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International Summits For Determining The Legal Status Of The Caspian Sea: Historical Analysis

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ABSTRACT

It is known that in world history up to date, there have been many conflicts and disputes over the division of borders. It is not a secret that there are countries that for a long time could not normalize their relations because of their border requirements. From this point of view, the successful separation of the sea in a historically short period of time, which has never happened, in particular, the successful separation of the Caspian Sea between neighboring countries, is a source of pride for any country. Taking into account that the study of any completed historical-political process is the task of historians, the study of the history of summits to divide the Caspian Sea can be considered one of the tasks that must be overcome by domestic historical science.

The main purpose and issue of the scientific article is to reveal the course and results of the summits at the level of heads of state, which began with the Ashgabat summit in 2002 and ended with the Aktau summit in 2018, as well as the role of each of them in determining the status of the sea. The results of the analysis carried out as a result of the methods used in the research in the field of history were included in the list of special nodes. The value of the article is that the author was the first in the country to reveal this issue historically. The results of our scientific work can be optimally used in the training of specialists in history, political science, international relations, and the study of the history of external relations of domestic historical science.

1. Introduction

The history of many nations of the world has undergone a long and complex evolution. The scientist L. Morgan develops his theory of the three stages of human progress, i.e. from Savagery through Barbarism to Civilization [1, pp.8-9]. The formation of mankind passed the period of “wildness, savagery”, from the crowded period to the tribal era, and then to the tribal, state level, has gone through many historical twists and turns into the modern era of civilization. In the historical period that began in antiquity states and their leaders realized that all complex issues could be solved not only by war, but also by special negotiations. It is known that at the beginning of the history of the settlement of various issues through political transactions will be a peace treaty between Egypt and the Hittite state concluded in 1270 BC [2, p.62]. Although many nations and ethnic groups have appeared on the historical stage over long historical periods and political events, only a few of them managed to establish their statehood and become an independent country by the third millennium.

It is known that the process of European conquest, which began with the discovery of the American continent by Christopher Columbus at the end of the 15th century, gradually spread to the Russian state, which tried to become an imperial structure. The dissemination of marine data based on the research of professional cartographers further increased the interest of the Russian government in the first half of the 18th century in the sea and the life of the peoples living around it. At the same time, the desire of the Persian and Russian states adjacent to the sea and having state ambitions to establish their control over the Caspian Sea can be understood as a historical law.

Given the fact that the acquisition of new lands is accompanied by conflicts and negotiations, many historical events that have occurred to date in the possession of the Caspian Sea (the St. Petersburg Treaty of 1723, the Iranian-Russian wars of the first half of the XIX century, the Gulstan and Turkmenchay Agreements, the Soviet- Iranian agreements of 1921 and 1940, etc.) can be regarded as a legitimate result of the above historical trends. However, many agreements on the Caspian Sea are outdated due to changes in the historical and political situation, and over time many of them need to be reviewed. Although almost all agreements on the state of the Caspian Sea and the division of the sea were based on the requirements of the period between tsarist Russia and Persia, and then the Soviet Union and Iran, the formation of new independent states in the Caspian region and the changing geopolitical situation around the sea. There was an obvious need to amend these agreements and review the status of the sea. In addition to these reasons, the geographical features of the sea and the concentration of huge reserves of natural and raw materials in it aroused the interest of the largest world powers in the region and increased the historical significance of the region.

One of such independent states is Kazakhstan, which created its own family after the collapse of the USSR in 1991. It is known that the survival of any structure, organization, and even family is achieved through hard work, a clear goal, and systematic actions. In the same way, the formation and establishment of the modern Republic of Kazakhstan was achieved by the optimal solution of

political and historical problems. This proves that the Kazakh people as a nation are able to withstand the challenges of the times, the vitality of our nation and the correctness of the goals and objectives of our state in the internal and external direction.

Realizing that it is the task of historians to study the past and historical paths of our country, representatives of the Caspian littoral states took an active part in determining the status of the Caspian Sea, which is of great geostrategic and economic importance for the world today. The main purpose of our article is to reveal the course and results of the summits at the level of heads of state, which began with the Ashgabat summit in 2002 and ended with the Aktau summit in 2018, and the historical place and contribution of each of them in determining the status of the sea.

