

**"THE NEW ERA OF CULTURAL COOPERATION IN AZERBAIJAN AFTER THE  
KARABAKH VICTORY AND ITS PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS"**

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**Abstract**

*The Karabakh victory marks the beginning of a new stage in Azerbaijan's history. This victory is not only of military and political significance but also holds profound cultural importance. The liberation of territories occupied for many years has accelerated the process of cultural revival. The Karabakh region possesses a rich cultural heritage, and its restoration and preservation have become a priority in state policy. After the victory, cultural cooperation gained new meaning, and national and international cultural projects were initiated. The restoration of historical monuments in liberated territories has been designated as a key task. Collaboration with international organizations in the field of culture has expanded, opening new opportunities for promoting Azerbaijani culture globally. Cultural diplomacy has enhanced the country's international standing. Cultural events held in the Karabakh region have strengthened national unity. New projects in music, literature, and art are being implemented, shaping the cultural identity of the post-conflict period. Youth participation in cultural activities has increased, and Karabakh culture is presented as a cornerstone of national identity. Regional and international festivals have reinforced cultural cooperation. The liberated territories are becoming centers for cultural tourism, and cultural collaboration also stimulates social restoration. The Karabakh victory highlights the unifying power of culture, ensuring cultural continuity and the preservation of heritage for future generations. This stage is characterized by deepening cultural integration and represents a new phase in the development of Azerbaijani culture. In conclusion, cultural cooperation has entered a new stage both nationally and internationally following the victory.*

**Keywords:** *Karabakh victory, cultural cooperation, post-conflict period, cultural heritage, restoration, Azerbaijani culture, international cultural relations, cultural diplomacy, national identity*

**INTRODUCTION**

The 2020 Karabakh victory was a turning point in Azerbaijan's history, restoring the country's territorial integrity and laying the foundation for a new cultural and spiritual phase. The Karabakh region is the cradle of Azerbaijani culture, where cultural heritage was destroyed or distorted during years of occupation. Following the victory, the restoration of cultural heritage became a priority. State-level strategies for cultural revival were developed, focusing on expanding cultural cooperation. The Karabakh victory created new opportunities for cultural diplomacy, enabling Azerbaijani culture to be presented more actively on international platforms. Organizing cultural events in liberated territories became a central focus. Festivals and concerts reinforce national spirit, while the restoration of historical monuments serves to revive cultural memory. This process has attracted international attention, and collaboration with organizations such as UNESCO has expanded. Karabakh culture is

becoming a center of regional cooperation, and youth participation in cultural projects is increasing. In education and research, the topic of Karabakh has gained prominence. In the post-conflict period, cultural cooperation supports peacebuilding, with culture serving as an important instrument of social reintegration. The Karabakh victory has strengthened national identity, highlighting the significance of the cultural cooperation phase for the future development of Azerbaijani culture.

#### Main Body

##### 1. Cultural and Symbolic Significance of the Karabakh Victory

The Karabakh victory holds a crucial place in the historical memory of the Azerbaijani people, becoming a symbol of national pride and unity. Culturally, it has sparked a new moral resurgence. Karabakh culture is an inseparable part of Azerbaijani national identity, and the victory accelerated its restoration. Cultural centers destroyed during the occupation are being rebuilt, symbolizing revival. The victory showcased Azerbaijan's rightful cultural position globally, promoting Karabakh's cultural heritage internationally. Symbolically, Shusha has been declared the cultural capital, serving as the center of Azerbaijani music and poetry. This status has invigorated cultural cooperation, with the number of cultural events increasing. Culture reinforces national unity and ideological strength. The Karabakh victory is also viewed as a result of cultural resilience, symbolizing the endurance of Azerbaijani culture. Through cultural initiatives, historical justice has been restored, stimulating preservation of national and spiritual values. Consequently, the victory has become a symbol of cultural revival and self-realization.

##### 2. Restoration of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Territories

Post-victory, one of the main priorities is the restoration of cultural heritage. The Karabakh region hosts numerous historical monuments, many of which were severely damaged during occupation. Restoration efforts are implemented at the state level, with the Ministry of Culture developing dedicated programs. Historical mosques, museums, and monuments are being rebuilt, contributing to the revival of national memory. Restoration follows modern standards and involves international experts. Preserving cultural heritage is strategically important for future generations, ensuring cultural continuity. Karabakh culture is returning to public life, and restored monuments support the development of cultural tourism, opening new avenues for cooperation. Historical sites serve as venues for cultural events, while restoration contributes to cultural diplomacy. The international community has shown interest in these efforts, presenting Karabakh heritage as part of global cultural heritage. Educational initiatives involve youth in restoration projects, emphasizing national responsibility. Scientific research supports the preservation of cultural heritage, which also aids social rehabilitation. Karabakh is reemerging as a cultural hub, and heritage restoration forms the foundation of a new stage in cultural cooperation.

