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THE PEARL OF DEMOCRACY OF THE EAST - PARLIAMENT OF THE AZERBAIJAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Abstract. The article deals with the Parliament of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the first democratic state of the East and the Turkic-Muslim world. The ADR parliament, the world’s first democratic state institution, was formed in difficult domestic and foreign political conditions. Nevertheless, it was based on democratic principles and remained true to these ideas until the Bolshevik occupation. Here information is given about the establishment of the parliament, its activities and composition. The parliament recognized the right of all nations living in the territory of the ADR to be represented. The parliament has placed a small number of national minorities. It is clear from all this information that all the rights and freedoms of the country’s citizens have been ensured in the ADR parliament.

Keywords: Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, parliament, democracy, national minorities, factions

Azerbaijan Democratic Republic is one of the first democratic states of the East and the world. The ADR, which existed in 1918-1920, remained committed to democratic principles for 23 months of its activity. This can be clearly seen in all decisions made by the ADR and measures taken. One of the successful measures carried out by the ADR and the most important was the establishment of the parliament. The ADR Parliament was built in difficult historical and political
conditions. Nevertheless, he made decisions covering important issues, ensuring the rights and freedoms of all his citizens. Thinker with high intellect, our founders of the Republic demonstrated political maturity and managed to apply and preserve democratic traditions. The political elite of Azerbaijan, such as M.A.Rasulzade, AM Topchubashov, F. Khoyski, N. Yusifbeyli, kept our statehood traditions alive on democratic principles. Thanks to these founders, the ADR Parliament was created and operated in a complex international situation.

After the end of World War I, democratic ideas begin to be implemented practically in many parts of the world. Democratization in countries with parliamentary experience is gaining a new essence. New steps are being taken on this path towards different development. For example, we can cite such steps as granting women suffrage in the British Parliament. But if you look at the history, the parliament was formed in England since 1265. Azerbaijan had no parliamentary experience so far, and democratic principles were the foundation of the first democratic parliament. One of the decisions on the establishment of the parliament was that women also had equal suffrage with men. As noted in the “Declaration of Independence”, it promised equal rights to all citizens living within its borders, regardless of nationality, religion, class, religion and gender, and implemented it practically. For comparison, women’s suffrage in France took place in 1944, and in Switzerland in 1989. It should be noted that the granting of this right to women in connection with the elections to the Parliament of the Republic was the first time not only in Azerbaijan, but also in the East and in the Turkic-Muslim world.

The Parliament of Azerbaijan functioned in the first stage - from May 1918 to November 27, 19 under the name of National Council. The National Council consisting of 44 Muslim-Turkish representatives held 10 meetings in a short time, made a number of important historical decisions and assumed responsibility for the country's management. The National Council of Azerbaijan temporarily suspended its activities on June 17 and transferred all legislative and executive power to the Provisional Government, with the convocation of the Assembly of enterprises no later than 6 months. The government led by F. Khoyski took on this difficult task in a difficult historical and political environment and managed to preserve the
existence of Azerbaijan. A vivid example of this is Thomson's subsequent confidence in the government led by Khoyski.

In September 1918, after the Caucasian Islamic Army liberated Baku from Bolshevik-Dashnak formations with the help of Azerbaijani people's volunteer groups, the national government moved to Baku on September 17, thus, on November 16, the National Council of Azerbaijan managed to restore its activity. [1, s. 301] At the meeting of the National Council held on November 19, a law" on the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan " was adopted, as well as elections to the Assembly of enterprises - the broad Parliament of Azerbaijan were scheduled for December 3. The decision on the elections indicated that the legislative body should be represented by representatives of all nationalities, as Azerbaijan is inhabited by different nations.

Under the Mudros truce, Ottoman troops were forced to leave these territories, and the British, led by General Thomson, entered Azerbaijan. Thus, the British Governor-General's Office was formed in Azerbaijan on November 17, which affected the political situation in Azerbaijan and the formation of the parliament. [6, 35] In the course of the steps taken to form the parliament, Thomson expressed his traditional British policy, but later observed the Democratic steps taken by the ADR and stated that he recognized the Khoyski government.

