



RSC Analytical Briefing Armenia Adjusts to the New Post-War Reality

Richard Giragosian

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RSC Staff Study Trips

- *February 2024*: Istanbul & Ankara to support “normalization” between Armenia & Turkey; follows earlier visits in February & May 2023
- *March 2024*: New York & Washington to promote U.S. interest & investment in Armenia
- *April 2024*: Paris & Brussels to present policy recommendations for Armenia-EU relations; follows previous November 2023 study visit
- *June 2024*: Seminar on diplomatic negotiations & trade/transport “connectivity” with Azerbaijanis in Rome, sidelines of NATO Defense College

Briefing Issues

- The New Post-War Reality
- The Status of Armenia-Azerbaijan Negotiations
- Armenia-Turkey “Normalization”
- The “Day After”
- The Broader Context: Trends & Triggers

Dangerous Precedents

- Azerbaijani victories seemingly vindicate use of force over diplomacy
 - Use of force validated by 2020 War, imposition of blockade & September 2023
- Apparent victory of authoritarian power over weaker democracy
 - Challenges Western values & may undermine confidence in democracy

Armenia-Azerbaijan: Power Exchange & Role Reversal

- Armenian weakness & little leverage
- Azerbaijani “maximalist” position & posture
- Demise of deterrence

Armenia-Azerbaijan Bilateral Negotiations Pursuing a Peace Treaty



Armenia-Azerbaijan Negotiations

Format, Process & Agenda

- *Three Distinct Diplomatic Tracks:*
Brussels; Washington; Moscow

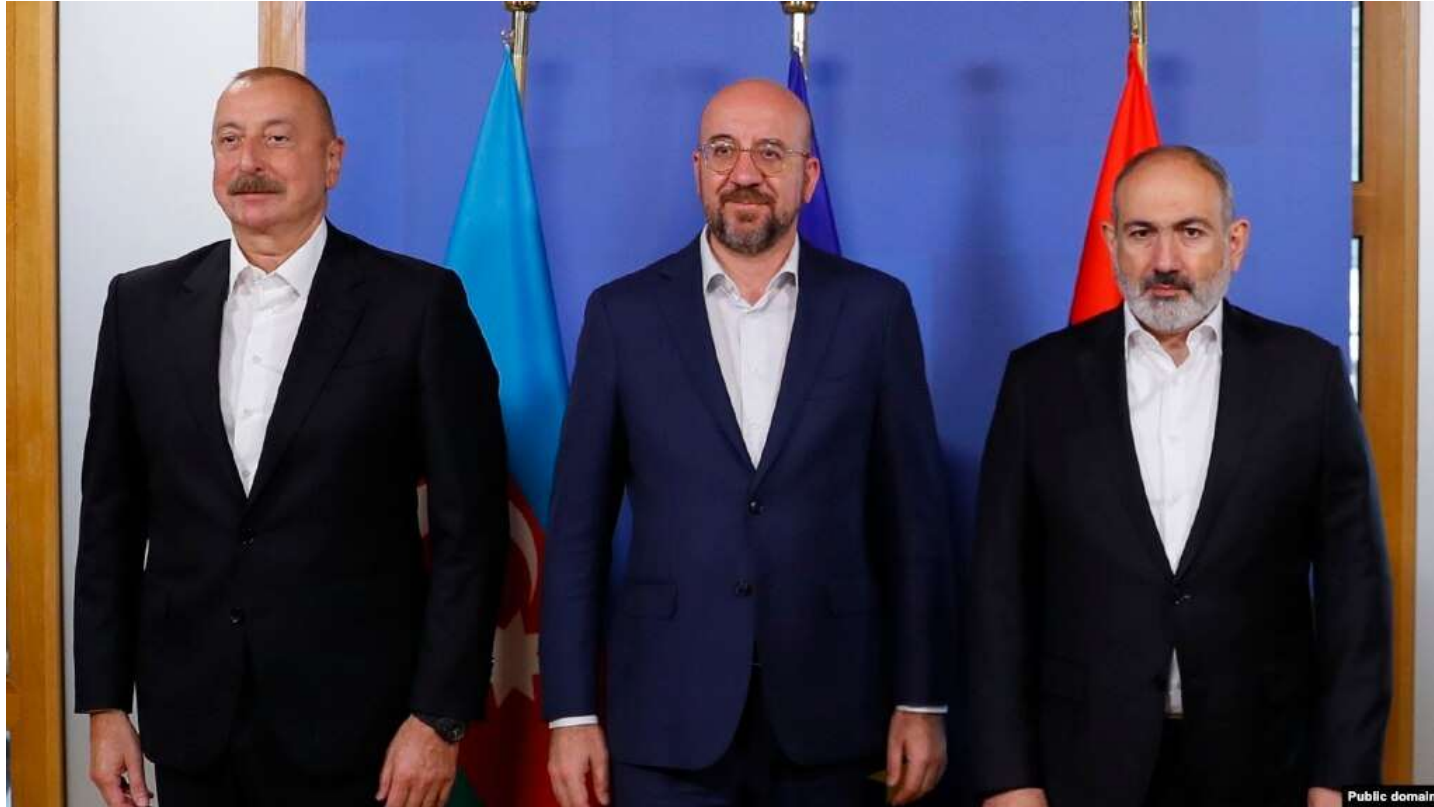
- *Three Issues:*

Drafting Bilateral Peace Treaty

Border Demarcation & Delineation

Restoration of Trade & Transport

Brussels: Facilitation



- Facilitating, not mediating negotiations
- Providing platform for engagement of Armenian & Azerbaijani Heads of State

