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THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN – HISTORICAL CONTINUITY

Abstract. Every independent state has symbols that embody its existence, sovereignty and national identity. State symbols – the flag, the national emblem and the anthem are of special importance among these symbols. They are not just formal attributes, but also a living manifestation of the historical memory, values and hopes of the people for the future. State symbols, including the National Anthem, play an important role in the formation of national ideology.

The article deals with the National Anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the context of historical inheritance. The article considers important aspects such as the historical context of the anthem, its functions and its significance for society and culture. The semantic content of the music and lyrics of the National Anthem, music of which belongs to the genius Uzeyir Hajibeyli and lyrics to the poet of independence Ahmad Javad, as well as the peculiarities of the musical language and music-lyrics relationships are analyzed here. The analysis concludes that the melody of the anthem, which is a living embodiment of the history, values and wishes of the nation, is a generalized musical expression of the image range and general mood of its lyrics.

Key words: Azerbaijan, state symbols, anthem, Uzeyir Hajibeyli, Ahmad Javad.

Introduction. The year 2025 has been declared the “Year of Constitution and Sovereignty” by the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev. Despite external interventions and deprivations at various stages of history, our people have preserved their national identity and fighting spirit, always remained faithful to their ideals and restored state independence at the late 20th century...

The first Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, prepared under the direct leadership of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev, who returned to power in 1993 at the request of the people, and adopted on November 12, 1995, laid the foundation for large-scale legislative reforms in our country.

Article 23 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan states: The State Flag, the State Emblem and the State Anthem are the State symbols of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Milli Majlis (National Assembly) of the Republic of Azerbaijan approved the Constitutional Law on the approval of the music and lyrics of the National Anthem in accordance with Article 23 of the Constitution. This law was later approved by Mr. President Ilham Aliyev as Constitutional Law No. 1333-VKQ dated November 2, 2018:

The “Azerbaijani March”, music of which belongs to Uzeyir Hajibeyli and lyrics to Ahmad Javad, to be approved as the National Anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

The interpretation of the main material. Actually, our National Anthem has a very interesting history of creation and succession. Let’s take a look at the history of our anthem...

The Government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic adopted a decision to prepare designs of the military order, national anthem, national emblem and seal of the Azerbaijan Republic on January 30, 1920, and the Ministry of Public Education announced a competition for the preparation of the designs, and the conditions of which were repeatedly announced in the “Azerbaijan” newspaper. The competitors had to submit their projects by May 1 of the same year, and the results were to be announced by May 28, i.e. by the second anniversary of Azerbaijan’s Independence. However, the collapse of the Democratic Republic as a result of the occupation of Azerbaijan by Soviet Russia on April 27, 1920 prevented the adoption of a national anthem. Only 72 years later, the Parliament

of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan, which regained its state independence in 1991 and continued the glorious traditions of the ADR and was the legal successor, adopted the Law “On the National Anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan” on May 27, 1992. According to the law, the “Azerbaijani March”, written by composer Uzeyir Hajibeyli and poet Ahmad Javad in 1919, was approved as the State Anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Although different opinions and considerations expressed on the issue of the preparation and adoption of the national and state anthem after the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the adoption of the “Azerbaijani March”, created during the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic as the state anthem was an important step from the point of view of restoring historical memory. At the same time, this decision should be assessed as an expression of the great importance attached to the personality of the great Uzeyir bey Hajibeyli and a logical consequence of his selfless work to create state anthem.

There have been cases of changing anthems or adopting new ones in different countries throughout history. Such changes are usually associated with fundamental changes in the country’s political regime, social values or state ideology. For example, revolutions, gaining independence or determining a new political course may lead to a change in the anthem. Each new anthem, in most cases, reflects a new phase or changing priorities of the state.

The replacement of the National Anthem with a new one in Azerbaijan was also associated with important events and radical changes in the socio-political life of the country. It should be stated that the author of the National Anthem of the Azerbaijan SSR was also Uzeyir Hajibeyli. However, the role of this anthem ended its historical period in October 1991 and the need to adopt a new anthem for independent Azerbaijan. Although there were initiatives to create a new anthem at that time, it was unanimously recognized that the “Azerbaijani March” composed by Uzeyir Hajibeyli during the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was an irreplaceable work of art in terms of its national and artistic value. History and time have confirmed the correctness of adopting this march as an anthem.

Great leader Heydar Aliyev said proudly about our National Anthem: “The great Uzeyir Hajibeyov created the Independence March – the National Anthem of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan in

1919, which we listen gladly to every time today. Uzeyir Hajibeyov understood at that time that the people needed this. Today, taking this opportunity, I would like to say that despite the difficulties of that time and the fact that Uzeyir Hajibeyov was relatively young, he created a very beautiful, magnificent national anthem. Now, when we establish relations with other countries, we also listen to their anthems carefully and respectfully. Every time I hear the anthem created to the music by Uzeyir Hajibeyov being played in different countries, I feel proud. Not only because the National Anthem of independent Azerbaijan is played and the national flag of Azerbaijan is raised in many countries of the world. It is also because the music of the anthem is really very attractive and beautiful” [1].

