



Research Article

## HISTORY OF THE AZERBAIJANI DIASPORA IN UZBEKISTAN

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### ABSTRACT

The article summarizes the essence of interethnic relations in Uzbekistan, the growth of the Azerbaijani diaspora in Uzbekistan on the basis of scientific sources. Activists of the Azerbaijan National Cultural Center, striving to strengthen and develop interethnic relations, are making a worthy contribution to the exchange and enrichment of Uzbek and Azerbaijani cultures, further strengthening the ties of friendship between peoples.

### KEYWORDS

Constitution, diaspora, reform, nation, migration, interethnic, peace, friendship among nations.

### INTRODUCTION

We all know that in the center of large-scale reforms in Uzbekistan, first of all, the interests of the people, the goal of ensuring their rights and freedoms are the main issue. Article 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states that “The state language of the Republic of Uzbekistan is Uzbek. The Republic of

Uzbekistan shall ensure respect for the languages, customs and traditions of all nations and peoples living in its territory, and create conditions for their development” [11.4] or in Article 8 “The people of Uzbekistan, regardless of nationality, are citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan” [11.5]. On the basis of



these sentences recognized in our Constitution, we can recognize that all nationalities and ethnic groups living in our country are citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and their interests are protected by law. Therefore, in the interests of all nationalities and ethnic groups, education in public schools of our country is currently conducted in seven languages.

### THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

The National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan broadcasts in twelve languages, and newspapers and magazines are published in more than a dozen languages. The Committee on International Relations and Friendship with Foreign Countries has 138 national cultural centers, as well as about 2,300 religious organizations of 16 denominations. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev also focused on the issues of nationalities living in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Strategy of actions for further development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021[12] and the new Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022-2026, which also raises the issue of strengthening the environment of interethnic harmony and interreligious tolerance in society [13].

Therefore, along with the nations living on the borders of our Motherland, the attention paid to the Azerbaijani nation is also noteworthy. In the socio-political and cultural processes in Uzbekistan since the beginning of the twentieth century, people of Azerbaijani descent have visited the Turkestan region voluntarily, not through any coercion or coercive policy, and have been active in all spheres of education, theater and cultural life [14]. Even during the Soviet era, relations between the two fraternal peoples developed despite all obstacles and obstacles in the socio-economic, scientific, technical and cultural spheres. In turn, these processes have led to an increase in the number of Azerbaijani diasporas in

Turkestan. In particular, 20,764 in 1926, 3,645 in 1939, 40,511 in 1959, 40,431 in 1970, 59,779 in 1979, 44,410 in 1989, and 35,848 in 2000 [15], in 2010, more than 40,000 [16]. Representatives of the Azerbaijani diaspora resided in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan. If we analyze this situation, in 1939 the number of representatives of this nation decreased several times compared to 1926, that is, in 1926 it was 20,764, In 1939, only 3,645 members of this ethnic group were registered. The main reason for this is that as a result of the repressive policy of the 1930s, many Azerbaijanis were forced to leave Uzbekistan and move to other republics. By the post-war years, the number of Azerbaijanis had risen sharply, from 40,511 in 1959 to 59,779 in 1979. The main reason for this is that in 1944, citizens of Azerbaijan were deported from Georgia to Uzbekistan. The first main reason was that in October 1957 all restrictions on movement were lifted from this group of Azerbaijanis and they were given the right to return to their homeland, [17] secondly, in the post-war years, as a result of the growing demand for oil and gas specialists in Uzbekistan, many Azerbaijani specialists were involved, In 1961, with the help of Azerbaijani specialists, gas wells (gas fields) and new oil wells were drilled in Uzbekistan. The Azerbaijani government provided the necessary equipment and specialists. Azerbaijani specialists have been working effectively to develop the oil and gas industry in Uzbekistan. In particular, in 1963, 723 Azerbaijani specialists worked in Andijan, Bukhara, Kashkadarya, Namangan, Samarkand, Tashkent, Fergana and Khorezm regions [10.149]. Azerbaijani specialists take part in construction of Bukhara-Tashkent, then Bukhara-Kazakhstan, Bukhara-Ural gas pipelines [18.216]. It is true that a number of personnel from abroad, in particular from Azerbaijan, came to the aid of the industry, but in fact, the share of local personnel in the field was small and they were not used effectively. For



example, in 1964, out of 6,890 employees in the Uzbek oil industry, only 2,595 were local. During this period, 167 specialists from the Allied republics were involved in the oil fields in the Fergana Valley, most of them from Azerbaijan [8.219]. Thirdly, we can witness another visit of Azerbaijanis to deal with the aftermath of the 1966 earthquake in Tashkent [9.5] in particular, with the help of assistance from Azerbaijan, as of February 1, 1967, the number of workers in the Tashkent earthquake was estimated at 400, in fact 180 people were employed [19.15]. As of March 10, 1967, a total of 180 Azerbaijani workers were employed [19.45]. But students and volunteers also attended. These factors have led to an increase in the number of Azerbaijani diasporas in Uzbekistan, and thirdly, the hospitality of the Uzbek people and the favorable climate have left many Azerbaijanis behind [20]. If we continue the analysis, the number of citizens of the Azerbaijani nationality in 1979 was 59,779, and in 1989 it was 44,410, to be more precise, the number of members of the diaspora has sharply decreased, the main reason for this was the deterioration of the socio-economic situation in Uzbekistan due to the collapse of the Soviet regime, as well as inter-ethnic (1989 Meskhetian Turks and Uzbeks) conflicts, which led to the migration of a large part of the Azerbaijani diaspora to Azerbaijan and other republics.

It is no exaggeration to say that today the attention to the Azerbaijani diaspora in Uzbekistan is very high. In particular, the Azerbaijan National Cultural Center currently has 7 regional branches in Uzbekistan, including Samarkand, Bukhara, Navoi, Syrdarya, Tashkent region and Tashkent city. Activists of the Azerbaijan National Cultural Center, striving to strengthen and develop interethnic relations, are making a worthy contribution to the exchange and enrichment of Uzbek and Azerbaijani cultures, further strengthening the ties of friendship between peoples. The current work of Samir Abbasov, director of the

Heydar Aliyev Azerbaijan Cultural Center, is commendable, in other words, the Azerbaijani diaspora is actively involved in the restoration and promotion of national culture, customs and traditions, as well as contributes to the development of fraternal relations between the two nations.

More than 40,000 Azerbaijani diasporas in Uzbekistan live in harmony with other nationalities. Among them are professionals, entrepreneurs, intellectuals, doctors of sciences and professors who are successful in various fields and make a significant contribution to the country's economy.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that friendship between nations, harmony between nations is a guarantee of peace and development of the country. All conditions have been created for the Azerbaijani diaspora to live a free and prosperous life in our independent homeland, and they live in harmony with Uzbeks. We can meet the Azerbaijani diaspora in all spheres of life in our country. This, in turn, is a sign of attention and recognition of the representatives of this nation.

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