

Recent developments in the South Caucasus

Azerbaijan-Armenia relations:
From the past conflict to the future
peace

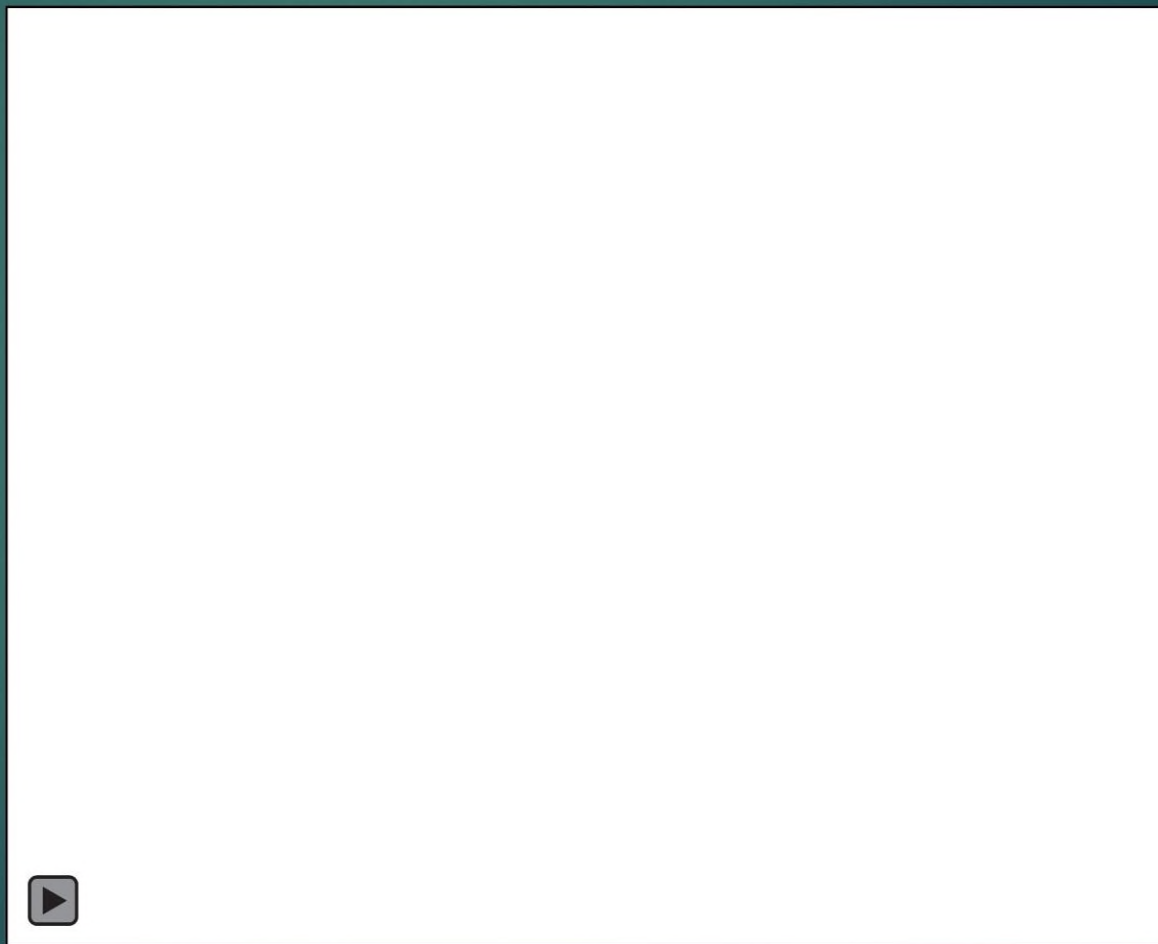
THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



