

## THE TOPIC OF THE PATRIOTIC WAR IS IN THE MATERIALS OF "ASSOCIATED PRESS", "UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL", "REUTERS" AND TURKISH MEDIA

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### Abstract

*In the article, the materials presented by the world's leading news agencies in this direction during the Patriotic War are discussed. The materials provided by the "Associated Press", "United Press International" of the USA, and the "Reuters" agencies of Great Britain during the war were examined, and the biased position of those resources that did not conform to the principles of journalism in relation to the Second Karabakh War was analyzed. In contrast to the main news agencies of the world, the materials prepared by the Turkish media during the war drew attention for their objectivity and impartiality, which were reflected in the study.*

**Keywords:** *Karabakh, information war, Turkish media, "Associated Press", "United Press International", "Reuters", diplomacy, aggressive, one-sided relationship.*

The struggle of the Azerbaijani people against Armenia's terrorist-separatism policy bore fruit during the 44-day Patriotic War. Thus, in response to the next military aggression of Armenia on September 27, 2020, the Azerbaijani army went on a counter-attack and wrote history in the Patriotic War for the liberation of the occupied lands. In the Second Karabakh War, which lasted for 44 days, Azerbaijan won an unequivocal victory not only in the military field, but also in the information war. President İlham Aliyev once again conveyed the true voice of Azerbaijan to the whole world in more than 30 interviews he gave to the world's giant media corporations. Since the beginning of the war, mainly the functions and principles of journalism were not followed in the materials presented in the leading world press, which started a series of articles and a one-sided position was demonstrated. In contrast to the non-objective and biased articles in the American, Western press and Russian mass media, brother Turkish media supported Azerbaijan unambiguously on the information front.

From the first hours of the war, the Turkish media started reporting under the title "Azerbaijan Front", Anadolu Agency announced that 6 villages were freed from occupation, and informed the audience about what happened on the front line, in the country, recent events, terrorist incidents, etc. on social media accounts in different languages. Researcher N. Salamov wrote in the book "The Second Karabakh War" that the joy of the liberation of the land from occupation was presented by the Turkish media, which lives together with the Azerbaijani soldiers and people, with special headlines on the liberation day of Shusha, the heart of Karabakh [4], and "Hurriyet" newspaper presented the victory photo of war journalists with the title "Freedom to the heart of Karabakh" [3]. In general, the Turkish media provided objective informational support to Azerbaijan during the 44-day war. But it is difficult to say the same about "Associated Press", "United Press International" and "Reuters", which are authoritative information resources of the USA and Great Britain.

"Associated Press", which is one of the main news agencies of the world, tried to reflect the position of the parties to the conflict in the materials it presented, but it mainly acted in the interests of Armenia. On October 2, 2020, in the article entitled "Armenia is ready to discuss a ceasefire against the background of clashes in Azerbaijan", prepared

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based on the information of local correspondents of "Associated Press", acted as a divisive party by including the views of "Nagorno Karabakh" officials about the dead servicemen, along with the positions of the parties. At the same time, referring to the Armenian officials in the article, claimed that the Azerbaijanis attacked Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, and mentioned that the correspondent of "Le Monde" newspaper (Allan Kaval) and his photographer (Rafael Yagoubzadeh) were injured as a result of the shelling of the city of "Martuni", they were taken to the hospital located in "Stepanakert" and underwent surgery. [7] The agency violated the principles of journalism by presenting "Khojavand" as "Martuni" and "Khankandi" as "Stepanakert" throughout the material, and failed to be accurate and impartial.

The next material, in which Nagorno-Karabakh is presented as a disputed territory, is given under the title "Nagorno-Karabakh fighting increases the danger of deadly escalation". In the material prepared by Vladimir Isachenkov, during the Soviet rule, opinions were expressed about the fact that the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is an autonomous region within Azerbaijan, consists mostly of Armenians, and that the killing of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Turks in 1915 caused historical tension between the parties. The so-called "Armenian genocide" which is far from the historical facts was mentioned in the article, however, the genocides committed by Armenia against the Azerbaijanis were not touched upon, and a one-sided position was demonstrated by showing partiality. The author claimed that if Azerbaijan openly attacks the territory of Armenia, Moscow will be forced to intervene militarily to protect its ally, according to its agreement signed with Yerevan by recalling that Armenia does not have the resources for a protracted conflict, however, that the high level of patriotism in the population, by writing that the separatist forces in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Armenian army mostly use outdated Soviet-made weapons, that Azerbaijan has completely updated with the most modern attack drones and powerful long-range multiple missile systems. We can't expect Turkey to be idle either" [15]. The main factor hindering the activity of the anti-Azerbaijani media was that the war was going on in the occupied lands of Azerbaijan, and this deprived the CSTO of assistance to Armenia.

