



Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy

School of International Affairs

ADA Summer School

Islam in the Contemporary International Affairs

11-20 July, 2008

Baku and Guba

The Republic of Azerbaijan

“From this country, which has held and still holds tolerance as a primary value of all wholesome life in society, we wish to proclaim to the world: *enough of wars in the name of God!* No more profanation of his holy name! I have come to Azerbaijan as an *ambassador of peace*. As long as I have breath within me I shall cry out: "Peace, in the name of God!" And when word joins word, a chorus is born, a symphony, which will spread to every soul, quench hatred, disarm hearts”.

His Holiness Pope John Paul II during a visit to Azerbaijan

The 2008 ADA Summer School is a certificate program, aimed at bringing world-renowned scholars, academicians and experts together with the ADA students and faculty to discuss and gain better understanding of Islam as an issue of global importance and its practical application.

The Summer School features faculty from prominent international schools, such as Fletcher School at Tufts University of Boston, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of Geneva, METU of Ankara, MGIMO of Moscow, CEPS of Brussels, University of Haifa of Tel-Aviv and Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy.

Academic content is complemented with policy discussions held by the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Ambassadors of the US, Iran and Middle East countries, Representatives of the Islamic Development Bank etc. The event will be opened and blessed by Sheykhulislam Haji Allahshukur Pashazade, Head of the Caucasus Muslims Spiritual Board.

A special emphasis of the course is on cross-cultural dialogue and understanding of Islam as a religion of peace and social justice. A diverse group of Muslims, Christians and Jews will live and learn together for some two weeks. Sessions will be held outside classrooms in an informal setting. Participants will debate foundations of Islam inside a mosque, while also sharing food with local Muslims. Discussions in a church will evolve around finding ways out of deadlock between Islam and the West. At the end of the session, all will wear T-shirts reading “We are all sons of Abraham”, get on a bus and move to Guba, a major Jewish settlement and tourist destination in northern Azerbaijan. In a synagogue, they will sit down with a rabbi and hear about tolerance as part of the Azerbaijani identity.

ADA Summer School is a model of effective communications, where barriers to the communication will be reduced to a manageable level. Selected participants must be willing to attend program events held in places of worship of various congregations.

The Summer School will be held in Retro, a five-star beach resort club outside Baku. Please, visit www.retro.az for a virtual tour of this exclusive resort. While learning in Retro, participants will also enjoy a sophisticated and luxurious lifestyle during this summer. Networking with high-level public figures and foreign policy experts will be arranged. Sightseeing and entertainment will be highlights of the program.

PROGRAM

JULY 11

FRIDAY

Arrivals and Registration

19:00

Welcome Reception at RETRO CLUB

Hosted by Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy

20:00

Musical performance by winners of the National Mugham Contest

JULY 12

SATURDAY

Sightseeing and Cultural Program

Visits to Zoroastrian Temple of Ateshgah, Petroglyphs of Gobustan; Tour of the Medieval Old Town and Shirvanshah Palace in Baku.

JULY 13

SUNDAY

MORNING SESSION

Foundations and Basic Concepts of Islam

The session will be held in Juma Mosque. Khutba and welcome by Sheykhulislam Haji Allahshukur Pashazadeh, Head of The Caucasus Muslims Spiritual Board

This session will discuss the fundamentals of Islam, the evolution of the Muslim community during the Prophetic era and the historical development of Islam in the subsequent centuries into diverse civilization, the rise and fall great caliphates and sultanates and Islam's encounter with modernity in contemporary era, the nature of discussions on Islamic law and the Shariah and diversity within Islamic thinking regarding schools of law, cultural expressions and Sufism.

Dr. Vali Nasr, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, MA, USA

LUNCHEON

Lunch in Old Baku cafe with the members of the community and the Head Akhund of the Mosque, as well as religious leaders of the Caucasus Muslims Spiritual Board.