The First Karabakh War

- ▶ As a result of Armenian aggression during the First Karabakh War, Azerbaijan lost 20% of its internationally recognized territory;
- ▶ According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, 654,839 people were forcibly expelled from their homes and became IDPs;
- ▶ Most of the cities and villages were razed to the ground;
- ▶ More than 700 cultural and religious, including Christian monuments, were destroyed, looted, desecrated, altered, and illegally exported to Armenia. 65 out of 67 mosques were totally destroyed, while the remaining two mosques were seriously damaged;
- ▶ 22 museums, including 100,000 museum exhibits, 927 libraries, 58 archeological sites, 26 fortresses and fortress walls, and other objects of the cultural heritage were destroyed, plundered, or misappropriated by Armenia;

Late Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright speech at UN SC

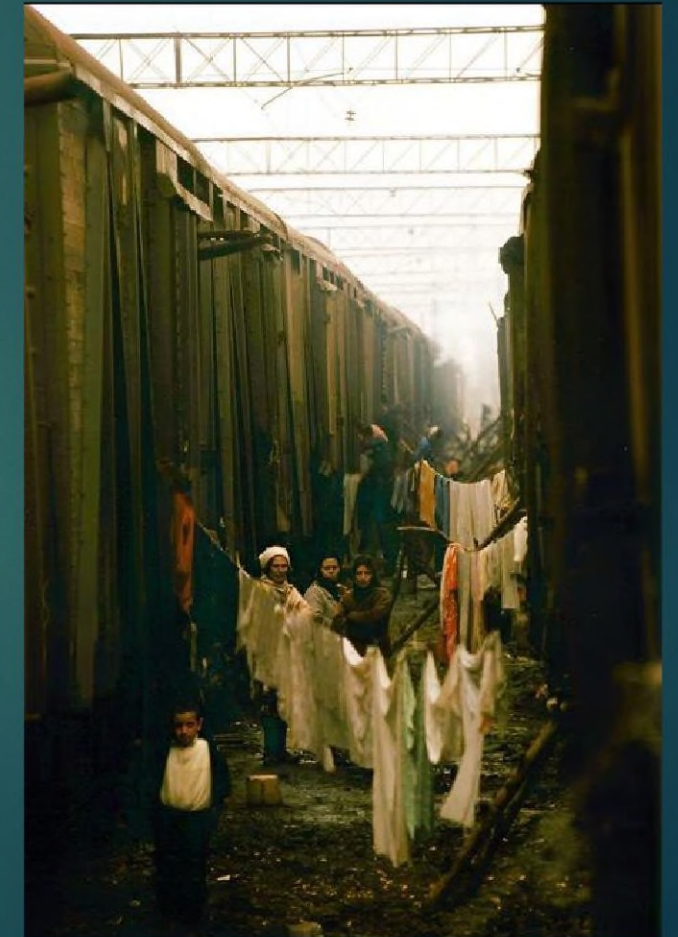




Armenian Apostolic Church in Baku constructed in 1869



Azerbaijani IDPs after the First Karabakh War



RESULTS OF ARMENIAN AGGRESSION



Refugees and IDP	
Refugees from Armenia	- 250 000
Internally displaced persons from the occupied territories	- 660 000
Internally displaced persons from regions along the border with Armenia and line of occupation	- 100 000
Total	-1 010 000

Armenian Armed Forces in the occupied territories	
Tanks - 316	Artillery - 322
ACV - 324	Personnel - 40 000
Settlers illegally transferred to occupied territories	
Nagorny-Karabakh	- 8 500
Lachin	- 13 000
Kelbajar	- 700
Zangilan	- 520
Jabrayil	- 280
Total	- 23 000

- Temporary Refugee/IDP settlements
- IDP tent camps
- Occupied territories
- Line of occupation
- Admin. line of the former NKA of Az.SSR

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Occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Nagorny-Karabakh region

Territory	- 4 388 sq. km
Population (1989)	- 189 085
Armenians	- 145 450 (76,9%)
Azerbaijanis	- 40 688 (21,5%)
Russians	- 1922 (1%)
Others	- 1025 (0,6%)

Shusha district

Territory	- 289 sq. km
Population (1989)	- 20 579
Azerbaijanis	- 19 036 (92,5%)
Armenians	- 1 377 (6,7%)
Occupied	- May 8, 1992

