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# Turkiye's goals in the South Caucasus

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Guliyeva Gulgun Mubariz Lecturer at the Department of Diplomacy and Modern Integration Processes Baku State University Academician Zahida Khalilova str., 23, Baku, Azerbaijan ORCID: 0000-0002-3466-4951 On the eve of the collapse of the Soviet Union, Turkiye was one of the first countries to return to the South Caucasus region. The article examines Turkiye's South Caucasus Policy and its goals in the region. Turkiye has serious goals in the South Caucasus. Among them, preventing Armenia from creating chaos in the region has a special place. In the article, Turkiye's goals in the South Caucasus and the importance of South Caucasus for Turkiye are extensively analyzed. The article also explains the reasons why ensuring peace, stability and cooperation in this region is vital for Turkiye. The area where the South Caucasus is located has been of great importance for Turkiye in all periods of history in terms of its available resources. The South Caucasus region is of strategic importance due to its characteristic of being a bridge between "East and West, North and South". During the Soviet Union, the Caucasian republics were not independent, and there were no political, economic, or cultural relations between Turkiye and these republics. After the collapse of the USSR, Turkiye, like other great powers, began to formulate and implement its South Caucasus policy. The South Caucasus has historically been a bridge between the East and the West and maintains this importance today The absence of this bridge means the disconnection of Turkiye's relations with the Turkic world. Today, the Russian Federation, which is the legacy of the USSR, poses the biggest threat to Anatolia with all its power and imperialist traditions. Thus, the Caucasus region is increasing day by day as a zone of interest between Turkiye and Russia. Restoring the independence of the South Caucasus is important from the point of view of the security of Turkiye Also, the conflicting interests of Turkiye and Russia in the South Caucasus are widely analyzed. The article also reflects the chaos caused by the Armenian factor in the region.

**Key words:** international, peace, war, negotiations, Caucasian house, geopolitics, integration, world unity.

Introduction. Due to its strategic and geopolitical importance, the South Caucasus region has always been the focus of great powers. Even today. the South Caucasus region retains its importance due to its rich energy resources, its location on the Great Silk Road, and at the same time being an energy corridor.. Turkiye has always been among the active participants in the struggles for the region. The republics that became part of the Soviet Union, which lost their independence at the beginning of the 20th century, did not have contact with Turkiye in any field. After the collapse of the USSR and the emergence of new states, changes began to be felt in the geopolitical situation of the territories located in the post-Soviet space. These changes, as well as the end of the Cold War, could not fail to have an impact on the development of the South Caucasus region. Turkiye returned to the region again. Turkiye's foreign policy was established on the basis of peace, security, good neighborliness and economic growth with the South Caucasus republics.

Relations continue on the upward trend today. It is impossible to think of Turkiye separately from the Caucasus. In addition to the influence of the Caucasus-Turkiye's international foreign policies, it also plays an important role in its internal politics with the presence of Turkish elements in the region... The South Caucasus plays the role of a bridge in ensuring Turkiye's relations with Central Asian Republics. The South Caucasus will continue to form an important area of contact for Turkiye due to its geographical proximity, opportunities for economic cooperation and natural resources..

The South Caucasus has historically been a bridge between the East and the West and maintains this importance today. The absence of this bridge means the disconnection of Turkiye's relations with the Turkic world Nowadays, the Russian Federation, which is the legacy of the USSR, poses the biggest threat to Anatolia with all its power and imperialist traditions. Thus, the Caucasus region is increasing day by day as a zone of interest between Turkiye and Russia. Restoring the independence of the South Caucasus is important from the point of view of the security of Turkiye.

Degree of learning the problem. The topic is dedicated to a very relevant field, although articles have been written and books published on this topic many times, but the ideas and ideas to be put forward have not ended. The subject remains relevant in all periods of history. There is a new idea in each of the scientific works dedicated to this field, both in the Azerbaijani press and abroad. Karpat Kemal, Z.Brzezinski, S. Hunter and others touched on this topic in their works and each of them came to a scientific conclusion according to the interests of their states.

