

NEAR EAST UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

MASTER'S THESIS

TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION TOWARDS
SOUTH CAUCASUS AFTER 1991

Submitted by

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**We certify that the thesis is satisfactory for the award of the Degree of Master
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ABSTRACT

TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION TOWARDS SOUTH CAUCASUS AFTER 1991

Prepared by **Isbandiyar Hashimov**

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The main issues in this Master Thesis will be about the role of Turkey on the formation of regional relations on the South Caucasus. In my paper, I am going to discuss ethnic conflicts in the South Caucasus and the role of Turkey in the peace process and also energy policy of Turkey and energy projects in the South Caucasus and Caspian Basin. Turkey has contributed to peace and stability in the South Caucasian region and promoted the South Caucasian countries' political, economic and social reformations, establishment of market economy in the region. Turkey also supports the purposes of these countries for cooperation with the EU and NATO. In this respect, Turkish foreign policy towards South Caucasus have always been to provide regional security, prosperity, friendly, good neighborly relations and its main objective is to create mutual dependence between regional states.

Because of its close historical and cultural relations with the South Caucasus countries, establishing and maintaining friendly and mutually beneficial relations in this region and stable and developed South Caucasus region has become one of Turkey's foreign policy goals. Turkey always wants to maintain regional stability and supports the strengthening of these nations' independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Because, any instability in the South Caucasian region can easily spill over into Turkish territory and not only disturb South Caucasian states but also Turkey and other international actors. Therefore, Turkey tries to play the role of a mediator in the regional conflicts and contributes to the peace and stability.

Energy is also one of the important factors of Turkish foreign policy towards this region. Uninterrupted transport of Caspian oil and gas through Baku-Tblisi-Ceyhan (BTC) and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum (BTE) pipelines also depend on stability in the South Caucasian region. In this context, one of the main objectives of Turkey in the South Caucasian region is to ensure the continuous flow oil and gas into west markets.

Keywords: Turkey, South Caucasus, energy policy, ethnic conflicts, geopolitics, CSCP.

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ABBREVIATIONS

- AIOC:** Azerbaijan International Operation Company
- Bcm:** Billion cubic meters
- BTC:** Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan
- BTE:** Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum
- BTK:** Baku- Tbilisi-Kars
- BSEC:** Black Sea Economic Cooperation
- BP:** British Petroleum
- BOTAS:** Petroleum Pipeline Corporation
- CEIR:** Ceyhan Energy Industry Region
- CIS:** Commonwealth of Independent States
- CSCP:** Caucasus Stability and Cooperation Platform
- CSTO:** Collective Security Treaty Organization
- EAPC:** Euro Atlantic Partnership for Cooperation
- ENP:** European Neighborhood Policy
- EU:** European Union
- EUMM:** European Union Monitoring Mission
- FDI:** Foreign Direct Investment
- FTA:** Foreign Trade Agreement
- GUEU:** Georgia-Ukraine-European Union Pipeline
- INOGATE:** Interstate Oil and Gas Pipelines Transport to Europe
- IEA:** International Energy Agency
- LNG:** Liquefied Natural Gas
- MENR:** Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
- MoU:** Memorandum of Understanding
- NATO:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- OECD:** Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- OPEC:** Organization of Petroleum Exporting Cooperation
- OSCE:** Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
- PKK:** Kurdistan Worker's Party
- PPF:** Partnership for Peace
- SOCAR:** State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic
- SCP:** South Caucasus Pipeline
- TAV:** Tefe Afken Ventures

TIKA: Turkey International Cooperation and Development Agency

TPOA: Turkish Petroleum Cooperation

TRACECA: Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia

UK: United Kingdom

UN: United Nations

UNOMIG: United Nations Observer Missions in Georgia

UNSC: United Nations Security Council

USA: United States of America

USSR: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics