

# AGGRESSION AS A LEGAL OBLIGATION

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As has been the case for the past more than 30 years, the topic of Karabakh remains the key item on the agenda in Azerbaijan. The liberation of Karabakh as a result of a 44-day war last fall brought dramatic changes to the geopolitical situation in the region, led to the restoration of historical justice and the establishment of international law in relation to Azerbaijan.

Having suffered defeat in the 44-day war, Armenia keeps on violating the terms of the ceasefire stipulated in the joint statement by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia from 10 November 2020, shelling the positions of the Azerbaijani army along the border and in Karabakh. Obviously, such behavior runs counter to the interests of, first of all, Armenia itself, as it desperately needs peace and improved relations with its neighbors, regional integration, which may allow this country the opportunity to get out of the deep socioeconomic and political crisis. The reasons for such a paradoxical situation are discussed in an article by Russian political scientist Oleg Kuznetsov. The author puts forward the thesis that Armenia's policy of aggression against Azerbaijan is dictated by fundamental legal documents of the modern Armenian state – the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence – which see the document on the unification of Armenia with Nagorno-Karabakh, adopted in 1989, as an important source of law. The author, therefore, concludes that this policy will be continued until the constitutional and legal foundations of modern Armenia are revised.

Two other articles in this issue of IRS-Heritage may be of interest to history buffs. One is dedicated to the topic of the transfer of the city of Yerevan to Armenia in 1918, which is relevant in the context of modern events but is little known to foreign readers. The other story contains a brief overview of sources on the history of Christianity in Karabakh and Azerbaijan in general. Using available scientific materials, the author emphasizes the primary role of the Albanian Apostolic Church in the history of Karabakh and notes that the Albanian Church fought a long battle against the Armenian Gregorian Church. The outcome of this struggle was finally predetermined by the capture of the South Caucasus by the Russian Empire, which made a strategic stake on the Armenians and the Armenian Church and carried out a mass resettlement of Armenians from neighboring countries to the region.

The issue also contains other articles, which, I hope, will address our readers' interest in Azerbaijan and the Karabakh theme. Therefore – do stay with us!