The next article prepared with the support of foreign correspondents of "Associated Press" and the authorship of A. Demouria is given under the title "Azerbaijani forces are approaching an important city in Nagorno-Karabakh". In the material, "Arutyunyan said in a video address from the main church of the city, which was fired by Azerbaijan this month, that the Azerbaijani troops stopped 5 kilometers from the city of "Shushi", which is located in a strategic position. The one who controls Shushi controls Nagorno-Karabakh. We must realize this and participate in the defense of Shushi. He did the addition "Shushi is located approximately 5 kilometers south of Stepanakert, the regional capital of Nagorno-Karabakh" to the ideas that "we need to reverse the situation".

Besides, he used the names "Shushi", "Stepanakert", "Mardakert" in the material and tried to form an aggressor opinion about Azerbaijan with the idea that these areas are subject to missile fire, moreover, he talked about the firing of the house of a civilian who allegedly lives in Shusha, and learned his opinions. Opinion was given about the firing of the Armenian armed forces on Tartar, Goranboy and Barda regions and the death of a civilian in the Goranboy region of Hikmet Hajiyev, the assistant to the Azerbaijani president on foreign policy issues referring to the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan, however, a complete picture of the loss of lives of civilians from the rocket attack on the

Azerbaijani side has not been formed and a one-sided opinion was created without studying the attitude of the people whose houses were destroyed. [5]

"Associated Press", which constantly keeps the issue of war on the agenda, reported the liberation of Shusha from the occupation with reference to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and used the expression of the head of state "Shusha is ours - Karabakh is ours". In addition to the strategic value of Shusha in the material, attention was also paid to its special importance as a center of Azerbaijani culture, distinction of its music and poets at one time, however, Shusha" was repeatedly presented as "Shushi" and the word "Martuni" was used. [6]

In addition to using the words "Shushi" and "Stepanakert" again, "Associated Press" presented it not as "liberation of the territory belonging to it from occupation", but as "its capture" in the article titled "Armenia and Azerbaijan have agreed to stop fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh", forgetting that Shusha is the ancient land of Azerbaijan, moreover, he gave space to the opinions of Vaghran Poghosyan, the press secretary of the president of the so-called Nagorno-Karabakh government [8]. The position of the Azerbaijani side should also be reflected.

"United Press International" (UPI), one of the other influential agencies of the USA, also showed an unbiased approach to the Second Karabakh war. In the material presented by the author Daniel Urian on the day the war started, Nagorno-Karabakh was presented as a disputed territory, and the word "Artsakh" was used referring to the Twitter account of the Prime Minister of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan and the person named Artak Beglaryan was introduced as the official representative of the "Artsakh" Republic and his opinions were given a place. [20]

In fact, since the influential media corporations that control the flow of information in the world have always played the role of a reliable source, the materials presented by them have maintained their reliability. But during the Patriotic War, the most serious information resources, including United Press International, have not been verified and presented materials that are inconsistent with historical facts and evidence and do not reflect reality, indicated Nagorno-Karabakh as a separate party. Nagorno-Karabakh was presented as a disputed region and enclave without specifying specific facts in the agency's article entitled "The fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh continues for the third day; world leaders are called for negotiations" and the opinions of world leaders about their concerns about the scale of the fighting and their calls for negotiations are included. [16]

It is written that the region located within the borders of Azerbaijan is controlled by Armenians, and since the collapse of the Soviet Union, both countries have had disagreements over its control in an article entitled "Armenia and Azerbaijan accuse each other of violating the new ceasefire" authored by Danielle Haynes of the agency. In the material containing the positions of Azerbaijani and Armenian officials regarding the ceasefire signed for humanitarian purposes, points such as "Karabakh officials accused Azerbaijan of using the ceasefire negotiations as a cover to prepare for a new attack" and "Armenia calls for international recognition of the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent state, while Azerbaijan says it wants to seize more land" cast doubt on the objectivity of the article. First of all, the reference to Karabakh officials is intended to show it as a separate party, secondly, as claimed, Azerbaijan did not intend to "capture" some territory, however, intended to liberate its lands under occupation. [14]

In most materials of "United Press International", the names of the lands under occupation are given in Armenian, and Nagorno-Karabakh, which is presented as a

disputed territory, is located within the borders of Azerbaijan, but it is indicated as a territory controlled by ethnic Armenians. The spokesman of the Armenian Defense Ministry, Shushan Stepanyan, claimed that civilian objects were targeted in some areas [12]. However, the armed forces of Armenia have intensively fired at the frontline residential areas of Azerbaijan, but Azerbaijan has never targeted civilian objects. The media organizations close to the Armenians deliberately tried to create the image of the killing of the civilian Armenian population by bringing the issue of civilian objects to the agenda.