Historiography of the problem

In the context of the historical significance of the summits held to determine the status of the Caspian Sea, no special studies have been published in Russian history. There are two reasons for this. First of all, the decision to determine the status of the sea was reached only in August 2018, and before that summit in Aktau, this issue was on the agenda, which awaited a historic solution, and the second reason is that the summits to discuss this issue were held in 2002, 2007, 2010, 2014, 2018, so much of the information discussed on this topic is not available due to the fact that in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan stored in closed archives.

Among the works on the state of the Caspian Sea, studies by Western scientists are of interest to us in connection with the specifics of the object of study. The works of foreign scientists differ from the works of post-Soviet scientists in that they pay little attention to the history of the Caspian Sea and its status. For example, the monograph "CASPIAN SECURITY ISSUES: Conflicts, Cooperation and Energy Supply" [3], published in 2014 under the editorship of Italian scientist Marco Valigi, is devoted to such issues as the geopolitical position of the sea and the extent of economic potential.

Another foreign colleague, Tuncay Babalı, said that the political factor played a key role in his work, emphasizing the importance of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and the Kashagan field, as well as the export of energy resources in the Caspian Basin [pp. 4, 5-6].

The fact that the works of Western scientists do not pay attention to international conferences to determine the status of the Caspian Sea proves that in these countries the focus is on the Caspian Sea as a politically and then economically important object.

It is also known that a number of valuable scientific articles on the political situation around the Caspian Sea have been published in the Scopus database. In particular, in the Journal of Eurasian Studies, scientist Dmitry Shlapentokh published a scientific article entitled "Turkmenistan and the buildup of military power in the Caspian region: a small state in the post-polar era." It analyzes the actions of countries such as Azerbaijan to increase military and political forces [5].

Among the latest studies on this issue, a scientific article by M. Mohammadreza of Iranian descent for 2018 says that “the summits held in 2002, 2007, 2010 and 2014 were advisory in nature and no decision was made on the status of the Caspian Sea”, and at the end of the article accuses the Republic of Kazakhstan of violating sections of the 2014 agreement (chapters 6, 10 of the Declaration) (Astrakhan Summit-Aut.) through negotiations with the United States on the creation of two military bases in the ports of the Caspian Sea - Aktau and Kuryk [6, p. 161].

However, the works of our politicians and scientists, who have studied some aspects of the issue in economic, geopolitical and legal terms in the context of government-level exchanges and meetings, intergovernmental agreements and scientific research, are well known.

The collection of documents on the issue under consideration in 2018, compiled by a group of Russian scientists entitled “The Caspian: international legal documents” [7], is very important. This work summarizes the documents signed at the summit of the heads of state in the Caspian Sea, including the communiqué and the summarized minutes of the summit meetings on maritime status, and they are of great importance for historians and politicians.

Concluding our study, we can say that the history of the Caspian Sea is not specifically considered in most of the works on the status of the Caspian Sea, the common denominator of all written research on the history of the sea is that these works are aimed at political and economic issues, and we believe that it is time for historians to study the history of determining the status of the Caspian Sea.

The sources of our topic are analyzed, the goals, objectives, course and results of the summits we are considering were obtained in Mass media like, «Journal of Eurasian Studies», «Central Asia and the Caucasus», “Central Asia Monitor”, "Diplomacy Bulletin", "National Security" and others. In addition, legal documents in the database based on the results The Aktau Summit held on Kazakh land is provided on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

2. Methods

In studying the topic, emphasis was placed on the consideration of historical events and data from the point of view of logical positivism, since they are interconnected. These methods help to understand the legitimacy of deepening our knowledge about the object of study. In addition, the chronological method was widely used to systematically describe the considered scientific ideas, conclusions and views.

It is known that no event occurs without a reason. In this context, it is important to note that the principle of determinism, which believes that historical phenomena and events occur for certain reasons, is important when considering our problem. In this regard, we were guided by the sequencing method, which is used to determine the interconnectedness and integrity of events in historical science, the common goal of the study.

The process of determining the status of the Caspian Sea was considered only for a certain period of time, and due to changes in the course and nature of the events studied, a temporary analysis was carried out when writing our scientific article. Consideration of the universality of summit meetings to analyze interrelated events and discuss problems, as well as researchers of modern historical science as a whole and in comparison with each other, greatly helped to determine the essence of the problems we are studying.

