

YEAR OF CENTENNIALS

Dear readers,

It is gratifying that we have reached the end of yet another year together. Of course, the biggest event of the year has been the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. Although the first democratic republic of the Muslim East only existed for a brief historical period, it managed to establish traditions of independence.

The introduction of democratic rights and freedoms, the equality of rights for all its citizens irrespective of age and religion, the provision of suffrage to women ahead of a number of European countries, the adoption of Azerbaijani as the state language, the attention paid to the development of education and culture, the formation of a national army, the establishment of security agencies and other achievements are evidence of the essence and importance of the policies the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic pursued.

There is such a plethora of facts and materials to be talked about in relation to that period! The special edition of IRS-Heritage dedicated to the ADR's centennial anniversary earlier this year is further evidence of that. We will continue publishing a series of publications on the subject in the future too. In fact, the speech of Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the legal and moral successor of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, is yet another step of this journey.

Another centennial we are celebrating this year is the arrival of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus in Azerbaijan. The army led by Nuru Pasha marched from Ganja to Baku and liberated our capital city from Armenian-Bolshevik occupation on 15 September 1918. Although the Islamic Army of the Caucasus only existed from July to November 1918, it wrote its name in history with golden letters. Azerbaijani Turks, Lezgins, Avars, Kumyks, Adzharians and representatives of other nationalities fought in this army alongside Anatolian Turks. As is evident from its name, the army's mission was to free Azerbaijan and Muslim peoples of the North Caucasus from occupation. The army was led by Enver Pasha, while its top commanders included Nuru Pasha, Mursal Pasha and others. You will find another article on this subject in this issue of our magazine.

Also to look out for in this issue of IRS-Heritage is the second half of the article by Doctor of History, Professor Ali Hasanov dedicated to one of the most tragic events of the 20th century – the Khojaly genocide. We hope the articles about architecture, applied arts and ethnography are also of interest to our audience. Enjoy!

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