A little about the history of the writing of the “Azerbaijani March” by the great Uzeyir Bey... U.Hajibeyli wrote two marches during Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. Both of them were first published by Turkish musicologist Etem Ungor in the book “Turkic Marches” in Ankara in

1966 [8].

It should be noted that according to some sources, the manuscripts of the notes of these marches were taken out of Azerbaijan by U.Hajibeyli’s brother Jeyhun Hajibeyli during a period of socio-political upheavals in 1920 and taken to Turkey. The director of the House-Museum of U. Hajibeyli, People’s Artist, composer S. Farajov has written in detail about the history of these marches in his articles [3]. According to his information, one of these marches – “Azerbaijan



Fig. 1.

National March” was awarded the first prize in the competition announced by the ADR in 1919. The lyrics and music of this march belong to U. Hajibeyli. As you know, the immortal musician wrote the lyrics of most of his musical works. The manuscript of this anthem is currently preserved in the main collection of the House-Museum. The composer wrote with his own pen in that manuscript: lyrics and music by U. Hajibeyov.

As a result of long searches, the first director of the House-Museum of U. Hajibeyli and his relative, the late Ramazan Khalilov managed to find the original piano version of the march and orchestral parts. S. Farajov developed a new score for the work for a 4-part choir and a large orchestra based on these manuscripts. The work was recorded on tape by a large orchestra and choir.

Regarding the second march – “Azerbaijani March”, the Turkish publisher gave the following information: “This march was performed in the morning before classes at military schools in the years before Azerbaijan lost its independence (considered April 28, 1920)”. Only the author of the song of the marches – Uzeyir Hajibeyli is mentioned in this collection. It was the second of the marches – the “Azerbaijani March” was adopted as the National Anthem of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan in 1992. The “Azerbaijani March” was arranged by composer Aydin Azimov, and the piano score of the anthem was approved.

Various opinions have been expressed about the lyrics of the “Azerbaijani march”. Composer S.

Fig. 2. [8]

Farajov, writer-journalist Ilham Abbas [5], Ph.D. Aybeniz Aliyeva and other scientists expressed their opinions on this regard in their articles in the 1990s. The lyrics of the march was first published in the book “National Songs” [6], collected by translator and publisher Agha Hasan Mirzazadeh in 1919. The lyrics were signed by Jamo bey. There was an assumption that this signature belonged to the famous educator and pedagogue Jamo bey Jabrayilbeyli. This idea was presented in their researches by famous literary scientists such as Professor Asif Rustamli [7], Ph.D., Associate Professor Safura Guliyeva. Our scientists, such as academician Rafael Huseynov [4], critic and publicist Azer Turan [2] stated that the lyrics of the anthem belong to Ahmad Javad. So, scientists interpret the signature “Jamo Bey” as Javad Ahmad Mahammadali oglu. However, the National Leader Heydar Aliyev put an end to these disagreements after long discussions, and declared the poet of independence Ahmad Javad as the author of the lyrics of the Anthem.

The national anthem is a kind of monumental structure formed through music. Its melodic, harmonic and rhythmic peculiarities, style and musical language are the main factors determining the image of the country. Anthems of different countries are known and accepted not only within the country, but also internationally. An anthem is a musical work that can keep up with the times and has the ability to spread widely across geographical borders due to its genre. That is why the discussions around the national anthem and the historical and cultural context to which the chosen melody belongs are always in the center of attention of society. The National Anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan also has a special significance in this context. Its melodic structure, rhythmic organization and general style reflect the musical traditions of the Azerbaijani people, as well as express the national spirit and image, the ideology of statehood.

These considerations show that the anthem is not just an official attribute, but also an integral part of the spiritual and cultural existence of the people. The National Anthem of Azerbaijan is one of the powerful state symbols promoting national ideology and cultural heritage.

It is known from the history of world music that the key of most national anthems was major, and they had a lighter, brighter, more optimistic mood of music. However, the slightly sad, mournful melody of the Anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan is written in a minor key. This is one of its unique

features and has a special significance in terms of musical emotionality. The shades of the minor key give the anthem a spirit of power, strong will and struggle for the homeland mixed with sadness. According to some of our musical figures, certain intonation features of the Bayati-Shiraz maqam are also felt in the music of the anthem. If we pay attention to the key basis of the work, we will see that the composer achieved a synthesis of the classical key system and the national key system. The composer based on the theory of national keys and adhered to strict regularities in this work. U.Hajibeyli's true genius is that he created a musical work with a good mood, boundless faith, strong patriotic feelings through the gloomy and sad intonations of the minor. This once again emphasizes the uniqueness of our anthem and gives it special grandeur. The main themes of his time – the difficulties of 1918-1920, the struggle for freedom, heroic ideas find their embodiment in the composer's work. The music of the anthem tells about the difficult historical path that the Azerbaijani people have passed, the injustices and betrayals they have faced on this path. However, the triumph and elevation of the national spirit are felt in this music. Despite the painful periods experienced by the Azerbaijani people, the work reflects the feeling of faith and hope for a bright future brightly. The composer created a fighting image of the Azerbaijani people, as if not bowing down to the historical crimes committed against their people, confidently marching towards a bright future. This peculiarity of the anthem melody expresses the range of images and the general mood of its lyrics.