**Purpose, tasks**. The main goal of the research is to study in detail the place and importance of the South Caucasus in the history of international relations. From this point of view, taking into account the uniqueness of the genre, it is one of the main tasks to determine the reasons for Turkiye's interest in this region throughout history, to show the historical facts related to the topic, and to analyze the interest in Turkiye in this region with historical facts.

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**Methods.** During the research, the methodology of comparative analysis between the sources related to the topic, the analytical research method in general was used. Depending on the tasks set in the research, methods such as generalization, rising from abstract to concrete, historical-comparative and systematic approach, analysis, synthesis, induction and deduction were used.

#### Main part

# Basic History of the South Caucasus and Turkiye's historical relations with the South Caucasus region

The South Caucasus region has historically been an area of political, religious and cultural conflicts and struggles. Albania among the old states of the region. The kingdoms of Iberia are participating. These kingdoms were later merged into the Achaemenid Empire and the Sassanid Empire. As a result, first Zoroastrianism and then Christianity became the sovereign religions in the region.

Islam began to spread in the South Caucasus after the Khilafat took over the region in the 7th century. In the following centuries, the region was under the sovereignty of the Seljuks, Mongols and Turkic khanates, and in 1501 it came under the leadership of the Safavid state. With the exception of the shortlived Ottoman rule in the 17th century, the region generally remained under Safavid sovereignty until the middle of the 18th century. After the assassination of Nadir Shah Afshar in 1747, truly independent Turkish khanates were established in the southern segment of the South Caucasus. As a result of two Russo-Qajar wars at the beginning of the 19th century, the South Caucasus was completely occupied by the Russian Empire. The South Caucasus is a region rich in tourism resources. The Great Caucasus mountains located in the region stretch from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea and pass through the territory of all three states located in the South Caucasus [6, s. 321.

As a result of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk signed in 1918, the Republic of Turkiye claimed to create a powerful Turkish-Islamic state, which included the regions of Azerbaijan and Dagestan in addition to Kars, Ardahan and Batum, which were annexed to Turkiye. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Turkiye returned to the region With the post-Cold War development, the region's strategic position has been further developed, and it has once again gained importance for ensuring stability and prosperity in all of Eurasia. For Turkiye, the South Caucasus is a region of political, economic, cultural connection and transition with the Turkic Republics in Central Asia. The fact that Turkiye shares a common language, religion, culture, and ancestry with the Turkish and muslim communities in the Caucasus, the existence of a common historical past with the region, and the geopolitical importance of the South Caucasus bring Turkiye's close interest in

the region to the agenda.. After the Cold War, Turkiye, the Black Sea, the Caucasus and Central Asia faced significant challenges and opportunities in geography. The Caucasus, which underwent a geopolitical upheaval after the collapse of the USSR, became the scene of a meeting between global and regional actors. This situation caused Turkiye to implement a more responsible policy, with the disappearance Turkiye's existing borders with Russia and the creation of borders with Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. It should be noted that the region is also important for Turkive in terms of energy resources.

Turkiye depends on this energy and is in an important position in delivering natural resources to the West. The South Caucasus, which has geopolitical importance throughout history, has maintained this position even after the collapse of the USSR. The Russian Federation attaches great importance to the South Caucasus in terms of ensuring its security, and often considers this region as its own. The region that needs to be mentioned does not end with the interests of Turkiye and the Russian Federation. as well as the USA, the West, and the EU countries, and Iran itself has great interest and claims in the region. In order to ensure the stability of the region, Western countries, including the United States, previously wanted to act as allies with the Russian Federation, but Russia's imperialist policy deterred them and they preferred cooperation with Turkiye [9, p. 62-63].

