

Секция «Политические науки»

The South Caucasus Region and Caspian Basin: Challenges and Complication

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On the basis of geopolitical approach towards South Caucasus this region is located at the intersection of two geostrategic zones - Heartland and Rimland. During the Cold War Russia dominated on the South Caucasus and Caucasus performed the function of Hartland - a springboard for Russian to control Rimland. After The Collapse of the Soviet Union geopolitical status of the South Caucasus has changed - the region became part of the "gray zone", which is characteristic by power vacuum. Changing geopolitical status has created conditions for the emergence of the global geopolitical interests of the actors in the region. In the global geopolitical schemes for the South Caucasus provides a function of the buffer zone, and a springboard to expand their influence on the further space.

Caucasus-Caspian region was "left" by Russia after the Collapse of the Soviet Union. These countries have not have experience of implementing of their own foreign policies, that is why vacuum were created and as result many world powers started to implement their national interests here as well as trans-national corporations.

Polarization between great power priorities not related to the interests of the Caucasus and Caspian region themselves. Russia is trying to implement their policy on the region. She has military alliance with Armenia, support Abkhazian and South Ossetia views. Azerbaijan and Georgia have cultivated the geopolitical sponsorship of the United States or Turkey. United States regional goals are to contain Russia, isolate Iran, have control over Caspian recourses and develop pipeline policy suitable for them. However I don't think that US enlargement in the region contradicts to Russian interests. The enlargement of western institutions I see as contribution to regional security. Russia should understand that nowadays to have national interests do not mean to be against someone.

The pipeline politics is very complicated. Russia and USA are competing for access and market development as well as their geopolitics interests.

Caucasus-Caspian region as a geopolitical design is on the one hand a consequence of a chain reaction collapse of the USSR, and the other is the result of concerted efforts of a number of regional and extra-regional, global political and economic actors, aimed at political and economic dominance in the geostrategic area through various expansion, economic, cultural, information. The specifics of the Caucasus-Caspian geopolitical construct is defined by its border location, proximity to the southern flank of NATO, the immediate neighbors of the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia, the Caspian and Black Seas, the proximity of the region to oil wealth and the transnational Eurasian transport communications and power bridge, special strategic significance region for Russia, the presence within its borders centers of social and political instability, ethnic and religious differences.

The current configuration of the Caucasus-Caspian system of political relations determined by geopolitical (military-strategic, logistic), economic, ethnic and religious, demographic and environmental factors.

Many world powers are leading their competition in the Caucasus, but this “New Great Game” is harmful to the interests of regional’s people who are suffering from low level of life, wide-spread corruption (exclude Georgia), frozen conflicts and ets.

Enlargement of countries who are interested in Caucasus Caspian region is a threat to the future stability of the region. They have contradicted interests to each other that lead to the instability, possibilities of renewal of ethno-politic conflicts. Militarization of Caspian region, absence of consensus about status of Caspian region is a challenge for the normal peaceful development of the region.

Crossing of these interests does not encourage the mutual compromises and ways of working, but poured into sharper confrontation. Events of 2008 demonstrated the danger to world peace and the first, but not the only victims may become the region’s countries.

The war in the immediate vicinity of the strategic energy communications is highly undesirable for as Baku or Tbilisi or Yerevan. Apart from conflicts, the situation in the region could increase expectations of petrodollars unprecedented enrichment of small parts and poverty of majority. This horrific social polarization makes people to turn to religion and find answers to any extremist ideas, and also leads to mass emigration and migration.

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