3. Results and Discussion

The first summit to determine the status of the Caspian Sea took place just 10 years after the collapse of the USSR and the discussion of the Caspian Sea by leaders of coastal states. Although it was reported that five intergovernmental summits were held to determine the state of the sea, data analysis shows that at each of these summits, each state has its own position. For example, while Turkmenistan sought to resolve the “disputed territories” that Azerbaijan has been developing since gaining independence, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan maintained open access to the Caspian Sea, as in Soviet times, to common water and biological resources, as well as to common oil and gas fields. Improved midline distribution is supported.

Another key player in the negotiation process, the Islamic Republic of Iran, from the very beginning made every effort to adopt the option of equal division of the sea between the five countries of 20% each or the joint use of marine and ore resources in the form of condominiums. However, although this option was very beneficial for Iran, its implementation was not supported by other littoral states, as it did not correspond to international practice of the history of the division of the sea [8].

On April 23-24, 2002, the first summit of the leaders of Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Iran was held in Ashgabat to determine the new legal status of the Caspian Sea. The leaders of the Caspian littoral states believe that this high-level meeting will allow them to find a common language and solve the accumulated political and economic problems. However, unfortunately, hopes for a quick and mutually acceptable solution to the Caspian problem did not materialize.

During the summit, the Iranian delegation opposed the common position of Russia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. Tehran has officially stated that the development of Caspian energy can be discussed only after determining the new legal status of the Caspian Sea. In addition, when dividing the Caspian Sea, the Iranian side proposed dividing the sea into five equal parts (in this case, “Azerbaijani” and “Turkmen” shares would belong to Iran on the basis of biased representations) or using the sea on the basis of a condominium, as it was indicated in the Soviet-Iranian agreement 1921-1940 years.

On the first day of the summit, the Russian delegation expressed the view that it would be successful if the declaration included a general statement, even if it was “related to sturgeon”, in terms of “raising the issue from one to the other” [9].

The two-day summit in Ashgabat did not bring the expected results. The text of the declaration required adjustment and proposing the solutions of all participants in the summit. Two hours before its signing, the meeting leader S. Niyazov asked: "Why should we accept an empty document if there are no concrete decisions? We still have time for further improvement of this document", although the negotiations lasted about 1.5 hours longer than planned, there was not enough time to improve the text of the declaration [10, p.100].

From the very first day of the summit, it became clear that the positions of the parties have not changed, and the questions of politicians and businessmen remain unanswered. Nevertheless, the presidents of the "five" welcomed the agreements. The participants of the meeting understood each other's openness and regularity of negotiations, as the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, N.A. Nazarbayev, said in an interview following the summit, "looking at the history of this issue, the question turned out to be more than expected" [11].

According to independent expert Claire Doyle, Russia, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan hold the pragmatic point of view that, in the absence of a political decision on the legal status of the Caspian Sea, they should not interfere in the development of previously explored energy resources for commercially beneficial purposes. In this case, all disputes were resolved on the basis of bilateral agreements between neighboring and opposing Caspian states [12].

The first Caspian Five summit did not end as expected. The only result - Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Iran are ready to continue discussion of the Caspian problem in the same format.

Five years after the failed Summit in Ashgabat, five leaders met on October 16, 2007 in Sadabad, in the villa of the former Shah of Iran, north of Tehran, the capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to share the Caspian Sea. It should be noted that three of the five heads of state at the summit in Ashgabat - Iran (M. Khatami), Azerbaijan (G. Aliyev), and Turkmenistan (S. Niyazov) were not present at the summit in Tehran and were replaced by new ones. During the summit, the heads of state were able to regularly exchange views and bring together the positions of coastal states in key areas of activity in the Caspian.

The issues of developing a Convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea were widely discussed at the summit. It should be noted that the issues that will be discussed at the general meeting arose in connection with the political and economic needs of that time. Although the Soviet-Iranian treaties of 1921-1940 regulated only issues of shipping and fishing at sea, issues such as mining and environmental protection were not considered in the aforementioned document. In addition, in connection with the political situation after the collapse of the USSR, the determination of ownership of the sea territory was on the agenda. Failure to resolve such open issues will gradually lead to tensions in the Caspian region.