AFTERNOON SESSION Human Rights and Democracy in Islam

The session will be held in Caravansaray. *This session will cover issues of Family and Gender Relations, Democracy and Governance, Pluralism and Tolerance, and Islamic Declaration of Human Rights in Islam.*

Dr. Vali Nasr, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, MA, USA

Dr. Nariman Gasimoglu, Chairman, Center for Religion and Democracy, Baku, Azerbaijan

AFTERNOON TEA State and Religion in Turkey: The Headscarf Debate in the Context of Islamic Politics and Identity

Professor Mustafa Sen, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

JULY 14

MONDAY

MORNING SESSION The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam Will Shape the Future

An American scholar writes a book with the above title and challenges preconceived notions about an important subject. Vali Nasr draws a line between religion and politics. Is there a Shia revival and sectarian conflict taking place within Islam today?

Dr. Vali Nasr , Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, MA, USA

LUNCHEON Living through a search for identity: from communism to nationalism, from atheism to the God. Personal anecdotes.

Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Rector of Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy.

AFTERNOON SESSION Islamic identity in modern Europe: cases of Germany and France.

This session will discuss the issues of nationalism, ethnic and religious identity in Europe, challenges in front of Muslim communities and newly arrived emigrants and the correlation with national policy.

Dr. Amel Boubekeur
Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels, Belgium

MORNING SESSION **Foundations of the Islamic Economy**

The session will be an introduction to Islam, with a special focus on economics, insurance and finance (overview of Islam and Islamic law, riba, gharar, zakat, and the "moral economy" of Islam). It will deal with political economy of Islamic finance (how and why Islamic finance came into existence in the 1970s, how it was updated in line with the globalization of finance, and how it was affected by the September 11 attacks). The session will, then, present the full range of Islamic products and instruments, and discuss the issue of financial innovation with a specific focus on the role of Western institutions. Finally, it will deal with political issues involving Islamic finance with a particular focus on the question of Islamic terrorism.

Dr. Ibrahim Warde, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, MA, USA

Dr. Renat Bekkin, Moscow State Institute of International Relations- MGIMO, Russia

LUNCHEON Dr. Mohammad Farid Azzi,
The Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research

AFTERNOON SESSION

The class will split into two groups. The discussions will evolve around the issue of resource management. The Middle East will be analyzed as a case study. Each group will discuss a separate issue moderated by a Summer School faculty.

Group A. **The Middle East in Transformation: Mecca of Education, New Home of Louvre, Financial and Transportation Hub of the World**

Dr. Ibrahim Warde, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, MA, USA

Group B. **The Middle East: Oil and Gas as a Cause of High Geopolitical Fever?**

Dr. Renat Bekkin, Moscow State Institute of International Relations- MGIMO, Russia

MORNING SESSION **Traditional Concept of Territory and Frontiers in Islam and Radical Islam.**

In Western thought, jihad has been, primarily, portrayed as an Islamic war against unbelievers. This session will discuss the evolution of the concept of jihad from a fight for freedom and self-defense to a form

His Excellency Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Azerbaijan

15:00 **We are All Sons of Abraham**

The class gets on a bus and departs for a retreat in Guba, a major tourist destination in the north of Azerbaijan

JULY 18-19 **FIELD TRIP TO GUBA AND KRASNAYA SLOBODA**

MORNING SESSION **Religious Diversity, Tolerance and Harmony in Azerbaijan**

The session will discuss the history and causes of tolerance, peaceful co-existence and religious harmony among representatives of various congregations in Azerbaijan. The challenges of the Azerbaijani identity will also be the focus of discussion.

Dr. Brenda Shaffer, University of Haifa, Israel

LUNCHEON Hosted in a synagogue. Rabbi of the Jewish Synagogue in Krasnaya Sloboda

AFTERNOON Visit to Nazli Bulag resort area

JULY 20 **Departure of Participants**

subject to confirmation. For regular updates to the program, please, visit www.ada.edu.az/summerschool