120 representatives of the ADR parliament recognized the right of all nations living in its territory to be represented here. However, the Russian and Armenian national councils, which put their political interests above their civil position, did not want to agree with this. On November 25, Armenian and Russian national councils were appealed to be represented in the Parliament of the ADR. However, the Armenians refused to participate in the Parliament first of all because they wanted to realize their plans for the" Great Armenia".[12,25] They argued that the Armenian National Council was unable to represent the interests of the entire armenian people. The Russian National Council also refused to consider Azerbaijan as a part of the “United and indivisible Russia"and put forward a number of requirements. According to these requirements, the ADR demanded that they recognize the integrity of Russia, the government headed by Kolchak in Ufa. It is
known from history that in the political situation in Russia, the Western states supported the agguardian forces against Bolshevik Russia. It is no coincidence that the British, led by Thomson, did not deny their support for ally Russia even when they arrived in Baku and did not take seriously the newly formed ADR government. Nevertheless, even the requirements of the Russian National Council did not like Thomson. First of all, this was due to the lack of understanding of the extent to which the self-proclaimed government established in Ufa was serving.

The ADR government also rejected the requirements of the Russian National Council, and only Russians can participate in the ADR Parliament to represent the Russians living in Azerbaijan in the parliament. The subsequent course of events also proved that the Russian National Council is not able to represent Russians who are citizens of the Popular Front. Thus, a group of people from that council separated and created a "Russian-Slavic society" and M.A. Rasulzade they appealed to. As a result, 5 seats in the ADR parliament were allocated for this society. Taking into account the pressure of the Russian population living in Azerbaijan, the Russian National Council was forced to join the parliament in January 1919. [4, 180]

It should be noted that the Russian and Armenian councils met with the commander of Allied troops in Baku, general Thomson, and tried to prevent the opening of the parliament as much as they could. It is no coincidence that the opening of the parliament is scheduled for December 3, but it was possible on December 7. [11, s.5] So, B. British chief of staff S. In a letter to stoke major Rolans, Stoke demanded that the coalition government ban the opening of a parliamentary session until the Allies recognized it. However, until the ADR government was decisively convened the Assembly of enterprises, the activities of the parliament and the ADR government were legally and virtually justified. As a result, he had to show confidence in the government led by Thomson Khoyski. In his letter to London about his meeting with Thomson Khoyski, he wrote: "he is a clever man, a lawyer, and by his skills he created a state body that is more powerful than any other known state in the Caucasus." [4, 178]

During Khoyski's discussions with Thomson, he substantiated the organization of the government through parliament and stated that Thomson would not interfere
in the internal affairs of the ADR.

Thus, on December 7, 1918, The ADR parliament held its first meeting in the building of H.Z. Tagiyev's girls' school. Although 120 members of parliament were expected to attend, it began its work with 96 members. The new parliament was to have one representative for every 24,000 people in the country. However, national minorities of less than 24,000 were also represented in the Republican Parliament. According to the decision of the meeting of the National Council dated November 19, 1918, 44 Turkish-Muslim representatives elected to the All-Russian Constituent Assembly in late 1917 were also directly included in the new parliament. [7, 45]

Thus, the first democratic Azerbaijan Parliament was formed, and the legislative acts adopted by it during its 17-month activity left a deep mark in the history of Azerbaijani parliamentarism. [10, 352]

In most parliamentary regimes, he is usually both the head of state and the head of government. However, the parliament occupied a leading place in the government system of the Republic. Thus, the head of state did not have the post and the government was responsible to the parliament. About this M.B. Mammadzadeh noted in his work (on what system was the Republic of Azerbaijan founded?) That the prime minister was appointed by the parliament, not by the head of state. In the Republic of Azerbaijan, the legislative power was exercised by the parliament, and the executive power was exercised by the government responsible to this parliament. [13, 425] The mentioned government functioned as a cabinet. Democratic principles are preserved here. Apparently, the legislature and the executive are not governed by one hand. Here the parliament had an advantage over the government. Thus, government cabinets were accountable to parliament. But there was cooperation between them. The members of the cabinet could be both from the parliament and from outside. As a result, among the 120 deputies, 80 seats were given to Muslims, 21 to Armenians, 10 to Russians, and representatives of other peoples living in Azerbaijan were also represented in Parliament. Along with Russian, Armenian and Georgian people, representatives of minority nationalities - Polish, German, Jewish and Ukrainian-participated in the Parliament of the Republic. Representatives of national minorities – Polish Stanislav Vonsovich, Ukrainian Vasim Kuzhim,
German Laurence Yakovlev Kun and Jewish Moisey Gukhman-United in the parliament in the national minority faction. [8, 97]

