge, but also to shape the attitudes of environment-friendly society. Therefore, raising environmental awareness is extremely important both among the younger generation, as well as adults. Eco-education is especially important among political and social decision makers. The National Environmental Education Strategy proposes to treat environmental education as an integral part of the whole educational