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Azerbaijan and regional security: from war to peace architecture

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The security environment in the South Caucasus, shaped by Azerbaijan, faces major challenges including the activity of Armenian revisionist groups, border clashes, and humanitarian demining issues. These factors hinder the establishment of peace and stability in the region. Additionally, the conflicting interests of regional powers such as Iran and Russia complicate the geopolitical landscape and create further risks. The increased involvement of the West and Turkey intensifies geopolitical rivalry, disrupting the existing balance and threatening long-term stability. Against these challenges, Azerbaijan's multivector and balanced policy, strengthened regional dialogue, and increased mutual trust emerge as key pathways forward.

The signing of the Shusha Declaration with Turkey deepened the allied relations and enhanced military and political cooperation. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan's active role in the Non-Aligned Movement and increased engagement within platforms like the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Turkic Council demonstrate the diversity of its diplomacy. Azerbaijan's role in energy and transport diplomacy has significantly increased. The Southern Gas Corridor plays a crucial role in Europe's energy security and expands Azerbaijan's export potential. The Zangezur and Middle Corridors position the country as a strategic transit hub in global transportation routes.The modernization of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces and intensified military cooperation with Turkey have consolidated its leadership position in the regional security architecture. Concurrently, Azerbaijan continues its diplomatic efforts aimed at normalizing relations with Armenia through peace initiatives.Within the framework of humanitarian diplomacy and reintegration strategy, the "Great Return" program serves as the primary platform for the reconstruction of liberated territories and the repatriation of internally displaced persons. Mine clearance, mobilization of international support, human rights protection, and the preservation of ethnic and religious diversity are priority areas in post-conflict reconstruction. In conclusion, following the Karabakh conflict, Azerbaijan has shaped a new geopolitical strategy based on multivector, balanced, and flexible policies to ensure regional stability and development. This strategy secures the defense of national interests and broadens international cooperation, further strengthening Azerbaijan's position as a regional leader.

Key words: *regional security, border clashes, demining, geopolitical rivalry, regional stability, peace process, diplomatic balance, security architecture*.

Introduction. Relevance of the topic. Azerbaijan's military-political success in the Second Karabakh War of 2020 resulted in a fundamental change in the existing security system and geopolitical order in the South Caucasus. This new reality has begun to reshape the mutual relations of the regional states, the balance of power, and the positions of international actors. Azerbaijan has not only restored its territorial integrity, but has also begun to act as one of the initiators of sustainable peace and stability in the post-conflict period. Currently, the normalization of Azerbaijani-Armenian relations, the delimitation of borders, the implementation of projects such as the Zangezur corridor, military-strategic cooperation with Turkey, as well as the competition for the sphere of influence of Russia, Iran, the West, and other powers in the region are shaping a new security agenda. In this regard, a systematic study of Azerbaijan's regional security policy and peace initiatives is extremely relevant.

The purpose of the article is to analyze the security strategies and peace initiatives implemented by Azerbaijan in the post-war period, to examine how this policy has affected the establishment of regional stability, cooperation and long-term security architecture. The study also aims to examine Azerbaijan's proactive and balancing role against the backdrop of geopolitical changes in the region. The purpose of this study is to identify the main directions of the new security and peace policy formulated by Azerbaijan after the war, to assess the impact of this policy on regional stability, integration initiatives and geopolitical balances. The article also analyzes the reaction of regional powers, its effects on the security architecture and Azerbaijan's strategic position in this context. The aim is also to show the practical results of Azerbaijan's proactive diplomacy and discuss the potential application of this model for other conflict regions. Azerbaijan's military victory in 2020 was not only a strategic turning point, but also resulted in the collapse of the existing status quo and the emergence of new realities in the security system of the region. This new stage necessitated large-scale changes not only in the military field, but also in diplomatic, economic and humanitarian directions. Azerbaijan's peace initiatives are of great importance in terms of ensuring stability and sustainable development in the region. Against the backdrop of normalization with Armenia, opening of regional corridors, restoration of international law and the activation of geopolitical actors (Russia, Iran, Turkey, EU and USA), Azerbaijan's role has become more decisive than ever. In this regard, the analysis of Azerbaijan's regional security policy,

determination of the contours of the peace architecture and forecasting of future risks are of urgent scientific and practical importance.

