

On the nature of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict

I consider that the primary basis of this conflict and brutal irreconcilability has been and remains the policy of anti-Armenianism and extermination of Armenians by the recently emerged Azerbaijan – the total Azerbaijanization of Karabakh, the refusal of anything Armenian in all spheres of life: education, economy, governance, culture, language, heritage, traditions. Armenians were simply expelled from the so-called Autonomous Region, autonomous by the Soviet constitution itself, which presupposed the autonomy of the very Armenians. Not to mention the case with other Armenian-populated regions and settlements.

This had grown unbearable, especially since the 1960s, when autonomies became completely formal and reached their culmination in the late 1980s, the period when the Soviet Union started to weaken and collapse. I say widely known things, but these famous things, the threat of real annihilation and the attempts to carry it out, forced this war.

It was the denial of the right of an Armenian to live. And I think, first of all, this should be our topic of any dialogue, debate, negotiation, these should be our grievances, the basis of our rejections of fraudulent proposals of retrospection, return, autonomy, our arguments for the impossibility of living together. Any historical excursion, international treaty, principle of territorial integrity, UN resolution is not higher than the right of human beings and society to exist freely.

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