The evaluation of the Caucasian policies of the power centers from the perspective of Turkiye's foreign policy and the introduction of the policies that should be implemented by Turkiye in the region in terms of the concept of maximum profit and security are emerging. In addition to the strategic importance of the region for Eurasia, stability and prosperity in the South Caucasus region is of special importance in terms of Turkiye's own security and stability. It is possible to accept the South Caucasus as Turkiye's natural gateway to Central Asia [3, p. 92].

The Caucasus is a continuation and complement of Anatolian geography. Turkiye's geostrategic horizontal, strategic interest area extends to the Caucasus. The existence of the Turkish identity, the universal value and importance of the Turkish cultureforthefuture is really related to the developments in the Caucasus. The region can also be considered as a source of threat for Turkiye in terms of security. The problems and conflicts in the South Caucasus, especially the bad relations with Armenia, have made the region an important issue for Turkiye in terms of security.

It is a region where the power vacuum that emerged with the collapse of the South Caucasus-Soviet Union was found, and because of this, power struggles were experienced, significant instabilities emerged, and it is next to Turkiye and affects its national security with its national interests. In addition to being a region where

the Turkish republics with whom we are connected by geography, history, language, religion and culture participate, it is also a region where a large number of Turkish communities who are waiting for help to revive their identities and cultures due to the influence of nationalism trends that emerged after the collapse of the USSR. Communication with these Turkish states and associations, especially in Central Asia, is realized through the South Caucasus and the Caspian Sea. A strong Turkish world that wants to take secular and democratic Turkiye as a model, which has experienced the oppression of Russia for centuries and is willing to adopt the rules of free market economy, against Russian imperialism, is also important from the point of view of Turkiye's security. At the same time, Turkiye sees these states as a guarantee against the Russian Federation [8, p. 56].

At the time, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk had made very reasonable judgments about the future of the USSR, its collapse, and the post-Soviet all-Turkish solidarity, and he made predictions that proved to be sufficiently his speech on the 10th anniversary of the Republic of Turkiye (X.1933), he put forward a detailed program for the future. The main and principled provisions highlighted in the typical speech of that program can be summarized as follows Today, the Soviet Union is our friend, neighbor, ally, and we need this friendship but no one can tell what will happen tomorrow. Like the Ottoman Empire and Austria-Hungary, it can be divided and reduced, and the nations it now holds firmly in its hands can escape from its grasp The world can get a new order. Turkiye should know what to do at this time (Meaning, despite the historical foresight warning of Great Atatürk, Turkiye was not fully prepared for the international radical changes, especially the new conditions such as the collapse of the USSR). We have brothers with language, faith, and self (root) in the administration of this friend. We must be ready to take possession of them, not be ready and wait for that day in silence. It is necessary to prepare based on moral bridges. Language, faith and history are these bridges. We should not wait for them to approach us. We should approach them [5, p. 583]. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Turkiye recognized the independence of the countries of the South Caucasus without any discrimination and expressed its desire to cooperate with the countries of the region. It is impossible to think of Turkiye separately from the Caucasus. In addition to the influence of the Caucasus-Turkiye's international foreign policies, it also plays an important role in its internal politics with the presence of Turkish elements in the region The South Caucasus plays the role of a bridge in ensuring Turkiye's relations with Central Asian Republics. The South Caucasus will continue to form an important area of contact for Turkiye due to its geographical proximity, economic cooperation opportunities and natural resources.

The South Caucasus has historically been a bridge between the East and the West and maintains this importance today. The absence of this bridge means the disconnection of Turkiye's relations with the Turkic world. Nowadays, the Russian Federation, which is the legacy of the USSR, poses the biggest threat to Anatolia with all its power and imperialist traditions. Thus, the Caucasus region is increasing day by day as a zone of interest between Turkiye and Russia. Restoring the independence of the South Caucasus is important from the point of view of the security of Turkiye. The delivery of the rich underground resources of the region to the West through Turkiye is important for the continuation of the independence and sovereignty of the Turkish presence in the region.