Methodological approach. The study used systematic and comparative analysis methods, and applied both a historical approach (development of the regional security environment from the 1990s to the present day) and an event-analysis method (based on key processes and documents after 2020). The source base consists of local and international scientific articles, official state documents, expert assessments, reports of international organizations and studies of analytical centers. References are given in APA style.

Main part. The South Caucasus region has faced serious geopolitical upheavals in recent decades, and these processes have been accompanied by both threats and opportunities, especially for Azerbaijan. The Second Karabakh War of 2020 once again exposed the cracks in the existing security architecture in the region. In the post-war period, Azerbaijan began to act as one of the initiators of regional stability and took conceptual and institutional steps towards peace.

The issue of security for the South Caucasus region, especially for Azerbaijan, is a complex concept that includes not only military and border security, but also geopolitical, economic and humanitarian aspects. The region's strategic location – a transit space connecting Europe and Asia, an access point to energy resources, and at the same time, its location within the sphere of influence of regional powers – Russia, Iran, and Turkey – makes Azerbaijan a crucial actor in the regional security architecture.

The 44-day Second Karabakh War, which took place in 2020, not only resulted in the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, but also created serious changes in the regional balance of power. The conflict situation, frozen for many years, has now entered a new phase, and this new reality necessitated a rethinking of the region's security system. The war also clearly revealed the role of international law, the positions of regional and global actors, and how the dynamics of peace and conflict can change.

Currently, Azerbaijan is not satisfied with military victory alone in the post-war period, but is pursuing a multi-pronged policy aimed at building a peace architecture based on more stable and mutual security mechanisms. This policy aims not only to normalize relations with Armenia, but also to create a new security platform based on peace and cooperation in the region. The activation of Azerbaijani diplomacy, transport corridor projects, energy security initiatives, and calls for peace based on international law constitute the main components of this strategy.

The article will analyze the main directions of the peace and security policy that Azerbaijan tried to form in the post-war period, examine the interrelations of this process with regional geopolitical dynamics, and put forward theoretical and practical conclusions on future prospects.

Main directions of Azerbaijan's security policy. After the 44-day war, Azerbaijan began to pursue a policy in a number of strategic directions in order to change the regional security agenda and form the foundations of lasting peace. This policy is being implemented in parallel both at the state level and at the regional and international levels.

Peace treaty initiative and normalization of relations with Armenia The signing of a long-term peace treaty with Armenia is at the forefront of Azerbaijan's peace agenda. Official Baku has proposed five basic principles based on the recognition of mutual territorial integrity and sovereignty with Armenia [21]. These principles are an approach based on international law and aimed at minimizing the risks of future conflict. However, political instability within Armenia, pressure from revanchist forces, and security dependence on Russia make it difficult for this process to progress [4].

Promotion of regional cooperation formats (3+3 platform). Azerbaijan wants to expand dialogue with the main powers in the region within the framework of the "3+3" cooperation format. In addition to Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia, Russia, Iran and Turkey are also represented in this format. The aim is to resolve regional problems within the region and minimize foreign interference [13]. This platform is seen as an important step in terms of increasing regional ownership in the security of the South Caucasus.

Military-strategic alliance with Turkey: Shusha Declaration. The Shusha Declaration, signed in 2021, raised Azerbaijan-Turkey relations to the level of a strategic alliance. The declaration established the principles of mutual military assistance, defense industry cooperation and joint activities in the region between the two countries [8]. This document, in addition to increasing Azerbaijan's security guarantees, played an important role in the formation of a balanced power model in the region.

The security component of transport and energy corridors. The Zangezur corridor, initiated by Azerbaijan, is not only an economic project, but also an important element in geopolitical and security terms. This corridor, in addition to connecting the countries of the region, reduces logistical dependencies and strengthens the interdependence model. In addition, energy security cooperation with Europe within the Southern Gas Corridor has increased Azerbaijan's geopolitical importance [22].

Cooperation with the UN and international organizations and establishment of a normative framework. Azerbaijan attaches importance to cooperation with international organizations in the process of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. Cooperation

with the UN, the European Union and the OSCE in the field of humanitarian demining, infrastructure restoration and confidence-building has expanded [23]. This cooperation demonstrates Azerbaijan's commitment to the peace architecture based on international law.

