Preface
The notion of “nation building” covers a wider gamut of issues ranging from societal stability to economic propensity. This also implies a process of complex social management. States of former Soviet space are also facing this dilemma of how to balance the state and nation-building process. This process has further complicated due to a number of socio-economic and political elements. In this way, the viability of state gets affected. The Transcaucasian state of Azerbaijan is no exception to above dilemma. Like other republics of erstwhile Soviet Union, it never had the experience of managing an independent statehood. Baku faced a number of dilemmas of reconciling both the state and nation-building process.

The present research work is an attempt to examine some of the issues associated with state and nation-building process. The study will confirm the following hypotheses:

• that with the disintegration of Soviet Union, the Transcaucasus region is facing severe problem in nation building process.

• that the politics of natural resources and the ethnic factor have strong linkages in the nation building process in this region, thus creating intra-regional conflict and internal political instability.

• that the linkage between natural resources (oil), and the ethnic factor has strong influence in the nation building process of Azerbaijan.

• that role of regional and extra-regional powers have influenced strongly the nation building process in Azerbaijan.

• that the situation in Transcaucasus provides both opportunity for cooperation and conflict within the states in the region.
Keeping the above mentioned hypotheses in mind, the first chapter offers a theoretical framework to analyse both state and nation-building process. The second chapter examines the nature of nation-building process in Azerbaijan. The third chapter provides a conceptual framework to the role of natural resources in the nation-building process of Baku. The fourth chapter describes the ethnic nationalities in Azerbaijan and their role in the nation-building process in the republic. The fifth chapter analyses the role of the external actors and factors in the nation building process in the republic of Azerbaijan. The conclusion rounds of this research work.