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The Grand Strategy of President Ilham Aliyev as the Foreign Policy Foundation of Azerbaijan's Victory in the Second Karabakh War

The analysis of the role of Azerbaijan in the system of geopolitical interests of international actors was facilitated by the ideas of the Swedish geographer and statesman R. Cellen², the German scientist F. Ratzel, who introduced the concept of geopolitics into international science³, American Admiral A. Mahan, British geographer and politician X. Mackinder⁴, the German researcher K. Haushofer⁵, the classic of the American school of geopolitics R. Hartshorn⁶, the French geopoliticians J.K. Vallaud, P. Vidal de la Blache and J. Gottman⁷, who laid the foundations of geopolitics as a struggle of the state for its interests on the world stage.

Maintaining balanced relations with all the geopolitical actors of the Caspian-Black Sea region, Azerbaijan pursues a balanced policy towards the regional poles of power, not giving preference to any of them.

Azerbaijan's successful chairmanship in GUAM contributed to the growth of its soft power. For objective geopolitical and geo-economic reasons, Azer-

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² Р. Челлен, *О политической науке, ее соотношении с другими отраслями знания и об изучении политического пространства*, „Полис. Политические исследования” 2005, no. 2, p. 117.

³ F. Ratzel, *Politische Geographie*. München 1897, p. 752, https://openlibrary.org/books/OL6912167M/Politische_Geographie.

⁴ Х. Дж. Маккиндер, *Географическая ось истории*, „Полис” 1995, no. 4, pp. 162–169.

⁵ A. Dorpalen, *The World General Haushofer. Geopolitics in Action*, New York 1984.

⁶ R. Hartshorne, *Recent Developments in Political Geography*, “The American Political Science Review” 1935, vol. 29, no. 5, pp. 785–804.

⁷ R. Steuckers, A. Jacob, *The European Geopolitical Essays*, Manticore Press 2016.

baijan is practically the strategic locomotive of the GUAM Organization for Economic Development and Democracy. Almost all GUAM states associate with Azerbaijan the possibilities of ensuring their energy security. Strengthening this organisation and expanding its ties with regional and international organisations, as well as individual countries, is in the interests of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan's chairmanship in 2016 actively developed GUAM's cooperation with partner countries in the Baltic region. Azerbaijan developed the Declaration "Priorities of Cooperation between the Baltic Assembly and the GUAM PA for 2017–2019"⁸ and held many meetings at the GUAM Council level in the GUAM-USA and GUAM-Japan formats. In February 2016, training in the GUAM-Japan format on risk management was held in Japan⁹. Azerbaijan initiated GUAM political meetings and dialogues with the countries of the Visegrad Group, as well as with the countries of Scandinavia. The Republic of Azerbaijan has proposed and implemented many projects and programmes of cooperation with international organisations and partner States. Azerbaijan expanded the possibilities of diplomatic manoeuvres, thereby increasing the platform for active foreign policy actions to protect its national interests throughout the Caspian-Black Sea region.

Fearing the ever-increasing economic and military power of Azerbaijan against the background of its increasing geopolitical importance, especially the strengthening of partnership with Russia, Iran and Turkey, Armenia in 2015 adopted a new active military "doctrine of deterrence"¹⁰, by which the aggressors understood the shelling of Azerbaijani settlements. Azerbaijan's military potential made it possible to suppress the firing positions of the Armenian occupiers when they violated the ceasefire regime on the line of contact of the troops defined by the Bishkek Ceasefire Protocol¹¹.

Against the background of the non-recognition of the referendum in Crimea, in the context of an acute confrontation with the United States and increasing sanctions from the United States and the EU, Russia, under the

⁸ Decision on cooperation priorities the Baltic Assembly and the GUAM Parliamentary Assembly in 2017–2019, <https://guam-organization.org/reshenie-o-prioritetah-sotrudnichestva-na-2017-2019-gg-baltijskoj-assamblei-i-parlamentskoj-assamblei-guam>.

⁹ Программа председательства Азербайджанской Республики в Организации за демократию и экономическое развитие – ГУАМ 2016, <https://guam-organization.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/azerbaijan-chairmanship-2016.pdf>.

¹⁰ Т. де Валл, Кавказские пленники: как разрешить дилемму безопасности в Карабахе, <https://carnegie moscow.org/2016/07/12/ru-pub-64054>.