Contours of the Regional Security Architecture: New Opportunities and Risks. The new geopolitical environment that emerged in the South Caucasus after the 44-day war has changed not only the balance of power, but also the basis of security and cooperation formats. Azerbaijan acts as both an initiator and a coordinating actor in this new configuration. However, this process is not one-sided the interests of various power centers in the region conflict with each other, creating both opportunities and risks. The Second Karabakh War in the South Caucasus, which broke out in the fall of 2020, has created serious changes in the regional security dynamics. New political and military realities have formed between Azerbaijan, Armenia and other actors in the region, and accordingly, the need to update the security architecture has arisen [4].

New opportunities. Expanding regional integration and cooperation formats: Structures such as the "3+3" cooperation platform initiated by Azerbaijan and the Organization of Turkic States have the potential to strengthen dialogue in the region and reduce conflict risks [13]. Opening transport and energy corridors: Projects such as the Zangezur corridor and the Southern Gas Corridor increase economic interdependence between the countries of the region, which in turn promotes long-term stability [22]. Strategic partnerships: The military-strategic cooperation signed with Turkey under the Shusha Declaration has strengthened Azerbaijan's security guarantees [8].

New risks. Clashes between power centers in the region: The confrontation between Russia and the West, especially against the backdrop of the Ukrainian war, is also having repercussions in the South Caucasus and poses a risk of instability in the region [16]. Iran's concerns: The Zangezur corridor and Azerbaijan's rapprochement with Turkey are considered a strategic threat to Tehran, which is causing tensions in Iran-Azerbaijan relations [13]. Armenia's internal political instability: The activities of revanchist forces and political crises can be effective in slowing down the peace process and increasing border tensions. Status of peacekeeping forces: The future of Russian peacekeepers and their role in the region remains uncertain, which calls into question the sustainability of security guarantees. The successful development of Azerbaijan's regional security architecture is possible on the basis of a multi-vector policy, diplomatic initiatives and strategic cooperation. Careful risk management and continued regional dialogue are essential for the realization of new opportunities.

New opportunities: regional integration and interdependence. The following opportunities stand out in the post-war period: Restoration of transport arteries (Zangezur corridor, integration of East-West and North-South corridors): these projects can strengthen security by increasing economic interdependence in the region. Deepening strategic cooperation with Turkey: this partnership strengthens Azerbaijan's hand in terms of regional balance and deterrence [24]. Energy and diplomatic cooperation with the European Union: The Southern Gas Corridor and partnership with Europe increase Azerbaijan's international legitimacy[23]. Azerbaijan has the potential to become a locomotive of economic and political integration in the region by using these opportunities.

Risks: geopolitical clashes and potential for instability. The major geopolitical changes that have occurred in the South Caucasus region in recent years have led to the emergence of new risks. In addition to the interests of Azerbaijan, Armenia and other regional actors, the interaction of great powers complicates the security environment and increases the likelihood of instability. The confrontation between Russia and the West. The growing tension between Russia and the West against the backdrop of the Ukrainian war is also reflected in the South Caucasus. The West's rapprochement with Armenia, while Russia's efforts to protect its position in the region, disrupts the security balance and creates new hotbeds of conflict [16]. This situation slows down the regional peace process and increases the risk of military conflict.

Iran's concerns and regional policy. Iran is concerned about Azerbaijan's Zangezur corridor and cooperation with Turkey. Tehran, assessing these processes as a threat to its national security, is conducting military exercises on the borders and strengthening its geopolitical position [13]. This leads to increased tension in Iran-Azerbaijan relations and the emergence of new risks in the region.

Armenia's internal political instability and revanchist forces. The political crisis within Armenia and the activities of revanchist groups can pose serious obstacles to the peace process. These forces increase the likelihood of a re-ignition of the conflict by creating tension on the border [4]. The unstable political situation negatively affects the security of the region.

Status of Russian peacekeeping forces. The future of Russian peacekeepers in the Karabakh region remains uncertain. Their withdrawal or change of status could create a gap in security guarantees. This raises the need for new security mechanisms in the region [10]. All these risks make it difficult to achieve lasting peace and security in the South Caucasus. Azerbaijan and regional parties should develop flexible and multi-vector diplomatic strategies to address these challenges, and take steps aimed at managing risks and increasing mutual trust.