Therefore, speaking at the summit, the heads of state emphasized the need to maintain stability and peace in the region. Even M.Ahmadinejad, a politician speaking in the international arena, said: "Countries should not use or build up

their military capabilities in the Caspian region. At the same time, the Caspian states must act in the name of stability and peace” [13].

However, between the summits in Ashgabat and Tehran in 2002-2007, various agreements were reached on the status of the Caspian Sea. For example, in November 2003, the Caspian littoral states signed the first five-sided document, the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention), which entered into force on August 12, 2006. The main purpose of the adoption of this document was to ensure environmental safety and the protection of natural resources of this unique layer in the development of hydrocarbon resources on the seabed.

In addition, three littoral states, Russia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan, by signing a tripartite agreement in May 2003 on the junction of the border system of the Caspian Sea, on three sides legalized the settlement of disputes in the northern part of the Caspian Sea and improved the legal situation in more than 60% of the entire sea territory. After that, Iran, which was often criticized by the opposition in its domestic politics, and noting that they were excluded from the process of resolving issues related to the sea, and the people of Turkmenistan, who are of the opinion that “first of all, the status of the Caspian Sea, controversial fields and other issues after that” [14, p.4], for the first time demonstrated its readiness to resolve the issue at the summit in Tehran.

Speaking at the Tehran summit, President of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev said: “We continue to adhere to the principle of dividing the Caspian basin into inland waters, territorial (territorial) sea waters (at least 12 nautical miles), a fishing zone (25-30 nautical miles) and total body of water. We believe that this option meets the interests of all the littoral states. At the same time, we ask you to pay attention not to the names, but to the definition of latitudes and the legal situation in these areas”, confirming that the country's foreign policy remains stable. Moreover, N. Nazarbayev told that "the mechanism for distributing quotas for sturgeon fishing, the fact that 45% of the total sturgeon income is received by Iran, 27% from Russia, and the remaining 28% from Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, does not meet today's requirements" and noted the need to accelerate scientific cooperation between riparian states in the field of extraction, protection and use of biological resources of the Caspian Sea and achieve this goal by signing a five-party agreement [15, p. 8].

The participants of the Tehran summit agreed to adopt a 25-point Declaration, one of which states that it is forbidden to continue aggression against another Caspian state. The main document adopted by the leaders of Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Iran (Joint Declaration) was to protect the environment, marine biodiversity, demilitarization, etc. which should be used as a guide for solving Caspian problems. [16, pp. 279-283].

In general, the Caspian states agreed to use the Caspian Sea only for peaceful purposes and for the peaceful resolution of problems. In general, the Caspian states agreed to use the Caspian Sea only for peaceful purposes, and to resolve the issues peacefully "without resorting to military force"[17, p.108]. Thus, the

Tehran summit in 2007 was successful, as agreements were reached on many issues.

The next summit III on the legal status of the Caspian Sea was held on November 18, 2010 in the capital of Azerbaijan, Baku. In the opening speech at the plenary meeting of the Ganja summit, President I. Aliyev emphasized the need for an early conclusion of an agreement on the legal status of the Caspian Sea, mentioned the solution of the problem of the division of the Caspian Sea between Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Russia, and stated his idea that "We need to strengthen economic partnership of the country" [18, p.1].

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, who began his speech at the meeting, emphasizing the need to regulate the status of the Caspian Sea on the basis of legal aspects, spoke about the activities of working groups to develop a Convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea. According to him, in the three years since the Tehran summit, only six meetings were held within the framework of intergovernmental working groups, and in the future it was recommended to instruct the foreign ministries to hold such meetings at least five times a year. In addition, President of RK Nursultan Nazarbayev said:

- "We pay particular attention to the use, protection and reproduction of Caspian bioresources. In connection with the catastrophic decrease in the number of sturgeons in recent years, Kazakhstan proposes to introduce a temporary five-year moratorium on sturgeon fishing for at least five years."

Speaking at the meeting, President of Russia D. Medvedev said: "We must not only exchange views on a regular basis, but also move to a new stage of agreements," and noted that the "Caspian Five" is close to addressing the key issue of the width and condition of the national coasts of the sea, which is necessary not only for the distribution of the sea, but also for the careful use of natural resources and environmental protection.

In this regard, the Russian leader supported the proposal of N. Nazarbayev to introduce a moratorium on the conservation of the biological component of the Caspian Sea [19, pp. 2-3].