We can basically group the politics of Turkiye and the Caucasus like this 1. Relations with the Russian Federation should be removed from the line of competition and conflict, the principle of respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs should be followed, and cooperation should be ensured in all areas. 2. Ensuring the security of the South Caucasus and making it a region of cooperation in all fields should be ensured. 3. The Central Asian and South Caucasian Republics should be helped to transition to democratization, free market economies and ensure their economic independence as fully independent and sovereign states, and cooperation with these countries should be implemented in all fields. 4. Azerbaijan should assisted in solving all problems, including Nagorno-Karabakh, which has just been liberated from Russia's sphere of influence. 5. Help should be provided to Central Asia through the Caucasus. 6. Turkiye's attitude towards Armenia after the Second Karabakh War should directly serve the interests of Azerbaijan. In particular, Turkiye should demand an official declaration by the Republic of Armenia with a document that the 1921 Kars and Moscow agreements are valid and that there are no claims of genocide with the land claim [5, p. 467].

#### **Turkiye's South Caucasus policy**

Turkiye's main targets in the Caucasus. 1. Bringing Caucasus, Central Asia and the Russian Federation to a safe state in terms of transport routes. 2. To turn the Caucasus into a buffer zone against the reoccurrence of Russian occupation. 3. To strengthen the Turkish economy, create comprehensive relations and use the economic potential of the region. In order to achieve these, create conditions for Armenia and Georgia to trust Turkiye, help solve the problems of Azerbaijan with Armenia and Georgia.. It should also help Azerbaijan get closer to Turkiye from a cultural, economic and social perspective. Developing relations considering that Georgia can be Turkiye's gateway to Central Asia. He should always be ready against risks and dangers that may come from Armenia.

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The main issue is the removal of the political and military presence of the Russian Federation from the Caucasus in the near future. Taking into account that the South Caucasus is the gateway to Central Asia for Turkiye, Turkiye can achieve its goals by closely participating in ensuring the security of Azerbaijan and Georgia, contrary to Russian interests in the South Caucasus. With the collapse of the USSR, the idea of the «Caucasus Union» put forward again by Turkiye in order to ensure political stability in the region should be evaluated as a positive step. When the union was proposed, the announcement was made by the Prime Minister of Turkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and it was shown that the real purpose of the «Union» is to create conditions for peace and tranquility in the region by bringing the states of the region together.

Erdoğan stated that the creation of this alliance would create conditions for the establishment of peace in the region. Baku promoted Tbilisi-Ceyhan, Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum, and Baku-Tbilisi-Kars projects as the best economic projects supporting regional peace and security. At that time, Erdogan expressed the need to increase the number of such projects and expand them in such a way as to connect all the people of the Caucasus. The Turkish side hoped that the «Caucasus Union» would be created, especially the Nagorno-Karabakh problem between Baku and Yerevan, which is the most painful problem of the region, would be completely eliminated. If we look at the history, when the European Coal and Steel Union was created, it was calculated to solve the current problems between Germany and France and make the war between the two countries unthinkable.

And today the reality was obvious, Germany and France, which are considered the architects of the European House, have not had any problems until today, and the ideas about the Caucasian house were formed before the idea of the European house. The ideas of «Caucasian House» and «Caucasian Union», which were put forward many times, were not always implemented because of the Armenians. The Nagorno-Karabakh problem should be considered a problem for Turkiye as well as a problem for Azerbaijan. The Second Karabakh war, which lasted for 44 days, clearly proved this. Unlike the international institutions, which were expected to help solve the problem in nearly 30 years, the Republic of Turkiye did not leave Azerbaijan alone even for a moment.

The problem was solved in a meaningful way in favor of Azerbaijan. The results of the second Karabakh war, the return of historical lands of Azerbaijan does not mean a complete solution to the problem. Armenia, which is a problem in the Caucasus and acts under the dictates of Russia, is the main source of instability. Armenia, Russia's strategic partner and its most loyal ally, will be neutralized only by the close cooperation of Turkiye, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The biggest advantage of Armenia, which does not have access

to the seas, is not geopolitically and strategically important, and does not have energy resources with rich underground and surface resources, is the presence of the Armenian diaspora living in Western countries such as Russia, the USA and France. Despite the fact that the South Caucasus has rich energy resources, the general economic situation in the region is weak, which causes the growth of many regional problems and creates an obstacle to solving them [6, p. 153]. Therefore, it will be difficult to solve other problems in the region without solving the economic problems.

