UDC 327 (045)
DOI 10.56525/PKDY2812

THE IMPACT OF GEOPOLITICAL RISKS ON CHINA-AZERBAIJAN ENERGY COOPERATION UNDER THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE AND MEASURES

Yuan Shiyi, Rauf Hasanov
Baku State University, Baku city, Azerbaijan
e-mail:yuanshiyi0217@gmail.com

Abstract. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the evolving energy partnership between China and Azerbaijan within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), examining its current state, geopolitical challenges, and strategic recommendations for future collaboration.

The foundation of bilateral energy cooperation rests on strong resource complementarity. Azerbaijan possesses substantial hydrocarbon wealth, including approximately 2 billion tons of proven oil reserves and 2.55 trillion cubic meters of natural gas in the Caspian region. For China—the world's largest energy importer—Azerbaijan represents a valuable opportunity to diversify supply sources and reduce dependence on traditional suppliers. This mutual benefit is reflected in investment patterns: between 1995 and 2023, 81 percent of China's nearly US$1 billion direct investment in Azerbaijan was directed to the oil and gas sector. The flagship CNPC-SOCAR collaboration in the Salyan onshore oil field, involving over US$600 million in joint investment, exemplifies this cooperation. A significant emerging trend is the acceleration of renewable energy partnerships, with Chinese companies transitioning from contractors to major investors in Azerbaijan's green energy strategy following the 2025 comprehensive strategic partnership.

However, the article identifies complex geopolitical risks threatening this cooperation. The long-standing Nagorno-Karabakh conflict poses direct security threats to critical energy infrastructure, including the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline, which pass near former conflict zones. Additionally, the South Caucasus serves as an arena for great power competition among Russia, the United States, the European Union, and Turkey—each pursuing competing geopolitical objectives that complicate the environment for Chinese investment. Most significantly, the European Union's Southern Gas Corridor strategy has created long-term supply contracts and deep political ties that prioritize Azerbaijani gas for the European market, potentially limiting availability for China.

To address these challenges, the article proposes a systematic response framework. Key recommendations include diversifying cooperation beyond oil trade to include equity participation in gas field development and the Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline; promoting RMB settlement for energy trades to mitigate currency and sanctions risks; leveraging multilateral financial institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and Silk Road Fund; upgrading transportation infrastructure including the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway; and embracing green energy cooperation through joint renewable projects and a proposed "green energy corridor."

The article concludes that China-Azerbaijan energy cooperation stands at a critical juncture. By combining strategic vision with pragmatic risk management—particularly through green transformation and a structured framework to counter geopolitical pressures—both nations can build a resilient, mutually beneficial partnership that serves their national interests while contributing to broader regional energy security.

Key words: Azerbaijan, China, energy cooperation, geopolitical risks, Belt and Road, middle corridor, collaboration.

Introduction

Within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), energy cooperation between China and Azerbaijan has gradually expanded from exploratory engagement to deeper strategic collaboration. Azerbaijan’s geographical position between Central Asia, the Caspian region, and Europe gives it an important role in regional connectivity and energy transportation routes within the BRI framework [1; 4].

At the same time, global energy markets are undergoing significant transformation due to the energy transition and growing demand for diversified supply sources. Azerbaijan’s oil and natural gas reserves, as well as its participation in the Southern Gas Corridor, have strengthened its role in ensuring regional and European energy security [2; 9].

In recent years, China has increased its involvement in overseas energy investments and infrastructure projects as part of its global energy strategy. These investments aim to secure diversified energy supply chains while also promoting economic connectivity and regional development through the BRI initiative [5; 15]. And the cooperation has expanded significantly into renewable energy. Azerbaijani authorities have signed several agreements with Chinese companies related to solar, wind, and green energy corridor projects, demonstrating the increasing role of Chinese enterprises as investors in the country's energy transition. A significant emerging trend is the accelerating collaboration in the renewable energy sector. At a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting in 2025 themed "Innovation and Integration, Energizing the Future," Azerbaijani Energy Minister Parviz Shakhbazov highlighted the growing importance of Chinese companies in Azerbaijan's energy strategy. He emphasized that these enterprises are transitioning from mere project contractors to significant investors, making substantial contributions to the development of Azerbaijan's renewable energy sector. This evolution reflects the shared vision of both nations regarding energy transition and green development.

Energy cooperation has consistently constituted a vital component of the Belt and Road Initiative. For participating countries such as Azerbaijan, it directly relates to economic development and the modernization of energy infrastructure. For China, promoting high-quality energy cooperation contributes to building a more stable and diversified energy supply system. From this perspective, the sustained investment by both sides in the energy sector serves not only their respective development needs but also seeks pathways that deliver reciprocal benefits. Energy cooperation also reflects broader global energy market transformations. As European countries seek to diversify their energy sources, Azerbaijan has become an increasingly important supplier of natural gas to European markets through the Southern Gas Corridor [3]. These developments enhance Azerbaijan’s geopolitical significance and create both opportunities and challenges for China-Azerbaijan energy cooperation.

Overview of China-Azerbaijan Energy Cooperation.

1.Resource Endowment and Strategic Potential. Azerbaijan possesses significant hydrocarbon reserves located primarily in the Caspian Sea basin. These resources form the basis of the country’s energy sector and have positioned Azerbaijan as a key energy exporter in Eurasia [10; 12], providing a solid material foundation for bilateral energy cooperation. According to Azerbaijani Ministry of Energy statistics, the Caspian region holds proven oil reserves of approximately 2 billion tons, with geological reserves reaching approximately 4 billion tons. Proven natural gas reserves stand at 2.55 trillion cubic meters, with potential reserves estimated at 6 trillion

cubic meters. These resource endowments position Azerbaijan not only as a significant energy producer in the Caspian region but also as a key alternative source for diversifying Europe's energy imports.

Energy cooperation between China and Azerbaijan remains in its early stages but demonstrates considerable potential. Historically, Azerbaijan's oil exports have been primarily directed toward the European market, benefiting from its geographical location and existing infrastructure such as the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline. In recent years, with the advancement of the Belt and Road Initiative and the implementation of Azerbaijan's "Look East" strategy, energy trade between the two countries has exhibited a growth trajectory. Azerbaijan's light crude oil, distinguished by its superior quality, has begun attracting attention from Chinese refineries. Although current bilateral energy trade volumes cannot yet compare with major suppliers such as Saudi Arabia and Russia, its growth momentum and strategic significance warrant attention.In addition to traditional oil and gas resources, