

# LIBERATION OF KARABAKH AS A TRIUMPH OF LAW

**By Musa MARJANLI,**  
Editor-in-Chief

We are pleased to remind some of our readers and inform others that this is the 50<sup>th</sup> issue of our magazine. We have published 50 issues of *IRS-Heritage* over the past 11 years. This issue was being prepared while Azerbaijan was officially celebrating the first anniversary of its victory in the second Karabakh war, which led to the restoration of the country's territorial integrity after almost 30 years of occupation by neighboring Armenia. Thus, an end was put to one of the most long-standing military conflicts of our time, which cost the Azerbaijani people thousands of lives and caused severe material and moral damage. Along with this, the geopolitical situation in the South Caucasus has dramatically changed.

The topic of Karabakh and the history of Azerbaijani-Armenian relations is covered extensively in this issue, of course. The article by Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov discusses the political and diplomatic aspects of last year's victory. Noting the devastating consequences of Armenia's military aggression and the openly destructive position of the aggressor, which had further exacerbated after Nikol Pashinyan's government rose to power in Armenia in 2018, the author talks about the talks President Ilham Aliyev held with leaders of foreign countries, his nationwide addresses and interviews with leading world media during the 44-day war. It is emphasized that Azerbaijan's victory led to the implementation of documents adopted by the UN and other international organizations, which demanded the withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories, and to the overall triumph of universally accepted norms of international law.

This article is echoed by two others dedicated to the transfer of Azerbaijani lands – the city of Yerevan and the Zangazur district – to Armenia at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is noted that Yerevan (Irevan), once the center of the same-named Azerbaijani khanate, was ceded to the Dashnak Armenia in 1918 under promises that Armenia would give up further territorial claims. The promises, however, were soon forgotten. As for Zangazur, a part of the former Karabakh Khanate, this territory was transferred to Armenia in line with the geopolitical interests of Bolshevik Russia in order to isolate Azerbaijan from fraternal Turkey.

The second part of the analysis of the situation in the South Caucasus, describing geopolitical events and factors influencing the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict during the second Karabakh war, might be of interest too. The author shows attempts by great powers interested in the region, primarily the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs Russia, France and the United States, to engage various instruments of influence to gain an advantage over their competitors and use Armenia to weaken the positions of both Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Also worth mentioning is an article about the impact of the liberation of the occupied Azerbaijani territories on the transport and logistical links between the East and the West through the South Caucasus.

The issue contains other articles that we hope might help our readers learn more about Azerbaijan. Stay do with us - today and beyond.