UPI wrote in another article that Armenians settled in Nagorno-Karabakh after the collapse of the Soviet Union and that the region was recognized internationally as a part of Azerbaijan; however, he claimed that a thousand Syrian jihadists were sent to the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh and that the Turkish government was criticized by Russia; however, no position found out by Turkey. [11]

"Associated Press" and "United Press International", which receive and distribute information from all over the world, have a strong influence on the information system of the world, as a number of giant media companies operating in the United States. The analysis of the various content materials of these agencies during the 44-day Second Karabakh war gives reasons to say that although these resources tried to reflect the position of the parties, they presented Nagorno-Karabakh as a separate party, in some of their materials they presented the liberation of the occupied lands in the form of "capturing more territory", they mainly spoke from the position of Armenia, and they allowed neutrality.

Great Britain's news agencies, especially the social media platforms of those resources, were selected for their special activity in relation to the Second Karabakh War. The analysis of the materials presented by him determined that the most radical position belonged to the "Reuters" agency. Researcher-journalist Vafa Isgandarova writes that Reuters, which reaches more than a billion people every day and is the world's largest international multimedia news provider, took the most radical position in describing the conflict, presented Nagorno-Karabakh as a separate party from Azerbaijan, and emphasized that its separatists are fighting with Azerbaijan. The news entitled on September 28, 2020, "says that there are 28 more soldiers who were killed in battles with the Karabakh Azeri forces", on October 2, "The Ministry of Defense of Nagorno-Karabakh reports about 54 more military casualties", on October 14, "President of Azerbaijan said that Azerbaijan continues military operations in Nagorno-Karabakh", "Prime Minister of Armenia Pashinyan says that Azerbaijan has the intention to occupy the entire Nagorno-Karabakh" are proof of this. It should be emphasized that the co-authors of the mentioned articles are Maria Kiselyova, Nvard Ohannisyan, Tom Balmforth, Alexander Marrow, Margarita Antidze, Alex Richardson. [2]

On the second day of the war, Mark Trevelyan's author's post was published. The author, who begins the introductory part of the article with the words "Fierce fighting has begun between Azerbaijan and its ethnic Armenian enclave, Nagorno-Karabakh, and thus the decades-long conflict has taken a new and dangerous form", presented the material in a one-sided form, voiced opinions that did not reflect the truth, exaggerated Turkey's support for Azerbaijan and tried to present it as military support and claimed that civilian casualties increased during the war by stating that Nagorno-Karabakh lives due to the budgetary support of Armenia and donations from the Armenian diaspora, with reference to Olesya Vartanyan, Armenian analyst of "Crisis Group" [13]. The author, exhibiting a one-sided attitude, focused on the civilian casualties by referring to the

Armenian analyst, however, by not giving space to the opinions of the Azerbaijani-born analyst, he cast doubt on the objectivity of the material.

In the materials presented by Reuters, Nagorno-Karabakh is presented as a mountain enclave that belongs to Azerbaijan according to international law, but its population is controlled by ethnic Armenians, and it is claimed that the war is going on between ethnic Armenian and Azerbaijani forces. The materials are designed to create the impression that Azerbaijanis are attacking the territory belonging to Armenians in the audience who do not know that Nagorno-Karabakh is the territory of Azerbaijan.

In another material submitted by "Reuters" it was mentioned that Azerbaijan has accused Armenia of firing heavily at a residential area in Ganja and hitting a residential building, the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan reported that 9 people were killed and 34 injured as a result of the attack, however, the agency has not been able to independently verify Azerbaijan's claims regarding the number of dead or wounded. In that material, the agency referred to the words of the unidentified "leader of Nagorno-Karabakh" as a source, however, he questioned the information of the General Prosecutor's Office of Azerbaijan and claimed that he could not independently verify the news, and quoting a Reuters photographer, wrote that on Sunday morning in Ganja, rescuers pulled out a dead body from under the ruins of a residential building, referring to Baku, added to the news that more than 40 civilians have been killed and 200 injured since the beginning of the conflict. The authors of the article added their opinion that "the Ministry of Defense of Armenia called the claims about the attack on Ganja "absolutely false" and accused Azerbaijan of shelling settlements inside Karabakh, including Stepanakert, the largest city of the region." In the material, pictures taken by "Reuters" agency from Khan-kendi, presented as Stepanakert, were presented, and it was written that "as a result of the bombing, a small brick house was damaged, the windows were broken and the roof was destroyed. [17]