#### Russia's permanent interests in the region

The well-known English diplomat, Lord Curzon, who directed the foreign policy of England for many years, made such an opinion at the time. Just as Russia has no claim to India, we should not have any claim to the Caucasus. This «sincere» geopolitical relationship is being broken today to some extent. After the collapse of the continental empire, its successor, the Russian Federation, had to face completely new realities that the «Soviet space» had not imagined. This process has been the subject of deep thought. comprehensive and different methodology for political scientists all over the world. S. Montesquieu, one of the philosophers of the 18th century, once said that small states are more often destroyed by the blow of an external enemy, and large states are destroyed by internal betrayal.

N.A. According to Nartov, in the future people will call Gorbachev, Yeltsin Ykovlev and G. Otrepyev traitors who destroyed their homeland [4, p. 360]. It is known that Russia was one of the leading states of the former USSR empire and is currently a political seat in the role of the successor of the mentioned empire. The South Caucasian republics were part of that empire - first Russia, then the USSR empire, and after gaining independence, they established relations with that independent Russia. Events show that the establishment of relations with a large neighboring state creates certain problems for the Caucasian republics. It is enough to mention geoideological concepts such as «Talysh card», «Lezgi card», «Avar problem», «Kurdish issue». The purpose of this is to implement geostrategy in the Caucasus.

The facts show that Moscow has no intention of abandoning its traditional foreign policy and political-ideological ambitions in the region. Russia believes that even though it is an object of competition, it should have the opportunity to geopolitically control the region. The main goal of Russian geopolitics is that the main pipelines to the region should still go from Russian territory to the Russian terminal located in Novorossiysk from the Black Sea By using this small advantage as a geopolitical influence, Russia hopes to stay in the region for a long time and use the new resources of the Caucasus Z. Brzezinski objectively noted that, on the contrary, if one of the pipes goes from the Caspian Sea to Azerbaijan, and then through

Turkiye to the Mediterranean Sea, and on the other side to the Arabian Sea through Afghanistan, there will be no single authority in the matter of regional control. This geopolitical point made Russian analysts think more. If the region cannot be fully controlled, the Russian political elite regrets that the resources of this place are developed by others [10, p. 155].

In any case, one fact is undeniable that Russia's political will and capital are too weak to allow foreign forces to influence and penetrate the region. At the same time, the common-sense political elite of this country understands that violence should not be allowed on the southern borders of Russia at a time when democratic processes are underway in the new states, because it could lead to an explosion. American politician T. Telbot notes that «Russians would do well to pay less attention to the image of Alexander Nevsky, who defeated the Swedish knights, and more to the idea of «Ganzei» of Novogorod merchants» [11].

Explaining his point more clearly, Z. Brzezinski writes that Russia can be either an empire or a democracy, but it cannot be both at the same time [3, p. 81]. «In the circumstances, Russia, as a state that wants to be influential in geopolitical games in the Caucasus, must first of all be able to present itself as a democratic government. In any case, this is due to the weakness of Russia at this stage. It is an undeniable fact that the Armenian-Azerbaijani Karabakh conflict in the Caucasus geopolitics had an impact on Russian-Azerbaijani relations in the region for a while as a factor of conflict. Russia's use of Armenia against our country did not bring any positive benefit to its security system of the Caucasus.