¹¹ *Dağlık Karabağ sorunu nasıl başladı? 26 yıl önce imzalanan ve kağıt üzerinde kalan Bışkek protokolü nedir?*, <https://www.sabah.com.tr/dunya/daglik-karabag-sorunu-nasil-basladi-26-yil-once-imzalanan-ve-kagit-uzerinde-kalan-biskek-protokolu-nedir-5175323>.

pretext of fighting the terrorist organisation ISIS, began military operations in Syria on September 30, 2015¹². Mark Thompson, an authoritative international columnist for Time magazine, wrote that as a result of the military operation conducted by Russia, “Not only Tehran but also Ankara openly joined the fight against ISIS in the region, which affected the entire strategy and layout of the confrontation in the Middle East”¹³. Drastic changes in Russia’s policy in the Middle East took place against the backdrop of the protracted conflict with Ukraine and far-reaching prospects for developing relations with Iran¹⁴. Azerbaijan has managed to reverse the negative trends in bilateral relations with Iran, Turkey’s traditional competitor in the Caucasus and the Middle East¹⁵. The strengthening of partnership with Iran and Turkey strengthened Azerbaijan’s geopolitical position in the Caspian-Black Sea region.

Ukrainian military expert I. Romanenko believes that the April 2016 war in Nagorno-Karabakh demonstrated the growth of Azerbaijan’s military potential and, most importantly, the brilliant possibilities of implementing accumulated strategic resources on the battlefield. “Azerbaijan has a strong defence sector and is fully ready to conduct military operations to liberate its territories”¹⁶. It became obvious to all the geopolitical factors of the Caspian-Black Sea region that Azerbaijan would have been able to regain its lands if, for many reasons, the fighting had not been stopped then. Nevertheless, due to the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan counteroffensive, thousands of hectares of Azerbaijani lands were liberated from Armenian aggression. “The April battles became a kind of message”, Azerbaijani President İlham Aliyev said, “A signal for the invaders: stop the occupation, leave, get out of our lands”¹⁷.

Three months after Azerbaijan’s victory in the April war in Baku, at the first trilateral meeting of the presidents of Russia, Iran and Azerbaijan, an important geopolitical and geo-economic decision was made to create a unique railway, automobile and Eurasian Sea transport corridor passing through the Caspian

¹² *Russian parliament unanimously approves use of military in Syria to fight ISIS*, <https://www.rt.com/news/317013-parliament-authorization-troops-abroad>.

¹³ M. Thompson, *Russia and Iran Fly Across a Key Threshold in the Middle East*, August 16, 2016, <https://time.com/4454681/russia-iran-fly-bombers-syria-middle-east>.

¹⁴ I.F. Kefeli, *Civilizational Space and Designing the Future*, “Eurasian integration: economics, law, politics” 2018, no. 3, p. 63.

¹⁵ С. Маркендов, *Азербайджан: «без друзей и без врагов»*, <https://globalaffairs.ru/articles/azerbajdzhan-bez-druzej-i-bez-vragov>.

¹⁶ Н. Бекиров, *Апрельская война 2016 года подтвердила мощь военного потенциала Азербайджана*, <http://armiya.az/ru/news/132454>.

¹⁷ İlham Əliyev: *Aprel döyüşləri işğalçılar üçün bir mesaj, bir siqnal idiki, işğala son qoyun*, <https://news.milli.az/politics/1039274.html>.

Sea. Summing up the results of the first year of work on the North-South project, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev emphasised at the summit in Tehran that “Azerbaijan is the only country in the world that has a land border with both Russia and Iran, and this geographical location, of course, dictates that we cooperate very successfully in all spheres. Economic cooperation, trilateral cooperation in the energy and transport sectors occupies a worthy place in the international arena”¹⁸.

In the article *The balance in the Caucasus is changing*, George Friedman highly appreciated the important geopolitical role of our country, which has changed the balance of power in the South Caucasus¹⁹. “Armenia, as a second-tier country, is no longer interesting. Russia is changing its direction, being an ally of Azerbaijan, not Armenia in the protracted Nagorno-Karabakh conflict”, Friedman wrote. In early August, Azerbaijan made a profitable bet by organising a meeting of the presidents of Iran and Russia at a summit in Baku. “North-South” will have a strong influence on the geopolitical order in the region²⁰.