"Reuters", which systematically presents materials related to the war, sometimes providing several materials on the same day, used the expression "ethnic Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijani forces" in all its articles, and accused Azerbaijan of attacking the lands of Armenians, almost considering it as an invader. In each of his articles, the officials of the unrecognized Nagorno-Karabakh, Arayik Haratyunyan, who declared himself the president of the so-called Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were referred to [9], and put forward the opinion that Nagorno-Karabakh lives at the expense of the donations of the world Armenian diaspora. [23]

There is a main line in the articles of "Reuters" employees: "According to international law, Nagorno-Karabakh is recognized as an integral part of Azerbaijan. But ethnic Armenians, who make up the majority of the population, reject the administration of Azerbaijan." According to another claim of the agency, when the Soviet Union began to disintegrate, it became clear that Nagorno-Karabakh would come directly under the control of the Azerbaijani government, ethnic Armenians did not accept this" [18]. In another article, Nagorno-Karabakh was called "a separatist territory of Azerbaijan controlled by Armenians" [19].

The agency constantly presented the occupied Azerbaijani lands under the name of Armenians and did not refer to the laws and decisions of Azerbaijan and distorted the facts. [21] Along with the opinions of the officials of Azerbaijan and Armenia, "Reuters" referred to the officials of the so-called NKR, local authorities, information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defense. [22]

On November 9, 2020, "Reuters" published material entitled "Say that Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia have signed an agreement to end the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict." In the material, the agreement signed by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia to end the military conflict is mentioned. The opinions of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev, the Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan and the President of Russia Vladimir Putin have been included, at the same time, yet the unrecognized NKR was introduced as a separate party by adding the opinion "The leader of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, Arayik Harutyunyan, stated on Facebook that he agreed "to end the war as soon as possible". However, it was mentioned in the material that Shusha was captured by Azerbaijan. [10] In fact, Azerbaijan did not capture anyone's land, it only liberated its occupied lands, including Shusha.

"Reuters" agency was active in connection with the Second Karabakh war on its web resource and social media accounts, took the most radical position in describing the conflict, and could not maintain its neutrality.

The Turkish press, which provides complete and unequivocal information support to our country with its objective and truth-based position, was able to turn the opinion of the President of the Republic of Turkey, Rajap Tayyip Erdogan, "the time of reckoning has come, Karabakh must be freed from the occupation" into the headlines one day after the start of the war. [24]

The Turkish media focused on the Patriotic war for 44 days, successively liberated territories, the speeches of President İlham Aliyev, announcements and statements of world states and international organizations, including the co-chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group, the targeting of civilians, territories not located in the frontline, materials reflecting the merciless behavior of Armenians despite the humanitarian ceasefire, a broad and understandable explanation of each point of the official documents signed, were presented to a wide audience.

The interviews given by President İlham Aliyev to Turkish television channels TRT Haber, Haber Türk, A Haber, CNN-Türk, Haber Global, and NTV were of great importance in conveying the truths of Azerbaijan to the international world [1], in parallel, extensive discussions were held in the news and analytical programs of these channels, direct reports were given based on the information provided by the Turkish reporters sent to Azerbaijan, they prepared reports from our soldiers and presented to the whole world with facts, evidence and evidence that Armenians killed civilians using various weapons and ammunition.

The progress on the battlefield, the lands freed from occupation, the ceasefires signed during the war, the statements of the representatives of the Turkish state bodies on this topic, along with expert opinions, images reflecting their statements, videos and maps of the areas fired by the Armenians were shown in CNN Türk, Haber Global, Haber Türk, "NTV", "Show TV", "TRT Haber", "FOX TV", "Yeni Şafaq", "Milliyat", "Sabah", "Hürriyet" and "Sözcü" newspapers, live links established from the frontline, in this step taken in the direction of increasing efficiency, visibility and believability, conditions were created for the distribution of more correct and complete information and a complete impression was formed on the viewer and reader.

If we summarize the situation related to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, the reflection of the First and Second Karabakh wars in the global media rhetoric, we can say that the leading world press, the main information resources of the USA and Europe have started a series of articles about Nagorno-Karabakh, since the beginning of the war. Ex-

cept for the Turkish press, in the materials presented in all formats in the US and Great Britain press, Armenian bigotry and biased approach pushed objectivity into the background.

However, the one-sided information war against Azerbaijan has been fiasco due to President İlham Aliyev's high-profile interviews, rich in facts and evidence, given to the world's giant media corporations. As time passes, the contours in which the truths of Azerbaijan are spread are expanding even more and our national diplomacy takes away all means of influence in the information war and forming its image as an aggressor, invader and separatist.

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*Parvana İbrahimova*. The topic of the patriotic war is in the materials of "associated press", "united press international", "reuters" and Turkish media. *International Law and Integration Problems*, 2023, №1 (66), pp.4-11

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**Date of receipt of the article in the Editorial Office  
(15.01.2023)**