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Along with new opportunities, Azerbaijan and the region face a number of risks: The shift of the Russia-West conflict to the South Caucasus: The West's rapprochement with Armenia against the backdrop of the Ukrainian war, and Russia's distrust of Armenia, may create new sources of tension in the region [18]. Growing concerns of Iran: Tehran, which views the Zangezur corridor as a "geopolitical threat", is trying to upset the balance in the region by rapprochement with Armenia [13]. The presence of revanchist forces within Armenia: these groups may create obstacles to the peace process and inflame tensions on the border.

The status and future of international peacekeeping forces: The absence of new security mechanisms against the backdrop of the withdrawal of Russian peacekeepers from Karabakh makes the transition period risky. Azerbaijan's balanced position and multi-vector policy. The South Caucasus region has a complex geopolitical environment where the interests of various power centers Russia, Turkey, Iran, as well as Western states intersect. In this environment, it has become necessary for Azerbaijan to implement a multi-vector, balanced policy in order to protect its national security, ensure stability in the region, and advance its strategic interests [20].

Relations with Russia. Azerbaijan maintains long-term political, economic, and security relations with Russia. The deployment of Russian peacekeepers in the region after the conflict with Moscow plays an important role in Azerbaijan's security [10]. At the same time, Azerbaijan is trying to maintain balance by continuing cooperation with Russia in the energy and trade sectors.

Strategic alliance with Turkey. Turkey is Azerbaijan's closest and most reliable partner. The military-strategic cooperation between the two countries, established by the Shusha Declaration, has increased Azerbaijan's power in the region [6]. Relations with Turkey, especially in the military and political spheres, strengthen Azerbaijan's position and expand its regional role.

Relations with Iran. Azerbaijan seeks to maintain border stability and economic relations with Iran. However, the Zangezur corridor and rapprochement with Turkey are met with concern by Tehran. Nevertheless, Baku is trying to prevent an increase in tensions by demonstrating a cautious, cautious and diplomatic approach towards Iran [16].

Dialogue with the West and international organizations. Azerbaijan is expanding cooperation with the European Union, the UN and other international organizations. Cooperation in the field of energy security, economic development and human rights increases the country's international prestige [22]. At the same time, Azerbaijani diplomacy, based on the principles of multi-vector foreign policy, seeks not to create dependence on any great power. Azerbaijan's balanced and multi-vector policy expands its possibilities for maneuver between regional power centers, serves to protect its national interests and ensure stability in the region. This policy both strengthens the country's security and creates a favorable environment for regional cooperation. By maintaining a balance between regional actors, Azerbaijan seeks to ensure both its national interests and contribute to maintaining stability in the region: energy and security cooperation with Russia is maintained; The military and political alliance with Turkey is deepening; tensions with Iran within the framework of border stability and religious-official relations are being minimized; energy, human rights, and diplomatic channels with the West are being expanded. This multi-vector approach allows Azerbaijan to act as both a stabilizing and coordinating actor in the new security architecture. With the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, the balance of power in the region has changed, but this has also created a new security dilemma. The fact that a peace treaty with Armenia has not yet been signed, border delimitation issues remain open, and the presence of peacekeeping forces in the region maintain risk factors [18]. The main challenges for a new security model in the region after the Second Karabakh War are: The activity of Armenia's revanchist circles; Border clashes and humanitarian demining problems; Clash of interests of regional powers such as Iran and Russia.

The activity of Armenian revanchist circles is one of the main threats to security in the region. These groups can increase border clashes, continue tensions, and create serious obstacles to the peace process. Their activities, especially in border areas, cause human losses and damage to infrastructure.

Border clashes and humanitarian demining problems seriously threaten both the stability of the region and the security of the population. Delays in demining work slow down the return of internally displaced persons and pose a threat to human life.

The clash of interests of regional powers such as Iran and Russia further complicates the geopolitical environment of the South Caucasus. Both states seek to protect their strategic sphere of influence, which from time to time leads to tensions and competition.

The intensification of geopolitical competition against the background of the increased activity of the West and Turkey disrupts the balance in the region and leads to increased instability. This competition complicates the establishment of a security architecture and increases the risk of renewed conflicts.[4]

New Directions of Azerbaijani Diplomacy. After the war, the Azerbaijani side began to rebuild its security policy in several directions. Peace treaty initiative: The President of Azerbaijan repeatedly

called for the signing of a peace treaty with Armenia on the basis of mutual recognition and sovereignty. Regional cooperation platforms: Promoting dialogue within the framework of the "3+3" format (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia + Russia, Turkey, Iran) [13]. Strengthening the military-strategic alliance with Turkey [24]. These initiatives have strengthened Azerbaijan's role in the regional system as a "stability-creating actor".