The real multi-vector nature of President Ilham Aliyev’s foreign policy was manifested in Azerbaijan’s geopolitical initiative to form the “Caspian troika”, which in no way reduced its importance in the Black Sea region. The brilliant victory of Azerbaijan in the April 2016 war became a powerful political trigger for solving the problem of the status of the Caspian Sea and the fair division of its waters between the Caspian states. In August 2016, Azerbaijan initiated a new format for expanding regional cooperation in the Caspian region. Analysts at the Stanford Institute believe that he has acquired a serious geopolitical asset by organising a meeting of the presidents of Iran and Russia at the Baku summit. “Azerbaijan has made a profitable bet. “North-South” will strongly influence the geopolitical order in the region. The transport corridor will become an important geopolitical asset for Azerbaijan”.

Determining the Caspian Sea’s legal status has become relevant and necessary for the implementation of the North-South and East-West transport corridors. The Caspian Sea is the only sea not subject to the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea²¹. The complicated foreign policy games that lasted for almost 27 years to determine the political and legal status of

¹⁸ *Azərbaycan, İran və Rusiya prezidentlərinin mətbuata bəyanatları*, 1 noyabr 2017, <https://president.az/az/articles/view/25665>.

¹⁹ *Stratfor: Azerbaijan changing balance in Caucasus*, 2016, <https://avim.org.tr/en/Bulten/STRATFOR-AZERBAIJAN-CHANGING-BALANCE-IN-CAUCASUS>.

²⁰ *Ibidem*.

²¹ *Глобальная геополитика. Колл. монография / Под редакцией И.И. Абылгазиева*. – М.: Изд. МГУ. 2017, p. 280.

the Caspian Sea were a logical consequence of the struggle for hydrocarbon resources and the diversification of energy supplies from the region. A serious challenge to the development of acute foreign policy discussions into military-political decisions was the factor of the simultaneous presence of the navy of five states in the Caspian Sea, including our state.

It should be noted that the Constitution of Azerbaijan, developed under the leadership of national leader Heydar Aliyev, in order to protect national interests, approved the right to the national sector of the Caspian Sea, thereby securing the main oil fields for Azerbaijan²². At the beginning of this paper, we wrote about the new significant role of regional leaders, it is significant that it was Azerbaijani President İlham Aliyev at the Baku Summit in 2010 who initiated the agreement reached on the width of the national zone, including the Caspian water area under the sovereignty of the coastal state. At the Baku summit, the "Agreement on Cooperation in the field of security in the Caspian Sea" was signed, which is important from the point of view of security and maintaining stability in the region²³. Speaking at the summit, President İlham Aliyev stressed that "For the first time in Baku, sovereignty zones were conceptually agreed at a high level. The Summit also defined the basic principles of cooperation of the Caspian states on the Caspian Sea. These principles include respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of states, the transformation of the Caspian Sea into a zone of peace, good neighbourliness and friendship"²⁴. For Azerbaijan, confirming its sovereign rights to territorial integrity is extremely important in the international legal aspect. Article 11 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan stipulates that the "internal waters of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the sector of the Caspian Sea (lake) belonging to the Republic of Azerbaijan, the airspace over the Republic of Azerbaijan are constituent parts of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan"²⁵.

Iran is the only country that has not yet completed the ratification of the Caspian Convention and has transferred the problems of delimitation and demarcation of the Caspian seabed to the level of bilateral relations. It is im-

²² *Azərbaycan Respublikasının Konstitusiyası Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti Heydər Əliyevin sədrliyi ilə Azərbaycan Respublikasının yeni Konstitusiyaya layihəsini hazırlayan komissiya tərəfindən hazırlanmış, 1995-ci il noyabrın 12-də ümumxalq səsverməsində (referendumda) qəbul edilmişdir. 1995-ci il noyabrın 27-dən qüvvəyə minmişdir*, <http://www.e-qanun.az/framework/897>.

²³ İlham Əliyev Xəzəryanı dövlətlərin dövlət başçılarına V Zirvə toplantısında iştirak edib, <https://president.az/az/articles/view/29673>.

