

Название темы

Could “Entente” of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey be transformed into political-military alliance?

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INTRODUCTION

The relations between Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey have the deep historical roots, when Azerbaijan and Georgia in different periods of their history were the parts of Ottoman empire. But then after some cruel defeats of Ottoman empire, Azerbaijan and Georgia became the parts of Russian empire and the USSR. So the relations with Turkey were cut off. These relations were restored only after the dissolution of the USSR and appearing the new independent states – Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Turkey became one of the first states recognized these newly independent states. Such quick steps from Turkish side can be explained by the transformation of this region into the arena of interaction of different geopolitical and economical interests¹. Moreover, the presence of large oil and gas resources in Azerbaijan together with transit potential of Georgia make the control over both countries very important for more powerful states.

Turkey, as one of the regional powers and NATO members with the support of the USA had all the opportunities for building the close relations with Georgia and especially with Azerbaijan (taking into consideration the ethnic and cultural ties). For more than 20 years of Georgian and Azerbaijani independence Turkey considerably strengthened its position in the Caucasus and transformed into transport hub of energy resources².

The economical, political, humanitarian relations between Azerbaijan, Turkey and Georgia had developed so strong especially for the last several years, that some of the western scholars, analysts and observers began to characterize these relations like trilateral alliance or “Entente”³, especially after signing the Trabzon agreement in June of 2012⁴.

Though the most part of western scholars, analysts and observers don't mentioned term “Entente” in their works, but they insist that Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey are equally “pro-Western” countries and can create some kind of political- military alliance⁵.

¹ Эльдар Исмаилов, Владимир Папава «Центральный Кавказ», Москва, 2007

² Ibid p.130

³ Michael Hikari Cecire (the 16/10/2013 issue of the CACI Analyst)

⁴ <http://vesti.az/news/120315/news.php?id=141811>

⁵ Zaur Shiriyevev, Kornely Kakachia “Azerbaijani-Georgian relations”, SAM Review Volume 7-8, July 2013

But in this work I will try to determine - could “Entente” of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey be transformed into political-military alliance?

My hypothesis consists in that the relations between Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey cannot be transformed into political-military alliance in the nearest future. Rather, the relations between these states will keep their economical essence based on energy and transit transport routes tied Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey.

Moreover, in this work I argue with supporters of idea of “pro-Western” orientation of all these three countries – Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey.

In my reasoning I rely on theory of alliances and structure of international system.

Vladimir Socor “NATO perspectives in the Caucasus”; Alexander Murinson “Turkey’s Entente with Israel and Azerbaijan”, Routledge; Canan Atilgan, Kornely Kakachia “Georgian Foreign Policy. The Quest for Sustainable Security”, Tbilisi, 2013