The tacit support of the Russian Federation to Armenia led to the continuation of the conflict for 30 years. Today's reality is not accepted unambiguously in Armenian society. It should be noted that the basis of the problems experienced in the Caucasus is the inability of the countries of the region to solve their own problems. Until now, Armenia has kept itself secure by prioritizing bilateral cooperation with Russia. He is trying to eliminate Georgia's security problem with the mutual support of the «Turkiye-US Caucasus Working Group». The Russian Federation, which aims to be the only power in determining the energy corridors in the region, includes various groups in the cycle in order to weaken Turkiye's influence in the region as for Turkiye-Azerbaijan relations, it is almost in a good condition. Turkiye maintains balanced relations with countries such as Russia, Iran, the Turkic Republics of Central Asia, and Georgia.

#### **Armenian factor**

Turkiye's return to the region was of course welcomed by Azerbaijan, and this return was considered a saving grace for Georgia. Armenia, as in all moments of history, was an exception. Thus, on August 23, 1990, Article 11 of Armenia's Declaration

Independence included of the international recognition of the genocide committed against Armenians in Ottoman Turkiye and Western Armenia, and the declaration of the Armenian Parliament in February 1991 that it did not recognize the borders established by the Kars Treaty, prevented the establishment of diplomatic relations. Also, because of the Karabakh conflict, the Turkish public was against the establishment of bilateral relations with Armenia. Despite this, Turkiye's foreign affairs department prioritized establishing relations with Armenia and recognized the independence of this state without any conditions on December 15, 1991. However, since Armenia persistently continued its aggressive policy against Turkiye, diplomatic relations between the two countries were not established [7, p. 43].

Even today, there are insurmountable barriers and obstacles in the normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations. To this day, diplomatic relations between the mentioned states are non-existent. Armenia, which tried to announce the fake Armenian genocide to the whole world during the Ottoman Empire in 1951, wants to make Turkiye accept this fact, and plays the role of an oppressed and helpless state that will exaggerate this issue and bring it to the attention of the ruling powers, thereby inflicting irreparable blows on its relations with Turkiye. Ermənistanın Türkiyəyə qarşı iddialarında yeddi sancağın Ermənistana verilməsi məsələsi heç də bu dövlətin xarici siyasətində erməni soygırımının tanıdılmasından az əhəmiyyət kəsb etmir. At the same time, President R. Kocharyan, who came to power in 1998, promised his people that this genocide issue would be brought to the international level and would become one of Armenia's foreign policy priorities.

Turkiye's South Caucasus policy has undergone new changes after the collapse of the USSR. Turkiye, which has a great influence in the Balkans, the Middle East and the Islamic world, was recognized by the regional states as a strong and distinguished state among the world states. From the point of view of Turkish foreign policy, the importance of the region is obvious. Considering its interest in the region, Turkiye should improve its relations with the region and speed up the existing projects in order to have a share in ensuring the stability and security of the region. In the region, relations with Azerbaijan and Georgia are highly developed and are developing.

In the course of the 44-day war, fundamental changes will take place in Turkiye's relations with Armenia, which has always supported Azerbaijan. Of course, it will depend on how Armenia, which left the war defeated, behaves. In the issue of the Zangezur Corridor, which has not been on the agenda for the last few days, if Armenia pursues an understanding policy and participates in the construction of the corridor, it will not be less profitable. As President Ilham Aliyev

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said, the corridor will be built whether the Armenians want it or not. It simply depends on the Armenians, if they want to win, if they don't want to, they will still lose. In this way, the South Caucasus policy will be settled for Turkiye, but Armenians' constant raising of genocide allegations and making them a topic of discussion have a negative impact on relations. Armenians should unequivocally abandon the issue of genocide, and in order to restore peace and security in the region, they should abandon their enmity against each other.