²⁴ İlham Əliyev Xəzər üzrə Konvensiyanın imzalanması haqqında, 2018, <https://president.az/articles/29675>.

²⁵ *Azərbaycan Respublikasının Konstitusiyası*, <https://www.e-qanun.az/framework/897>.

portant to note that in the “Caspian Five”, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are connected by the fact that among the Caspian countries, only these two countries have been active members of the Organization of Turkic States since its creation. After the events in Ukraine, Kazakhstan increased oil exports through the pipeline systems of Azerbaijan, increased the transit of goods by container transportation, and signed an agreement with the national concern “Baku Shipbuilding Plant” to construct tankers for the Kazakh fleet.

After the victory in the Second Karabakh War, dividing the Caspian Sea between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan began to develop intensively, and the dispute over the Dostlug deposit, which began in the 90s of the twentieth century, was settled. President Ilham Aliyev at a meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in 2016, stressed the role of Azerbaijan in ensuring the energy security of Europe and the special importance of the Southern Gas Corridor, revealing his state position in difficult relations with Turkmenistan. “We are ready to consider the possibility of transit from the eastern part of the Caspian Sea, but transit states (i.e., Azerbaijan) should not be the initiators, and the construction of the Trans-Caspian gas corridor should be of greater interest to gas suppliers”²⁶.

It is important to note that despite the rather difficult relations with Turkmenistan, up to the threats of the former leader of Turkmenistan, S. Niyazov, to solve the problem by military means, the foreign policy of our state was aimed at finding a mutually beneficial compromise. It is significant that during Azerbaijan’s membership in the UN Security Council, it was our state, showing goodwill, that co-authored the UN General Assembly Resolution “On the Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan”²⁷.

Even quite often biased Russian experts believe that the changes in Ashgabat’s negotiating position on the disputed field are caused by the influence of the results of the Victory, “as a result of which Azerbaijan demonstrated its capabilities to ensure the security of the energy infrastructure created in the European direction. For Baku, the end of the active phase of the conflict eliminated the threat to the regional energy infrastructure and opened up new opportunities to strengthen its position in the European energy markets by establishing a dialogue with Ashgabat”²⁸.

²⁶ İlham Əliyevin və Almaniyanın Kansleri Angela Merkelin görüşü olub. 07 iyun 2016, <https://president.az/az/articles/view/20231/images>.

²⁷ *Turkmenistan Approves Basic Directions of Foreign Policy Strategy until 2012*, <http://www.turkmenistan.ru/en/node/6829>.

²⁸ В. Кондратьев, *Азербайджано-туркменское соглашение по месторождению «Дружба» и его влияние на геоэкономику каспийского региона* Геоэкономика энергетики, 2021, no. 2 (14), p. 98.

Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan are one of the initiators of the creation of a transport communication system along the Caspian Sea-Black Sea line, which is becoming the most important continental highway between Asia and Europe [The Geopolitics of the Lapis Lazuli Corridor]²⁹. Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan are actively working on effectively functioning the Lapis Lazuli transport corridor. Thanks to this, the Baku International Commercial Sea Port has become one of the main transshipment points of this transport route³⁰.

Azerbaijan is working with Turkmenistan within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Dostlug field signed in January 2021. It is important that the Memorandum, based on the formula proposed by Azerbaijan³¹, aims to regulate cooperation in the field of joint exploration, development and development of hydrocarbon resources of the field, which, in turn, allows us to move on to a practical solution to the issue of delimitation. Turkmenistan's cooperation with Azerbaijan and Turkey in international transit flows strengthened the influence of the Organization of Turkic States in the Caspian-Black Sea region. Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are connected in the "Caspian Five" by the fact that among the Caspian littoral countries, only these two countries have been active members of the Organization of Turkic States since its creation. While Turkmenistan only received observer status in 2021. The strategic partnership between Azerbaijan and Turkey has opened the way for agreements on withdrawing Turkmen gas to the markets of Turkey and Europe³².

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Dostlug field by the expert community, in particular, the Atlantic Council of the Global Energy Centre, is considered the beginning of the implementation of the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline project, which increases the energy security of European countries. The importance of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan in producing and transporting gas produced in the Caspian Sea was confirmed at the VI Summit of the Heads of State of the Caspian countries held in Ashgabat in June 2022³³. Implementing this project will also strengthen the geopoliti-

²⁹ *The Geopolitics of the Lapis Lazuli Corridor*, "The Diplomat", <https://thediplomat.com/2017/12/the-geopolitics-of-the-lapis-lazuli-corridor>.