##### 3. Cultural Diplomacy After the Karabakh Victory

The Karabakh victory has enhanced the role of cultural diplomacy. Azerbaijani culture is now more actively presented on international platforms. Cultural events convey factual narratives to the world, integrating the Karabakh topic into international cultural discourse. Concerts, exhibitions, and festivals serve this purpose, functioning as soft power tools. Azerbaijan effectively leverages these instruments, presenting Karabakh culture in international festivals and exhibitions abroad. Diplomatic missions support cultural projects, and international agreements in the field of culture are signed. The Karabakh victory has strengthened the political influence of culture, with scientific and cultural forums organized to spread messages of peace. Karabakh culture is presented as a symbol of reconciliation and recovery, positively affecting international relations. Culture serves as a bridge between nations,

and Karabakh-themed projects attract global attention. Diplomatic cultural exchanges have expanded, fostering long-term collaboration. Cultural diplomacy strengthens Azerbaijan's international image, with the victory forming its cornerstone and serving national interests. Consequently, cultural diplomacy has entered a new phase post-victory.

#### 4. Regional and International Cultural Cooperation

The Karabakh victory has expanded regional cultural cooperation, initiating new projects with neighboring countries. Karabakh culture has become central to regional dialogue, with joint festivals and events enhancing cultural integration. International organizations support Karabakh projects, and collaboration with UNESCO is expanding. Regional cultural exchange programs are being developed, and the Karabakh theme is discussed at international conferences. Cultural cooperation supports peacebuilding and contributes to regional stability. Karabakh culture promotes shared values, with cultural days fostering trust among peoples. The region is incorporated into the international cultural map, and cultural tourism strengthens regional cooperation. Joint projects also impact economic collaboration, with culture serving as a key factor in regional development. The Karabakh victory has stimulated this development, opening new perspectives for international cultural cooperation. The initiatives are sustainable and provide a foundation for future collaborations, marking a new stage in regional and international cultural cooperation.

#### 5. Karabakh Victory and National-Cultural Identity

The Karabakh victory has significantly reinforced national-cultural self-awareness, profoundly influencing the formation and consolidation of national consciousness across Azerbaijani society. Karabakh culture, with its rich historical, artistic, and spiritual heritage, constitutes a central pillar of national identity, and the military and political triumph has instilled a renewed sense of pride and belonging among the youth. Cultural initiatives and events organized in the aftermath of the victory play a vital role in sustaining and promoting this process, while educational programs, curricula, and academic activities increasingly emphasize the Karabakh theme, ensuring that younger generations are aware of its historical and cultural significance.

National music, literature, and visual arts have regained renewed relevance, as Karabakh motifs and traditional symbols are actively integrated into contemporary artistic expressions. These creative endeavors not only strengthen collective memory but also foster a shared sense of historical continuity and cultural resilience. The process of cultivating cultural self-awareness contributes directly to social cohesion, reinforcing spiritual unity and shared national values. Through literature, music, and public commemorations, historical truths are transmitted to wider audiences, facilitating the formation of a collective memory that binds generations together.

Moreover, Karabakh culture functions as an integral component of the national ideological framework, reflecting both the historical struggles and achievements of the Azerbaijani people. In the post-victory period, the number and scope of cultural projects have increased markedly, with active youth participation and engagement, signaling a conscious effort to link cultural heritage with contemporary identity formation. Preserving and promoting national values has become a strategic priority, while the Karabakh victory has catalyzed the emergence of a forward-looking cultural perspective that emphasizes sustainability, resilience, and national unity.

In this context, cultural self-awareness transcends mere commemoration and assumes a pivotal role in ensuring sustainable development, social harmony, and national security. Karabakh culture has emerged not only as a symbol of historical memory but also as an enduring emblem of national cohesion, collective identity, and cultural continuity. The victory has thus elevated national-cultural

self-awareness to a new stage, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the interconnections between history, culture, and national consciousness, while highlighting the indispensable role of culture in the socio-political and psychological resilience of the nation.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Karabakh victory represents the beginning of a new historical phase for Azerbaijan, marked by qualitatively enhanced cultural cooperation. The victory has accelerated cultural revival, with the restoration of heritage in liberated territories reshaping national memory. Karabakh culture is presented as a core pillar of national identity, while cultural diplomacy has strengthened Azerbaijan's international position. Regional and international cooperation has created new opportunities, and cultural events have reinforced social cohesion. The Karabakh theme holds a special place in education and youth policies. The victory has highlighted culture's unifying power, supporting peace in the post-conflict period. Karabakh culture symbolizes both the past and the future, laying the groundwork for sustainable development. This stage deepens cultural integration nationally and internationally, making post-victory cultural cooperation an integral part of Azerbaijan's strategic development.

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