In general, negotiations at the Summit III of the Caspian littoral states in Baku took place on the basis of peaceful neighborhood and opened a new stage in relations between the Caspian littoral states. At the end of the meeting, the presidents signed a joint statement in addition to the security agreement [20, pp. 285-287].

The fourth summit of the heads of state to determine the status of the sea, which began in 2002, was held on September 29, 2014 in Astrakhan (Russia). It was attended by President of the Russian Federation V. Putin, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran H. Rouhani, President of Turkmenistan G. Berdimuhamedov and President of Azerbaijan I. Aliyev. The agenda of the summit included the coordination of actions of the Caspian littoral states, the implementation of the decisions of the 2010 Baku summit, the legal status of the Caspian Sea and key issues of regional security.

As a result of the summit, the Caspian littoral states signed the first document - the Declaration, which clearly sets out the principles of five-way partnership in the Caspian Sea, including the separation of the water area, seabed and subsoil, shipping. Chapter 7 of this document, consisting of 19 chapters, describes the activities of the parties in the Caspian Sea by agreement between them, including the coastal coast of each side at a distance of 15 miles from the sea and the extent to which countries continue to develop aquatic biological resources and are planning to conduct based on national sovereignty over a total area of 25 miles [21]. Thus, the parties managed to divide most of the indivisible basin of the Caspian Sea.

One of the important results of the Summit IV was the Agreement on the balanced use and conservation of biological water resources of the Caspian Sea. In accordance with the agreement, the Caspian littoral states agreed to recognize the intergovernmental status of the Commission on Biological Water Resources and authorize the Commission to develop and implement measures for the conservation of biological resources. The document is aimed at regulating the mechanism of joint management of aquatic biological resources and introducing a moratorium on sturgeon fishing in the Caspian Sea.

During the summit IV, the leaders of the Caspian littoral states actively discussed issues of economic partnership. In particular, President N. Nazarbayev proposed to create a Caspian free trade zone that would coordinate economic integration in the Caspian Sea, to use the routes opened through Kazakhstan as a transit bridge, and President of RF V. Putin noted that the Caspian littoral states, which are the world's leading oil and gas producers, can effectively influence the formation of prices on the world hydrocarbon market and ensure the security of energy sources globally and regionally by effectively coordinating their actions. [22, pp. 68-70].

Following the meeting of the heads of the Caspian littoral states in Astrakhan, the foundation was laid for the future Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea. In general, the results of the Astrakhan summit were assessed by the President of the RK N. Nazarbayev as "real progress" [23]. However, the main issue of the summit - the issue of determining the legal status of the Caspian Sea - remained unresolved. In general, the heads of state agreed to adopt the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea at the summit scheduled for next year in Kazakhstan.

The next Caspian Summit V, which is known for its historic decisions, was held on August 12, 2018 in Aktau, Kazakhstan. Representatives of the Caspian littoral states participating in the summit managed to sign the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea, the main document developed after more than 20 years of negotiations. During the meeting, the parties discussed the legal status of the Caspian Sea, as well as joint decisions on cooperation in the fields of economy, transport, environment, security, tourism and the fight against organized crime.

At the Aktau Summit, the leaders of the five coastal states made the following decisions by concluding the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea:

1. Article 5 of the Convention states that “the basin of the Caspian Sea is divided into internal, territorial waters, fishing zones and common waters”, and Article 6 states that “the sovereignty of the parties should be divided into its internal territory and adjacent territorial waters extends beyond the waters to the seabed and bowels of the territory and to the airspace of the Caspian Sea, which allows the coastal states of the Caspian to freely use sea water and resources;

2. In addition, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention, the volume of the territorial sea should not exceed 15 miles, and the external border of the territorial water should be determined by the points of the adjacent boundary line at sea latitude, and the external border of the territorial water should be delimited [24, p.521].

Opening the summit in Aktau, Nursultan Nazarbayev noted the features of the meeting, which coincided with Caspian Day, and informed the participants about the main issues on the agenda. Opinions on the issues under consideration are exchanges that took place, firstly, legal issues of the Caspian Sea, based on the results of many years of negotiations, secondly, cooperation in the field of transport, economy, ecology, marine resources, security and, thirdly, the regional international situation and foreign policy in the Caspian.