³⁰ İlham Əliyevlə Türkmənistan Prezidenti Qurbanqulu Berdiməhəmmədov arasında video konfrans formatında görüş keçirilib, <https://president.az/az/articles/view/50307/images>.

³¹ С. Притчина, *Какова роль Турции на Каспии - отвечает эксперт*, <https://az.sputniknews.ru/20210213/azerbaijan-kaspy-turkey-iran-turkmenistan-426218227.html>.

³² *Turkey Expresses Readiness to Deliver Gas from Turkmenistan to Europe*, <https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/turkey-expresses-readiness-to-deliver-gas-from-turkmenistan-to-europe-2021-2-27-0>.

³³ İlham Əliyev *Aşqabadda Xəzəryanı Dövlətlərin Dövlət Başçılarının VI Zirvə Toplantısında iştirak edib*, 29 iyun 2022, <https://president.az/az/articles/view/56573>.

cal position in the region of Turkey, Azerbaijan's most important strategic ally, and will contribute to the expansion of its influence in the countries of Central Asia. "The transportation of Dostlug hydrocarbon resources intended for export to the international market will be carried out on competitive terms using Azerbaijan's existing transport transit systems"³⁴.

In modern conditions, the Caspian-Black Sea region is of exceptional importance for such states as Russia, China, the USA, Iran, Turkey, and the countries of the European Union. We can agree with E. Asadova's thesis about an active political dialogue between Azerbaijan and the Central Asian states. "Each of the Central Asian countries interacts with the Republic of Azerbaijan within the CIS in its own format. It should be noted that all Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan are not only members of the CIS, but also participate in the NATO Partnership for Peace programme"³⁵.

Azerbaijan's victory has intensified US activity in the Caspian region. In 2021, the American Military Center for Caspian Policy, which monitors military activities in the Caspian Sea, for the first time since 2017, in its annual report, determined the maximum increase in the geostrategic importance of the Caspian region³⁶.

Recognising Azerbaijan's special role in ensuring the energy security of the European Union as an exporter and transit of hydrocarbons, it was the United States that contributed to the expansion of the dialogue between the political leadership of our country and Turkmenistan. The US and the EU consider Turkey a strategic partner in exporting Azerbaijani hydrocarbons³⁷.

Participation in implementing new pipelines "Allowed us to count on becoming an energy hub at the crossroads between the Caspian region, the Middle East and Europe"³⁸. This geo-economic factor contributes to strengthening Turkey's position in the Caspian basin, which is certainly important for Azerbaijan. Economic integration and geopolitical alliance with Turkey naturally also ensure the development of ethnic affinity, which contributes to the

³⁴ М. Османов, Прикаспийский регион: перспективы интеграции, <http://dagpravda.ru/politika/prikaspijskij-region-perspektivy-integracii>.

³⁵ Э.А. Асадова, Азербайджан и центральная Азия: возрождение великого шелкового пути, „Juvenis scientia” 2017, pp. 19–22.

³⁶ M.S. Repass, *The Caspian Basin: why it matters in great power competition*, "A Caspian Policy Center Special Policy Brief by Major General U.S." 2021, <https://www.caspianpolicy.org/research/policy-brief/the-caspian-basin-why-it-matters-in-great-power-competition-12479>.

³⁷ *Turkish-Azerbaijani Energy Relations: Significant Leverage in the Implementation of the Foreign Policy Interests of Both Countries*, "Insight Turkey" 2015, vol. 17, no. 2.

³⁸ Y. Kim, S. Blank, *The new great game of Caspian energy in 2013–14: Turk Stream, Russia and Turkey*, "Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies" 2015, vol. 18, no. 1.

strengthening of Turkic unity. Taken together, geo-economic and ethnic factors created “the same Turkish barrier in the south of the Caucasian Ridge”, admits the authoritative political scientist S. Zhiltsov, “which Russia has always tried to break through in the North Caucasus”³⁹.