Districts outside Nagorny-Karabakh region

	Occupation	Expulsion
Lachin	- May 18, 1992	- 71 000
Kelbajar	- April 2, 1993	- 74 000
Aghdam	- July 23, 1993	- 165 600
Fizuli	- August 23, 1993	- 146 000
Jabrayil	- August 23, 1993	- 66 000
Gubadly	- August 31, 1993	- 37 900
Zangilan	- October 29, 1993	- 39 500

Victims of aggression

Killed - 20 000 Disabled - 50 000 Missing - 4 866

Destructions and damage

Settlements	- 890
Houses	- 150 000
Public Buildings	- 7 000
Schools	- 693
Kindergartens	- 855
Health Care Facilities	- 695
Libraries	- 927
Temples	- 44
Mosques	- 9
Historical Places	- 9
Historical Monuments and Museum	- 464
Museum Exhibits	- 40 000
Industrial and Agricultural Enterprises	- 6 000
Motor Ways	- 800 km
Bridges	- 160
Water Pipelines	- 2 300 km
Gas Pipelines	- 2 000 km
Electricity Lines	- 15 000 km
Forests	- 280 000 ha
Sowing Area	- 1 000 000 ha
Irrigation Systems	- 1 200 km

The total damage is estimated up to 60 billions US \$

International condemnation of the occupation of Azerbaijan territories

- ▶ UN Security Council adopted **4 resolutions 822, 853, 874 & 884**

demanding immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all occupying forces from occupied areas of Azerbaijan

Negotiation process

▶ OSCE Minsk Group



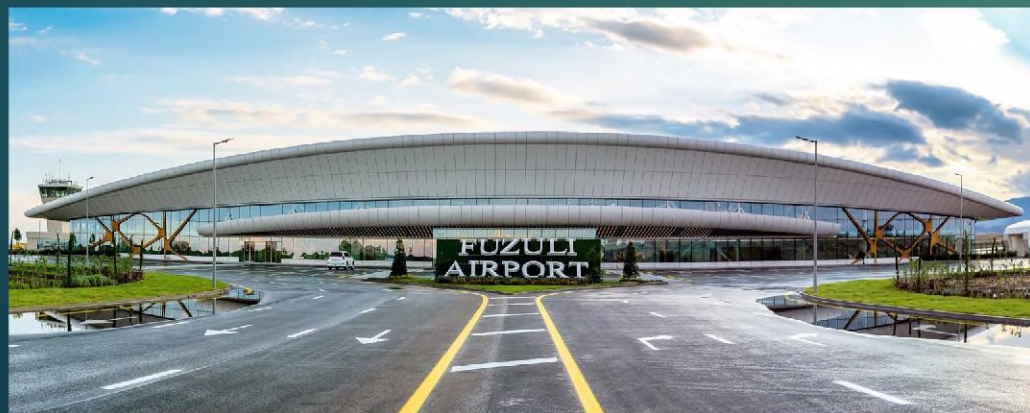
The Second Karabakh War

- ▶ Azerbaijan liberated its occupied territories
- ▶ Azerbaijan lost approximately more than **3,000 military servicemen** in the battlefield
- ▶ Missile attacks on Azerbaijani residential areas by Armenian Armed Force claimed the lives of **93 civilians, including children, women, and elderly**
- ▶ **454 civilians** have been hospitalized with severe injuries

Restoration and Reconstruction of liberated territories of Azerbaijan

- ▶ The amount of **funds spent on the restoration** of the Azerbaijani liberated territories will reach **7 billion USD** by the end of 2023.

