

AZERBAIJAN:

an example of peaceful coexistence and tolerance

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In recent years, Azerbaijan has attracted attention with its dynamic and, at the same time, sustainable economic development. It is well known that the oil industry, which was conceived in the vicinity of Baku in the middle of the 19th century, serves as the foundation of this development. On this foundation, the region, immersed in the feudal Middle Ages, entered a new era of socioeconomic relations and began to change rapidly, while Baku became the world's oil capital. These processes paved the way for the birth of the Azerbaijani Renaissance of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. An article in this issue of IRS-Heritage is devoted to the topic of media coverage of this watershed in Azerbaijan's history at that time.

Azerbaijan, located at the crossroads of two civilizations, East and West, has been historically distinguished for the deeply rooted tradition of peaceful coexistence of different ethnicities and religious confessions. Representatives of all three major monotheistic religions have lived here in peace and harmony for centuries. An article in this issue of our magazine analyzes and classifies the objective reasons for such tolerance. It is beyond doubt that in the current circumstances of high tensions and the spread of confrontations all over the world, such historical experience is of special value.

As always, our readers will find materials on various aspects of Azerbaijan's history and culture in this issue as well. Among them, I would like to mention the article dedicated to the outstanding thinker and scientist of the Middle Ages, Nasir-al-Din Tusi. This man gained tremendous authority and held high positions in the Ilkhanid state, making a great contributions to the development of science and culture at that difficult time.

I do hope that reading this issue of our magazine will also help our audience to expand its knowledge about Azerbaijan. Wish the best wishes in the New Year!