In the Caspian-Black Sea region, the interests of geostrategic actors, the national interests of regional actors, and the geopolitical interests of extra-regional countries are clashing in the struggle for control over the strategically important main routes of transport corridors between the West, East, North and South. It is important to note that at the present post-war stage, international competition for regulating logistics of transport corridors is intensifying. Georgian political scientist G. Dvali claims that because of the agreements between Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Georgia is afraid of becoming useless to anyone. The strengthening of Azerbaijan’s geo-economic and geostrategic positions in the functioning of the North-South and East-West transport corridors is associated with the Zangezur Corridor, the intersection point of major transport routes. The geopolitical importance of Azerbaijan directly correlates with the objective need in global parameters to increase all types of transport corridors and differentiate transport networks for access to regional and continental markets. The instrument of institutionalisation of national geostrategic engineering is the policy of Azerbaijan as a multimodal logistics centre capable of increasing or limiting traffic through transport communications. Transit routes are a means of institutionalising the guiding vectors of Azerbaijan’s geostrategic engineering.

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³⁹ С.С. Жильцов, *Энергетическая политика Турции в Каспийском регионе*, “Геоэкономика энергетики” 2021, no. 2, pp. 32–47.

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The Grand Strategy of President Ilham Aliyev as the Foreign Policy Foundation of Azerbaijan’s Victory in the Second Karabakh War

Summary

The growing geopolitical dynamics in the South Caucasus and the Caspian-Black Sea basin region and the role of Azerbaijan as an undisputed regional leader in this space appear to be an urgent trend in international relations. Azerbaijan is not a member of either NATO or the CSTO, fighting for leadership in this region. But at the same time, Azerbaijan is successfully developing bilateral and multilateral relations with the participating states of these military-political alliances. Armenia, as a member of the CSTO, and Georgia, which has officially included the goal of joining NATO in the Basic Laws of their country, to a certain extent, can produce a degree of inter-bloc competition to solve their own problems. Azerbaijan can objectively reduce the risks of geopolitical tension in the region by promoting a peaceful cooperation agenda through inter-bloc communication. Under the leadership of the President of Azerbaijan, Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan was the first in the post-Soviet space to resolve an interstate conflict within the framework of international law. Systemic and structural-functional methods are used in the geopolitical, geostrategic and geo-economic analysis of the role of Azerbaijan in the studied region, the development and

implementation of the Grand Strategy of President Ilham Aliyev and the main directions of national geoengineering at the present stage of development of Azerbaijan. The comparative method is used to analyse the main trends in international relations based on the study of international, international legal, and foreign documents and materials.

Keywords: South Caucasus, Azerbaijan, geopolitical tension, Second Karabakh War, Grand Strategy

Гранд стратегия президента Ильхама Алиева как внешнеполитический фундамент победы Азербайджана во второй карабахской войне

Резюме

Нарастающая геополитическая динамика в регионе Южного Кавказа и Каспийско-Черноморского бассейна и роль на этом пространстве Азербайджана как неоспоримого регионального лидера, предстает актуальным трендом международных отношений. Азербайджан не является членом ни НАТО, ни ОДКБ, которые борются за лидерство в этом регионе. Но при этом Азербайджан успешно развивает двусторонние и многосторонние отношения с государствами-участниками этих военно-политических альянсов. Армения как член ОДКБ и Грузия, официально включившая в Основной закон своей страны цель вступления НАТО, в определенной мере могут продуцировать градус межблоковой конкуренции для решения собственных задач. Снижать риски геополитической напряженности в регионе объективно может Азербайджан, продвигая мирную повестку сотрудничества посредством содействия межблоковой коммуникации. Под руководством Президента Азербайджана Верховного главнокомандующего Ильхама Алиева Азербайджан первым на постсоветском пространстве решил межгосударственный конфликт в рамках норм международного права.

Системный и структурно-функциональный методы используются в геополитическом, геостратегическом и геоэкономическом анализе роли Азербайджана в изучаемом регионе разработке и реализации Гранд-стратегии Президента Ильхама Алиева и основных направлений национального геополитического геополитического на современном этапе развития Азербайджана. Компаративный метод применяется при анализе основных тенденций в международных отношениях на основе изучения международных, международно-правовых, зарубежных документов и материалов.

Ключевые слова: Южный Кавказ, Азербайджан, геополитическая напряженность, Вторая Карабахская война, Великая стратегия