

## **ECOCIDE IN THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT: AN ANALYSIS OF ARMENIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON AZERBAIJAN**

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The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan has had devastating effects not only on the human population but also on the environment. This thesis explores the concept of ecocide as it relates to the conflict, focusing on Armenia's actions and their environmental impact on Azerbaijan. Ecocide, defined as the extensive damage to, destruction of, or loss of ecosystems of a given territory, poses serious challenges to the affected region's ecological balance, biodiversity, and long-term sustainability [1]. Terrorist acts aimed at disrupting the ecological balance in any state are part of the ecocide and pursue the goal of creating environmental problems. The main purpose of the Prevention of environmental terrorism is to ensure the environmental safety of the population, protect the environment and prevent the loss of living beings. Damage caused by any country or persons deliberately by harming the nature, flora and fauna of another country and destroying its natural resources is considered ecological terror.

Starting from 1988, the war started against Azerbaijan by the Armenians and the forces supporting them, resulted in the occupation of our lands for nearly 30 years, the destruction of cities and villages, the genocide of the peaceful population, and at the same time, the destruction of flora and fauna. Since the military conflict and war were conducted only on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the atmosphere, water sources and our lands were exposed to biological, chemical and physical pollution. For nearly 30 years, Armenia has caused a huge amount of irreparable damage to the natural resources and natural environment of the occupied territories. As a result of the patronage of the occupying state, the natural resources of the occupied territories were illegally exploited and looted by various companies. The damage caused to the surrounding natural environment of these territories caused a violation of the ecological balance in the region. Our occupied settlements were plundered by Armenian Armed Forces, houses were destroyed, water, electricity, gas and other communication lines were completely destroyed [2-4].

Railway lines of Republican importance were dismantled and rendered useless. In general, the territories of Azerbaijan, which have been subjected to environmental terror by Armenia, have become a regional ecological disaster zone.

The international normative legal documents and laws on the protection of the natural environment in the territories occupied by the armed forces of Armenia have not been followed. Thus, during the monitoring in the liberated territories, the facts of plundering of our natural resources, cutting down of perennial valuable trees in the forests (the personnel of the Armed Forces of Armenia and the military equipment belonging to it were used in their transportation) were revealed.

As a result of the enemy's placement of military units and military equipment in combat positions, the construction of engineering fortifications and access roads for the purpose of maneuvering personnel and equipment, the cutting down of trees

and bushes during soil excavation, the burning of pastures, etc., serious damage was caused to the flora and fauna. The work carried out by the enemy army in these areas should be assessed as an environmental terrorist act that led to the destruction of the nature of Azerbaijan. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has not only caused immense human suffering but has also resulted in severe environmental degradation. Armenia's actions in the conflict, including the deliberate destruction of natural resources, can be classified as ecocide. It is imperative for the international community to recognize and address the environmental dimensions of the conflict, ensuring that those responsible for ecocide are held accountable and that efforts are made to restore the damaged ecosystems.

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## PROVISION OF MULTICULTURAL SECURITY AS A PRIORITY OF THE AZERBAIJANI STATE

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The existence of a normal multicultural mood in Azerbaijan - the living of different confessions and ethnic groups in conditions of friendship and friendliness is still nourished from the ancient times of history. Multiculturalism emerged as a state policy in the Republic of Azerbaijan at the time when the failure of multiculturalism as a political line was declared in a number of Western countries, in the same France, England, and Germany. Compared to Western European countries, Azerbaijan has little real experience in the field of democratic development. But his spiritual experience is great [1]. The traditions of multiculturalism in Azerbaijan are based on deep historical roots: "Thus, Turks, Talysh, Tats, Udins, Ingiloyes, Kurds, Lezgis, Russians, who combine different traditions, cultural values, language and religious beliefs in different regions in the territory of Azerbaijan since ancient times. Jews, Turks and representatives of other ethnic groups live together in conditions of