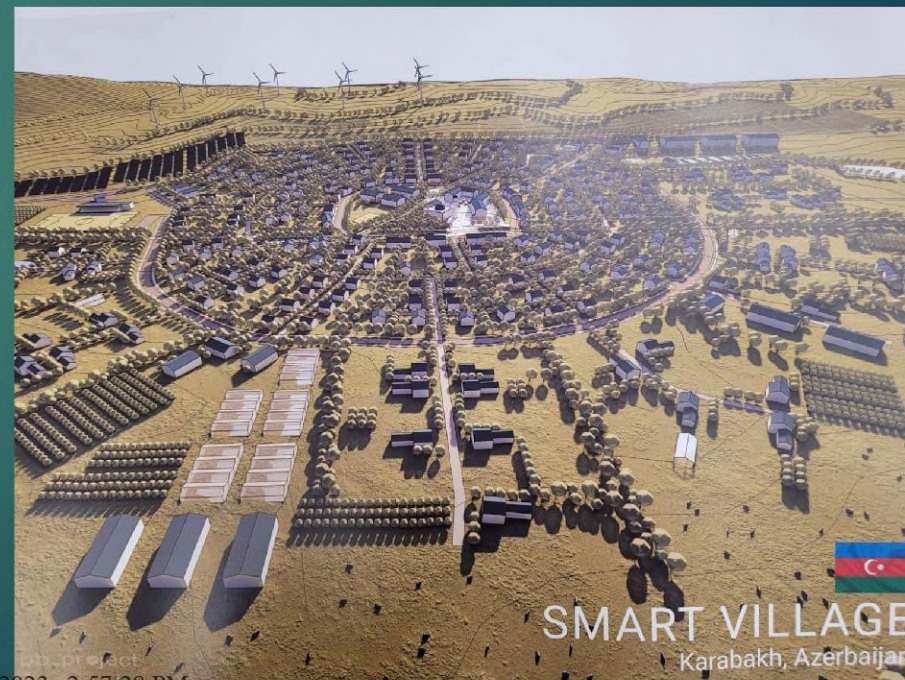
Fuzuli Airport



Zangilan Airport



Smart villages and cities in liberated territories



Trilateral Statement

November 10, 2020

- ▶ 4. The peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation shall be deployed in parallel with the withdrawal of the Armenian Armed Forces.
- ▶ 6. The Republic of Azerbaijan shall guarantee the safe movement of citizens, vehicles, and cargo in both directions along the Lachin corridor.
- ▶ 9. All economic and transport links in the region shall be unblocked. The Republic of Armenia shall guarantee the safety of transport communication between the western regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic

So called “Lachin blockade” and “ethnic cleansing” accusations

- ▶ Armenia blatantly violated paragraph 6 of the Trilateral Statement with misusing Lachin road for more than two years.
- ▶ Since the signing of the Trilateral Statement, Armenia has actively used it for illegal military purposes, including for the rotation of personnel of the armed forces, transfer of military equipment and landmines that continue to be illegally deployed in the territory of Azerbaijan.
- ▶ On April 23, 2023t, Border Crossing Point was established by the Republic of Azerbaijan on the border with Armenia to control its borders and prevent provocations.

Armenian landmines in liberated territories

- ▶ More than **3,000 landmines manufactured in Armenia in 2021**, that is after the 2020 Trilateral Statement, were detected and neutralized in Azerbaijan.



Information on military equipment, weapons and ammunition seized after the completion of local anti-terror measures conducted in Azerbaijan's Karabakh region as of 18:00 on October 2



WEAPONS

1. Small arms	2608
2. Grenade launchers	235
3. Cannon and howitzers	60
4. Mortars	64
5. Anti-tank weapons	58
6. Air defense weapons	165



VEHICLES

1. Armored vehicles	31
2. Auto vehicles	265
3. Trailers	23
4. Auxiliary vehicles	9



DEVICES

1. Optical devices	314
2. Other devices	38

COMBAT AMMUNITION

1. Rockets	1700
2. Cannon and howitzer shells	5177
3. Anti-aircraft cannon shells	31771
4. Mortar shells	12806
5. Grenades	5880
6. Hand grenades	3068
7. Bullets	2009970
8. Other ammunition	5778



ACCOUTREMENTS

1. Individual accoutrements	1027
2. Various weapons accessories	15
3. Other accoutrements	3323



Positive engagements between Armenia and Azerbaijan

- ▶ On October 6, 2022, in Prague, leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia mutually recognized the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other. By that, Armenia recognized the sovereignty of Azerbaijan over Karabakh.
- ▶ During the sixth meeting between the President of Azerbaijan and the Prime Minister of Armenia, both leaders once again fully reconfirmed their respect for the other country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Based on the understanding that Armenia's territory covers 29.800 km² and Azerbaijan's 86.600 km².

