AZERBAIJAN PROFILE

Education in Azerbaijan

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WHERE IS AZERBAIJAN?

• Azerbaijan is located on the western edge of the Caspian sea between Iran and Russia

• Although historically associated with Asia and the Middle East, Azerbaijan is now seen as closely tied to Europe

• Once part of Russia, Azerbaijan is now an independent country
WHERE IS AZERBAIJAN? (CONTINUED)

• The capital of Azerbaijan, Baku is located on the Caspian Sea

• Highest Point: Baza-Dyuzi 14,698 ft. (4,480m)

• Lowest Point: Caspian Sea -91.8 ft. (-28 m)

• Bordering Countries: (5) Armenia, Georgia, Iran, Russia, Turkey
THE PEOPLE

LITERACY RATES

High literacy rates reflect high value of education

Literacy: definition: age 15 and over can read and write

• total population: 99.8% literate
• male: 99.9% literate
• female: 99.7% literate

(2010 census)

POVERTY RATES

Poverty rates are decreasing

Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (% of population)

• 7.6% 2011
• 9.1% 2010
• 10.9% 2009
• 13.2% 2008
• 15.8% 2007
HISTORY OF AZERBAIJAN

BEFORE 1991

• Azerbaijan’s political and geographical boundaries have changed over the years
• Other names include: Caucasian Albania and Arran
• Shares a strong history with Iran and Turkey

SINCE 1991

• Azerbaijan declared independence from Russia
• Presidential Republic
• President is the Head of State
• Prime Minister is head of government
## EDUCATION IN AZERBAIJAN

- Primary and Basic Education are compulsory
- Secondary education is optional, but recommended
- New push for early childhood education
- Certificates/diplomas awarded:
  - Certificate of Complete Secondary Education
  - Certificate of Complete Secondary Specialized Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Compulsory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschool/Kindergarten</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>Under 6</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10-15</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15-17</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15-18</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HIGHER EDUCATION IN AZERBAIJAN

Beyond Secondary Education, students wishing to further their education have several options:

Universities; Academies; Institutes; Colleges; Conservatoires

Three stages of higher education:

- University level first stage: Bakalavr (Bachelor)
- University level second stage: Magistr (Master)
- University level third stage: Doctor
TEACHER PREPARATION/QUALITY

• Teachers are graduates of University
  Master’s degree in five year program at university
  Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University and the Ganja State Pedagogical University major teacher education schools

• “Best School” and “Best Teacher” competitions designed to increase competitiveness between schools
  Three phases- classroom assessments; comprehensive exams; presentations
  Top 50 scoring schools/teachers awarded prizes
EDUCATION REFORM IN AZERBAIJAN

- Strong education system before 1991 - under Soviet rule
- Reduced funding resources have impacted access to materials

1993 education reform began:
- A modified Latin alphabet adopted to replace Cyrillic
- Transition to a multi-level system of higher education began
- Languages of instruction: Azerbaijani, Russian, English, Turkish
TYPICAL SCHOOLING

- School year is typically early September to late May with a week vacation for New Years
- Grades are given on a 1 to 5 scale, with 5 being the best
- Teachers mostly lecture and students take notes
AZERBAIJANI ATTITUDES TOWARDS U.S.

- In 1991 the US recognized Azerbaijan as an independent state.
- 2012 report says 57% of Azerbaijani approve of US leadership; 27% disapprove; 21% unsure.

IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

US Citizens from Azerbaijan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>US Citizens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>1187</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>886</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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<td>2005</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>606</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1233</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When they came
- Earliest identified immigrant in 1912
- First major wave of immigrants in 1940’s and 1950’s after WWII

Where they settled
- New York – metropolitan areas
- New Jersey – northern areas
- Texas - Houston
- California- Los Angeles and San Francisco
- Minnesota
VALUE OF EDUCATION

• Education is highly valued in Azerbaijan
• 1/3 of population is engaged in education (2.2 million), either as teachers or students
• Government budget allocates 18% to education- more than to military
• Among government workers, teachers are the most highly paid- more than doctors
WORKS CITED

Books


Journal Articles


Images


WORKS CITED (CONTINUED)

Internet


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