The biggest genocide committed in the world is the Khojaly genocide committed by Armenians at the end of the 20th century. But if the Azerbaijani side can accept living in Karabakh with the Armenians. of course it is obvious how difficult it is to get out of the blockade conditions in the Armenians. They will not prevent the construction of the Zangezur corridor, even if it is forced, in order to be integrated into Europe. Inciting and increasing historical enmity will not bring good for either Turkiye or Armenia. As for Azerbaijan, even if it did not continue the historical enmity, it should not forget what happened. The importance of Turkiye for the South Caucasus is very great. If Turkiye pays enough attention to the region and takes smart steps in terms of security, the region will become very important for Turkiye. Peace and tranquility in the Caucasus, which is a boiling pot for Turkiye, which is in the middle of geopolitical problems, is very important. Although it is difficult to ensure stability in the region in a short time. Turkiye should use all means to solve the problem. Turkiye should be extremely sensitive to this region, which constantly feels great interests and interventions. He should keep in mind all the balances related to the Caucasus.

In its relations with the region, Turkiye should avoid applying romantic and sudden policies under the influence of the public, and should continue to use smart approaches and guide itself with a realistic policy. The South Caucasus has great economic and political potential. The South Caucasus is of great importance to Turkiye in the South Caucasus Turkiye, which has close political, economic, social and cultural ties with the peoples of the Caucasus, ensuring peace, stability and cooperation in this region was one of the vitally important issues.. Today, the South Caucasus has created a bridge with Turkiye and brought its relations to a high level. The rapprochement between the countries of the South Caucasus and Turkiye seems to have lost its strength from time to time, but the discussion and alliances between them have shown continuity.

Siy This region, which is located in Azerbaijan, plays the role of a great bridge between Turkiye, which supports the South Caucasus from a political and economic point of view, and the Turkic world. This region, which is located in Azerbaijan, plays the role of a great bridge between Turkiye, which supports the South Caucasus from a political and economic point of view, and the Turkic world.

Conclusions. Thus, Turkiye's taking a more active position in the South Caucasus is in the interests of the entire region. The implementation of the double standards policy by the West proves that Turkiye, the major power, is directed to curb Armenian aggression. This proved itself again during the 44-day Second Karabakh war. Among the South Caucasian republics, Turkiye pays more attention to Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan, in its own way, trusted Turkiye more and tried to take advantage of its experience on the road to independence.

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## Цілі Туреччини на Південному Кавказі

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Напередодні розпаду Радянського Союзу Туреччина була однією з перших країн, які повернулися в регіон Південного Кавказу. У статті розглядається політика Туреччини щодо Південного Кавказу та її цілі в регіоні. У Туреччини серйозні цілі на Південному Кавказі. Серед них особливе місце займає недопущення Вірменії створити хаос у регіоні. У статті детально аналізуються цілі Туреччини на Південному Кавказі та значення Південного Кавказу для Туреччини. У статті також пояснюється, чому забезпечення миру, стабільності та співпраці в цьому регіоні є життєво важливим для Туреччини. Територія, де розташований Південний Кавказ, мала велике значення для Туреччини в усі періоди історії з точки зору наявних ресурсів. Регіон Південного Кавказу має стратегічне значення через те, що він є мостом між «Сходом і Заходом, Північчю і Півднем». За часів Радянського Союзу кавказькі республіки не були незалежними, між Туреччиною та цими республіками не було політичних, економічних чи культурних відносин. Після розпаду СРСР Туреччина, як і інші великі держави, почала формувати та реалізовувати свою політику щодо Південного Кавказу. Південний Кавказ історично був мостом між Сходом і Заходом і зберігає це значення сьогодні. Відсутність цього мосту означає розірвання відносин Туреччини з тюркським світом. Сьогодні Російська Федерація, яка є спадщиною СРСР, становить найбільшу загрозу для Анатолії з усією її могутністю та імперіалістичними традиціями. Таким чином, кавказький регіон з кожним днем стає зоною інтересів між Туреччиною та Росією. Відновлення незалежності Південного Кавказу є важливим з точки зору безпеки Туреччини. Крім того, широко аналізуються конфліктні інтереси Туреччини та Росії на Південному Кавказі. Стаття також відображає хаос, спричинений вірменським фактором у регіоні.

**Ключові слова:** міжнародний, мир, війна, переговори, кавказький дім, геополітика, інтеграція, світова єдність.