The opening of the ADR Parliament was highly appreciated by national minorities as a democratic value. Representing the Germans, L. Y. Kun said: "100 years ago, we were thrown into the South Caucasus, the territory of Azerbaijan by force of fate. We Azerbaijani Germans look forward to our future and we will find the opportunity to live in peace and National features based on the democratic laws of the young ADR". [5] Representing the poles, S. Vonsovich also congratulated everyone on the opening of the parliament and emphasized that he welcomed the opening of the parliament, the main carrier of power.

The representatives representing the national minorities took an active part in the activities of the ADR government, and it was they who were entrusted with the investigation and preparation of draft laws on certain issues of the parliament. This proves once again that the ADR and its democratic institutions parliament do not impose any discrimination on its citizens in their organization and activities. M. Ə. Rasulzadeh said: “Azerbaijani Turks, who have tasted the pain of the nation, will not create a nation. The Republic of Azerbaijan does not divide its children into stepchildren: Armenians, Russians, Jews, Georgians, Germans, Poles and other minorities are equal citizens of Azerbaijan, have national and cultural autonomy, umuri-sectarian, national and material. [2, 16]

The ADR remained loyal to the principles contained in the "Declaration of Independence". Thus, in the provisions of the “Declaration of Independence”, which is the Founding Act of the Republic, it is noted that the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic is the guarantor of the political rights of all its citizens regardless of their gender, ethnic and religious affiliation (Article IV). The document, which is distinguished for its historical, political and legal significance, also emphasizes that it creates wide conditions for all nations living in the territory of the ADR for their free development (Article V). When we pay attention to the activities of the ADR, we see that the ADR government applies these provisions.

If we look at the history of the period, it is clear that at a time when there were no democratic institutions in most parts of the world, human rights and freedoms
existed, xenophobia and anti-Semitism were widespread after the First World War, the ADR remained committed to democratic values. The composition of the ADR parliament proves this once again. [9,252]

The government of the Republic, guided by democratic values, did not keep the representatives of the nations represented in the Parliament away from government affairs, but, on the contrary, involved them in the solution and implementation of more active and necessary issues. As an example, we can cite the participation of Jewish Gukhman in the “Financial Commission” of the parliament, the Georgian representative in the work of the Workers’ Commission, Tsikhakaya, and the Polish representative vonsovich in the work of the Assembly-Enterprise Training Commission. [3, 6]

It should be noted that national minorities, along with the parliament, also worked in the government of the Popular Front Party, held important positions. In addition, the Minister of Public Health, Yevsey Gindes, the Minister of Food, Constantine Lizgar, the Deputy Minister of Finance and the manager of the state bank, M. Abezhaus, were Jewish because of their ethnicity, which prevented them from exercising their political rights as citizens of the Republic. It didn't happen. For comparison, anti-Semitism is rampant in developed, long-lived, and advanced political systems around the world, and Jews have been ostracized on the basis of ethnicity. In Azerbaijan, the situation was the opposite. Although the Popular Front was formed in a new and difficult historical and political environment, it managed to ensure the rights and freedoms of its citizens. [5]

Once again, it is clear that the ADR was the first of the Democratic states of the East, built on democratic principles, and remained loyal to these principles during the 23 months of its existence. In states that had more parliamentary experience than before the Republic, national issues were on a problematic and deplorable level. Today, this problem remains in the developed countries of the world. However, the ADR parliament, which was created in difficult conditions and difficulty, recognized the rights of national minorities in its composition and activities and managed to ensure equal rights and freedoms of its citizens without any distinction.
CONCEPTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY’S SCIENTIFIC POTENTIAL

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