Provocations

- ▶ Despite its earlier statement regarding Armenia's recognition of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, including the Karabakh region, the Prime Minister of Armenia took yet another exceptionally provocative step by issuing a "congratulatory message" on the occasion of a so-called "anniversary" of the establishment of illegal puppet structure in the territory of Azerbaijan.
- ▶ On September 9, 2023 "puppet regime" established in the Azerbaijani territory held so called "presidential elections".

Landmine explosions on September 19, 2023



23 – hour local anti terror measures

- ▶ As a result of an anti-tank landmine explosion **7 police officers and 2 civilians have been killed**
- ▶ In response to Armenian armed formations' subversive acts inflicting civilian and military casualties, the armed forces of Azerbaijan launched **local counter-terror measures** to disarm these illegal armed formations and **neutralize the imminent threat posed to the safety and security of Azerbaijani civilian and military personnel.**
- ▶ Azerbaijan acted in full compliance with norms of humanitarian law. All measures were taken to avoid collateral damage to civilians and civilian infrastructure.
- ▶ The Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, stated that “**Armenia’s assessment at the moment is that there is no imminent threat to the civilian population of Nagorno-Karabakh**”.



UN Mission visited the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan

on October 1, 2023 reported:

- ▶ In parts of the city that the team visited, they saw **no damage to civilian public infrastructure, including hospitals, schools and housing, or to cultural and religious structures.** The mission saw that the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan was preparing for the resumption of health services and some utilities in the city.
- ▶ The mission did not come across **any reports** – neither from the local population interviewed nor from the interlocutors - **of incidences of violence against civilians following the latest ceasefire.**
- ▶ The mission did not observe **any destruction of agricultural infrastructure or dead animals** from the road.

The way to the Peace Agreement



- ▶ **Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov : “There are real chances for the conclusion of a peace treaty between Azerbaijan and Armenia within a short period of time”**

Armenian PM Nikol Pashinyan presented the “Crossroads of Peace” project at the Tbilisi Silk Road Forum.



PRINCIPLES OF THE CROSSROADS OF PEACE

- » All infrastructures, including roads, railways, always, pipelines, cables, and power lines, operate under the sovereignty and jurisdiction of the countries through which they pass
- » Each country, through its state institutions, in its territory ensures border, customs control and security of all the infrastructures, including the passage through its territory of vehicles, cargo, and people
- » All infrastructures can be used for both international and domestic transportation
- » Countries use all the infrastructures on the basis of reciprocity and equality

In accordance with these principles, border and customs controls can be facilitated through mutual consent and agreement

ARMENIA IS READY

» To establish 7 checkpoints on the Armenia-Azerbaijan (Kayan, Sotk, near Karahunj, Yeraskh, near Angeghakot) and Armenia-Türkiye (Akhurik, Margara) borders for road infrastructure

» To ensure communication between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Türkiye by restoring the following 4 railway sections in the territory of the Republic of Armenia:

1. Nrmadzor-Agarak (43 km)
2. The depleted parts of the railway from Hrazdan to Kayan (80 km)
3. From Yeraskh to the border of the NAR (1 km)
4. The depleted parts of the railway from Gyumri to the border of Türkiye (6 km)

This will create new links between all countries of the region

» To establish 5 checkpoints for railway infrastructure, including 4 on the Armenia-Azerbaijan (Nrmadzor, Agarak, Yeraskh, Kayan) and one on the Armenia-Türkiye (Akhurik) borders