The poet ended each line of the lyrics with an exclamatory intonation, as if he was insisting on each thought, confirming it again and again. In music, this exclamatory intonation is sometimes expressed by the upward movement of the melody, and sometimes by giving a longer note in the accented part of the musical scale after minor notes.

Conclusion. Undoubtedly, time changes the perception of a work of art, and this is an undeniable fact. History changes, our Azerbaijan changes, we change, but Uzeyir Hajibeyli's magnificent music continues to be a solemn bridge stretching from the 20s of the 20th century to the 20s of the 21st century. If when we sang and listened to our anthem, tears of bitter sadness glistened in our eyes in the 90s, today this music swells the chest of the heroic Azerbaijani people with feelings of pride. We are proud to be Azerbaijani people with a rich and ancient history. We are the only country to have won a war in

the 21st century. When we listen to this magnificent music – our anthem, the unshakable image of our heroic people and their historical achievements come alive before our eyes.

The National Anthem of Azerbaijan is not only an official musical work, but also a magnificent work of art that embodying the cultural and historical heritage of the country and glorifying its spiritual values. It is not just a symbol to be sung at official events, it expresses the unity, national spirit and sense of pride of our people. Being an integral part of our statehood traditions, our anthem introduces Azerbaijan in the international arena, represents our country and becomes an unshakable indicator of our national identity. The National Anthem, being a vivid expression of feelings of loyalty and respect for the Motherland, glorifies the ideals of Azerbaijan – such high concepts as independence, freedom and unity. So, the National Anthem of Azerbaijan is a symbol of our national existence, a keeper of our historical memory and a vivid carrier of cultural heritage.

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Rəna Abdullayeva, Ülkər Talıbzadə (Azərbaycan)
AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ DÖVLƏT HİMNİ –
TARİXİ VARİSLİK

Hər bir müstəqil dövlətin varlığını, suverenliyini və milli kimliyini təcəssüm etdirən rəmzləri var. Bu rəmzlər arasında dövlət rəmzləri – bayraq, gerb və himn xüsusi əhəmiyyətə malikdir. Onlar sadəcə formal atributlar deyil, eyni zamanda xalqın tarixi yaddaşının, dəyərlərinin və gələcəyə dair ümidlərinin canlı təzahürüdür. Dövlət rəmzləri, o cümlədən də Dövlət himni milli məfkurənin formalaşmasında mühüm rol oynayır. Məqalədə Azərbaycan Respublikasının Dövlət Himni tarixi varislik kontekstində araşdırılır. Yazıda himnin tarixi konteksti, onun funksiyaları, cəmiyyət və mədəniyyət üçün əhəmiyyəti kimi önəmli aspektlər nəzərdən keçirilir. Musiqisi dahi Üzeyir Hacıbəyliyə, sözləri istiqlal şairi Əhməd Cavadə aid olan Dövlət himninin musiqisi və mətninin semantik tutumu, musiqi dilinin özəl xüsusiyyətləri, musiqi-mətn əlaqələri təhlil edilir. Aparılan təhlil nəticəsində belə bir nəticəyə gəlinir ki, millətin tarixinin, dəyərlərinin və arzularının canlı təcəssümü olan himnin melodiyası onun mətninin obraz dairəsini və ümumi əhval-ruhiyyəsinə ümumiləşmiş musiqili ifadəsidir.

Açar sözlər: Azərbaycan, dövlət rəmzləri, himn, Üzeyir Hacıbəyli, Əhməd Cavad.

Рена Абдуллаева, Улькяр Талыбзаде (Азербайджан)
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ ГИМН АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКОЙ
РЕСПУБЛИКИ – ИСТОРИЧЕСКАЯ ПРЕЕМСТВЕННОСТЬ

У каждого независимого государства есть символы, отражающие его сущность, суверенитет и национальную идентичность. Среди этих символов особое значение имеют государственные символы – флаг, герб и гимн. Они являются не просто формальными атрибутами, но и живым проявлением исторической памяти, ценностей и надежд народа на будущее. Государственные символы, в том числе государственный гимн, играют важную роль в формировании национальной идеологии. В статье исследуется государственный гимн Азербайджанской Республики в контексте исторической преемственности, а также рассматриваются такие важные аспекты, как исторический контекст гимна, его функции и значение для обще-

ства и культуры. В музыке Государственного гимна, авторство которой принадлежит великому Узеиру Гаджибейли, а слова – поэту независимости Ахмеду Джаваду, анализируется смысловое содержание музыки и текста, особенности музыкального языка, а также взаимоотношение музыки и текста. В результате проведенного анализа делается вывод о том, что мелодия гимна, являющаяся живым воплощением истории, ценностей и стремлений нации, является обобщенным музыкальным выражением образного ряда и общего настроения его текста.

Ключевые слова: Азербайджан, государственные символы, гимн, Узеир Гаджибейли, Ахмед Джавад.