Although reaching agreement during the summit was not easy, the discussion of a complex issue was based on good neighborliness and partnership. In this regard, N. Nazarbayev said: "Today, only a quarter century after its discussion, we can say with confidence that we were able to turn the Caspian Sea into a sea of friendship." The results of the meeting showed that the leaders of the “Caspian Five” could come to an agreement on resolving the issue. During the preparation of documents, all countries worked together to ensure political instability, preservation and reproduction of natural resources, and protection of the Caspian region.

The first President of Kazakhstan, N. Nazarbayev said: “The Convention is actually the “Constitution of the Caspian Sea” about the significance of the Aktau Summit. This made it possible to resolve all issues related to the obligations and rights of coastal states. This document is a guarantee of security, stability and prosperity in the region.” [25, pp.1-2].

There is no evidence in world history that there has been an experience of sharing a historical and geographical region, such as the Caspian Sea. From this point of view, on August 12, 2018, for the first time in the world historical practice, the issue of peaceful division of the sea and the issue of determining the legal status of the Caspian Sea was optimally resolved. In general, as a result of the Caspian summit in Aktau, we can say that "no one lost and all the Caspian states were in a good position" on the division of the sea.

The meeting of Caspian leaders in Aktau aroused great interest not only in the post-Soviet space, but also in the West. Leading British and American publications, as well as representatives of the international media watched the progress of the Aktau agreements with special interest. For example, the August 9, 2018 issue of magazine “Forbes” stated that "the world's largest oil companies are eagerly awaiting the outcome of the summit" [26], the August

12, 2018 edition of newspaper “The Financial Times” emphasized the importance of the Aktau summit and the fact that Kazakhstan, Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan "agreed on Sunday to manage a region with large hydrocarbon reserves and a bridge between Central Asia, the Middle East and Europe" [27].

To date, a historical document prepared on the basis of the “Aktau Summit” - the bill “On Ratification of the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea”, has been approved by state bodies and heads of state of most of the Caspian states (The Convention was ratified by the Parliament of Turkmenistan on December 1, 2018 [28], President of the RK N.Nazarbayev on February 8, 2019 [29], President of Azerbaijan I.Aliyev on February 22, 2019 [30], President of the RF V.Putin on October 1, 2019 [31]). It is currently expected that of the countries participating in the Aktau Summit, the Islamic Republic of Iran will ratify the Caspian bill in 2020.

4. Conclusion

There are many historical examples of the distribution of land and water in the historical period to this day. These divisions differ from each other not only by their peaceful nature, but also by the resolution of wars, conflicts and various conflicts. However, it should be noted that in many cases, difficulties between states, the importance of the peaceful resolution of the dispute. It is enough to mention the Treaty of Verdun under which the Frankish Empire was divided into three parts in 843 BC and the Versailles and Potsdam conferences, which concluded the first and second world wars.

In general, it should be noted that the separation expanse of waters has never been easier in history. Even friendly nations that have a common history and speak the same language, united in two world wars, the United States and Canada, have been sharing these five rivers for almost 40 years. Although the two countries began to share the riches of the Upper River, Huron, Michigan, Erie and Ontario with a total area of 245,000 square kilometers in 1909, they completed this work only after the end of the war with Nazi Germany [32, p.7]. If we say that this is a measure between two states, with which it is easy to agree, and not between five states, as in the division of the Caspian Sea, this proves that the separation of rivers and seas is not easy.

If we look at the problem from this point of view, it will become clear that the issue of the division of the Caspian Sea through consultations between the heads of state and government has been very effective. And now, if we go back to the history of the summits and the importance of the raised issues:

1) When discussing the above summits, we can say that the discussion of the summit in Ashgabat for the first time in 2002 raised questions that were waiting in line and found a solution to these problems. It can be assumed that subsequent summits served to further develop the ideas of the 2002 Ashgabat Summit;

2) It should be noted that among the summits held, the summits in Tehran (2007) and Aktau (2018) were marked by the signing of the heads of five states

of the Party Declaration. This proves the special role of these summits in solving the problem;

3) Thirdly, the fact that the decisions of the Aktau summit, which many reputable experts call the “Constitution of the Caspian Sea”, were ratified by other Caspian leaders indicates that the meeting in Kazakhstan played a key role in resolving this issue. Thus, the period of successful implementation of new steps in the field of external relations, the demarcation of domestic historical science has come to an end.

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