Peace Architecture and Sustainable Security Model. The following elements are important in building a modern security architecture: Definition of borders and mutual legal recognition is the basis for long-term peace. Opening transport and communication lines, especially the implementation of the Zangezur corridor, can be decisive in terms of both economy and security [6]. Security-related institutional mechanisms mutual security guarantees and mechanisms (e.g. international missions for border monitoring). Humanitarian measures mine clearance, return of internally displaced persons and confidence-building processes [23].

Long-standing conflicts and frozen conflicts in the South Caucasus have made it difficult to ensure sustainable peace in the region. The new political and military realities that emerged after the Second Karabakh War in the fall of 2020 have revealed the need to reshape the peace and security architecture in the region [4]. After the war, Azerbaijan, not only preserving the victory, but also taking active diplomatic initiatives to ensure peace and stability in the region. These initiatives include elements such as increasing mutual trust, delimiting borders, and promoting economic integration. Accelerating the process of signing a peace treaty between Azerbaijan and Armenia, which has not been signed for a long time, is a priority. A peace treaty is important in terms of recognizing the parties' mutual sovereignty and territorial integrity, clearly defining borders, and establishing a legal basis for the post-conflict settlement [15].

Through the "3+3" cooperation format and other regional platforms, it is possible to strengthen the dialogue between the South Caucasus countries, as well as regional powers such as Russia, Turkey and Iran, on security and economic issues [13]. This cooperation serves to reduce external interference in the region and form an internal consensus. The opening of transport and energy corridors in the region is one of the main pillars of the peace architecture. Projects such as the Zangezur Corridor and the Southern Gas Corridor increase interdependence between countries and reduce the risks of conflict [8]. The restoration of infrastructure accelerates socio-economic development, especially in liberated areas, and improves people's living conditions. Measures such as eliminating the humanitarian consequences of the conflict, ensuring the return of internally displaced persons and clearing mines contribute to the long-term maintenance of peace [23]. At the same time, promoting dialogue between different ethnic groups living in the region helps to create an environment of trust. Building an architecture of peace and regional stability requires a multifaceted, legal, political and economic approach. Azerbaijan, taking an initiative in this direction, aims not only at its own security, but also at sustainable peace and development of the South Caucasus as a whole. It is impossible to achieve these goals without the active participation of regional powers and the support of the international community.

The Role of Regional Powers and Geopolitical Struggle. Azerbaijan's peace initiatives are also taking shape in the context of geopolitical struggle. In particular:

The European Union and the United States: Seeking a New Role in the South Caucasus through Border Mission (EUMA) and Energy Cooperation [22].

The South Caucasus region has historically been an area where the interests of great powers clash. The geostrategic position of Azerbaijan in terms of energy resources, transit opportunities, and security plays an important role in the policies of regional powers, especially Russia, Iran, and Turkey. After the 44-day Second Karabakh War, the positions of these powers in the region changed, and the intensity of the geopolitical struggle increased [9].

Although Russia has tried to maintain its sphere of influence in the post-Soviet space, its geopolitical influence has weakened after the Ukrainian war. Although the format of cooperation with Russia has been maintained as a result of Azerbaijan's balanced policy, its mediatory role in the region has begun to raise serious questions [20].

Turkey, as Azerbaijan's main strategic ally, has increased its influence in the region militarily, economically and diplomatically. During and after the war, joint military exercises, the Shusha Declaration [24] and the Zangezur corridor project have strengthened the Ankara-Baku tandem [12].

Iran, on the other hand, is concerned about Azerbaijan's growing power. In particular, it has conducted military exercises on its borders, considering the Israeli-Azerbaijani partnership and the Zangezur corridor project as a threat. Iran's policy is based more on a strategy of deterrence, which creates tension in relations with Azerbaijan [16].

The struggle waged by these powers in the South Caucasus sometimes has shades of competition and sometimes of cooperation. Azerbaijan's foreign policy, on the other hand, is based on a multivector approach and is aimed at ensuring regional stability and national interests. In this context, Baku is active in the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as increasing its geopolitical maneuvering capabilities through the Organization of Turkic States and other bilateral cooperation [18].

