

Interview #17 Duration: 27 mins 33sec

1. 35
2. male
3. 1988
4. Baku, Azerbaijan
5. Absheron, Azerbaijan
6. Bachelor's degree in Azerbaijan, Master's degree in USA
7. No party membership
8. University
9. internet
10. 3-4 times a year
11. Azerbaijani and Russian speaking

Summary

Part I

All of them are important. Freedom is the most important in developing policies.

Cleaning must be duties of municipalities. Considering lack of the existing resources and authority in municipalities, executive committees should be responsible for cleaning.

Women should have a right to abort. However, there must be control over it. There should be some limitations.

Azerbaijan can accept fixed amount of refugees. I am not sure how society and government would be interested to accept them. However, during a humanitarian crisis, it is essential to welcome at least little quantity of refugees. For instance, during Syrian crisis, it would have been possible to accept some refugees from Syria.

Ethnic groups may study in their own language during an elementary school. But studying only in their language during school and university is not effective. It will isolate them, they will find it hard to find decent job. I support the idea that they all must learn their language, but I do not support the idea that they study at school or university in their own language.

I think ethnic and cultural diversity is enrichment of the society. It is the responsibility of the government to protect, preserve that diversity.

I agree that contributing, helping the economy will directly allow people to benefit from it. But if by this statement, you mean the financial control of government on society, I don't think government should control it much. Government should ensure the safety net, to people in need. Therefore, I agree with this statement, but do not totally agree.

Part II

My identity has changed from mono to poly. I see my identity within the shape of Azerbaijani identity. I am a person, who studied and lived in Azerbaijan and abroad (USA), while did not fully belong neither to Azerbaijan nor to USA. I am a person, whose identity is shaped upon various cultures, memories, diversities within Azerbaijan. My worldview is influenced by western rationalism. However, my nationality is also a big part of my identity. Culturally, my identity is shaped by Persian culture. Ethnically and culturally bonding with Turkey, integrating to West, philosophically and culturally bonding with Russia is very essential for me. Thus, it is hard for me to fully define my identity.

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Being a citizen of Azerbaijan is essential part of my identity as a social construction. Because I feel strong connections to Azerbaijan. And perhaps paradoxically being the citizen of the world is also very necessary part of my identity. Being the citizen of the world, means non- political, social citizenship. Apart from belonging to a group identity, I believe that, each individual has individual identity.

Religion can be used for both bad and good. Religion has important role in developing the society and formulating the social harmony. I consider religious freedom important, but surely religious radicalism is bad. Depending on the social welfare of the society the role of religion changes, it connects people more than destructing and dividing them.

Nation narrative is formed with territory, language and geographic symbols. Therefore all 3 of them is important.

It is hard to answer whether the borders are important or not. The voice deep within me says, no it is not important. Societies should integrate. Nevertheless, I doubt that it is realistic in the near future. Perhaps one day the whole globe can be borderless and governed universally. For today's world, I consider borders important.

I am not sure until which level internet is capable of eliminating these borders. I do not want the borders of my house, my property to eliminate. Thus, I doubt that I would prefer the borders of states to eliminate fundamentally. Internet has somehow eliminated those borders, given a lot of freedoms, free spaces, which eventually will shape sovereignty of states. Overall, I have a fear that eliminating borders will bring threats.

Looking through the international relations perspective, restoration of historical borders will lead to war and bloodshed. Enlarging ones borders means violating the borders of another. The party whose borders is violated will not stay still, will respond back which will lead to war and bloodshed. But you manage to restore your borders successfully, long termly it is able to empower the strength of the nation and state. In Azerbaijan case, I do not think restoring borders apply to Karabakh, because Karabakh is already a part of Azerbaijan. In sense of historical borders, it can be restoring borders from Iran, or Russia, which is not a good idea. War is not exception in returning Karabakh, and most probably, it will happen through war. War is an undesirable tool; state has a right to choose in order to maintain its territorial integrity.

Part III

There are different ethnic views by Armenian and Azerbaijani ethnic on Karabakh. It is hard to compromise on these two different views. Firstly, because of this, conflict is still not solved. In addition, lack of political willingness is also a reason why the conflict is not solved yet. Both governments is not willing to compromise, which is partly because of ethnic views of their nation, but also because of political opportunism. Lastly, in the imperial system, solution of the conflict is prevented. Russia is uninterested in resolution of the conflict or is interested in benefiting from the resolution of the conflict.

I do not think it is appropriate to find guilty to blame. There are structural barriers. It is hard to blame either Armenians or Azerbaijanis, or Russia because of its unwillingness. To define a "guilty party" in international relations is difficult. There are various national interests, ethnic narratives which are clashing. As an Azerbaijani, I think that our borders have been violated and it is our goal to restore our territorial integrity.

I consider, peace building and conflict transformation projects important. However I do not believe that they are capable of resolving conflict. Today I see the resolution of the conflict

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though isolating Armenia. Perhaps the power changes in the world will effect on the power changes in the region, which can be beneficial. I prefer the current status quo and possible isolation of Armenia to blindly agreeing on peace with possible consequence of losing Karabakh.

After the resolution of the conflict I do not think those two ethnic narratives will be forgotten easily. Mistrust between two nations will remain. The confidence can be built through political will. I personally feel very comfortable in communicating with Armenians. I would want to go to Armenia and would feel comfortable if they visit Azerbaijan. I do not think our nation will preserve hatred towards them. Reconciliation process can be managed through the political will. Azerbaijanis and Armenians will live together in Karabakh. Nevertheless, I do not think Armenian refugees should return to Baku after the resolution of conflict. Of course they can visit Baku, work here. But they should not resettle in Baku.

I do not accept the term of enemy. Potentially Russia can be threat, Iran can also be threat. Obviously, we are in war with Armenia, and they can be defined as enemy, more like opponent.

Karabakh belongs to Azerbaijanis and Armenians. By law, it belongs to Azerbaijan. Armenians has long lived in Karabakh. They have a right to demand Karabakh culturally, but not politically.

If Azerbaijan and Armenian nation will be ready to solve it, conflict is able to be solved. Political unwillingness prevents the resolution of conflict.

In Croatia, they returned their territories back, which I think can be a president conflict resolution model. I believe that Karabakh should return to Azerbaijan, and maintain territorial integrity. I think war and violence can be used as well. I can not think about a case which can work for the status of Karabakh. In terms of status, Armenians should be provided their self-governance.