

THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS REGION

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The South Caucasus region, comprising Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia, is located at a critical geostrategic intersection between Europe and Asia. Bordered by the Caspian and Black Seas, the region plays a vital role in international energy security and global transportation networks.

Initiatives such as the Middle Corridor and China's Belt and Road Initiative underscore its growing importance as a key transit hub for East-West and North-South energy and trade flows.

The strategic location of the region has also attracted the attention of major geopolitical actors including Turkey, Iran, and Russia, whose foreign policies are increasingly tied to developments in the South Caucasus.

Pakistan, located in South Asia, shares similar geostrategic importance as a link between South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. Pakistan's foreign policy emphasizes economic diplomacy and multilateral engagement as part of its national security strategy. Within this framework, the South Caucasus has become an area of growing interest for Islamabad.

Pakistan enjoys strong and expanding ties with Turkey and Azerbaijan, based on strategic and cultural affinities, and supports the trilateral Turkey-Azerbaijan-Pakistan cooperation format. Relations with Georgia are primarily economic, while Pakistan does not recognize Armenia and maintains no diplomatic relations with it. Cooperation with Russia is expanding in the fields of trade, defense, and energy, particularly through the North-South Gas Corridor. Iran, while a potential partner, also poses strategic challenges due to its alignment with India and Armenia.

Overall, Pakistan's engagement in the South Caucasus reflects its ambition to strengthen its geopolitical position in South Asia. However, India's deepening influence in the region, particularly through cooperation with Iran and Armenia, presents a major counterbalance to Pakistan's strategic objectives.

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