Washington: US Engagement



- Guiding multi-day talks between Armenian & Azerbaijani foreign ministers over drafting bilateral, inter-state peace treaty
- Critical staff support to bolster the process

Moscow: Reaction & Response



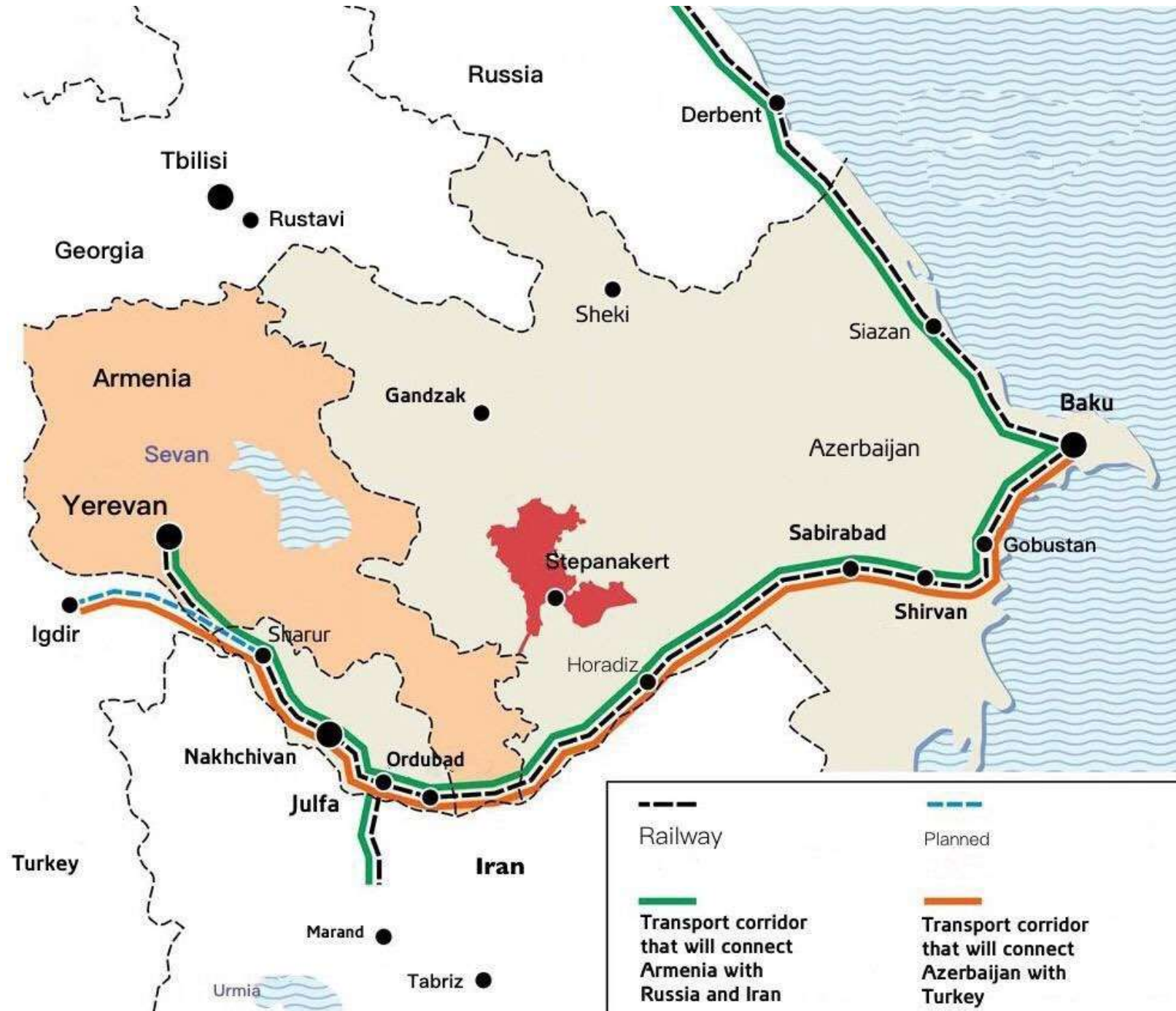
- Distracted & overwhelmed by failed invasion of Ukraine, Moscow has lost the diplomatic initiative to the West and struggles to demonstrate relevance

Armenia-Turkey “Normalization”



- What it is/what it is not
- Obstacles/Impediments
- Strategic Context

Connectivity: Trade & Transport



Trends & Triggers

- Azerbaijan's appetite
- Russia's revenge
- Risk of unrealistic strategic expectations
- Necessity to regain deterrence

Conclusion

Longer-Term Outlook

- Russia as “storm on the horizon”
- Legitimacy & democracy
- Stability & balance of power



For more information:

Richard Giragosian
Director

Regional Studies Center (RSC)

Yerevan, Armenia

Director@regional-studies.org



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