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Conclusions and Recommendations. With its victory in 2020, Azerbaijan not only restored its territorial integrity, but also laid the foundations for a new security and cooperation model in the region. In the post-war period, official Baku acted as an initiator of a stable and long-term peace architecture, using not only military, but also diplomatic and economic tools. The peace treaty initiative, the promotion of regional cooperation formats, the strategic alliance with Turkey, the Zangezur corridor and energy diplomacy are the main pillars of this policy.

However, there are still a number of risks to the sustainability of stability in the region. The uncertain political environment within Armenia, Iran's security concerns, the spillover of the Russian-Western confrontation to the region and the uncertain peacekeeping status may create additional challenges in the near future. Therefore, Azerbaijan's security policy should be based on a flexible, pragmatic and multilateral approach, supported by both diplomatic and military-political means.

Scientific and practical recommendations:

1. International guarantee mechanisms should be included in the process of signing a peace agreement – the monitoring and mediation role of third parties (EU, UN, OSCE) can ensure the sustainability of peace.

2. Regional integration initiatives should be strengthened interdependence and cooperation should be deepened through the "3+3" format, the Organization of Turkic States and other platforms.

3. Information security and public diplomacy should be developed – the legitimacy of Azerbaijan's position in the region and its just struggle should be conveyed to the international community through the right channels.

4. Special attention should be paid to social reintegration and recovery processes investments in infrastructure, education, healthcare and culture in the liberated territories will strengthen the internal security of the region.

5. A "soft power" strategy should be promoted in relations with neighbors trust should be built through economic cooperation and cultural diplomacy, in parallel with hard security approaches.

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Азербайджан та регіональна безпека: від війни до мирної архітектури

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Безпекова ситуація на Південному Кавказі, що формується Азербайджаном, стикається з серйозними викликами, включаючи діяльність вірменських ревізіоністських груп, прикордонні зіткнення та проблеми гуманітарного розмінування. Ці фактори перешкоджають встановленню миру та стабільності в регіоні. Крім того, суперечливі інтереси регіональних держав, таких як Іран та Росія, ускладнюють геополітичний ландшафт та створюють додаткові ризики. Збільшення участі Заходу та Туреччини посилює геополітичне суперництво, порушуючи існуючий баланс та загрожуючи довгостроковій стабільності. На тлі цих викликів ключовими шляхами просування вперед стають багатовекторна та збалансована політика Азербайджану, посилення регіонального діалогу та зростання взаємної довіри.

Підписання Шушинської декларації з Туреччиною поглибило союзницькі відносини та посилило військово-політичну співпрацю. Тим часом активна роль Азербайджану в Руху неприєднання та посилення участі в таких платформах, як Організація ісламського співробітництва та Тюркська рада, демонструють різноманітність його дипломатії. Роль Азербайджану в енергетичній та транспортній дипломатії значно зросла. Південний газовий коридор відіграє вирішальну роль в енергетичній безпеці Європи та розширює експортний потенціал Азербайджану. Зангезурський та Середній коридори позиціонують країну як стратегічний транзитний вузол на світових транспортних маршрутах. Модернізація Збройних сил Азербайджану та посилена військова співпраця з Туреччиною закріпили її лідерські позиції в регіональній архітектурі безпеки. Водночас Азербайджан продовжує свої дипломатичні зусилля, спрямовані на нормалізацію відносин з Вірменією через мирні ініціативи. У рамках гуманітарної дипломатії та стратегії реінтеграції програма «Велике повернення» служить основною платформою для відбудови звільнених територій та репатріації внутрішньо переміщених осіб. Розмінування, мобілізація міжнародної підтримки, захист прав людини та збереження етнічного та релігійного різноманіття є пріоритетними напрямками постконфліктної відбудови. На завершення, після карабахського конфлікту Азербайджан сформував нову геополітичну стратегію, засновану на багатовекторній, збалансованій та гнучкій політиці, спрямованій на забезпечення регіональної стабільності та розвитку. Ця стратегія забезпечує захист національних інтересів та розширює міжнародну співпрацю, ще більше зміцнюючи позиції Азербайджану як регіонального лідера.

Ключові слова: *регіональна безпека, прикордонні зіткнення, розмінування, геополітичне суперництво, регіональна стабільність, мирний процес, дипломатичний баланс, архітектура безпеки.*

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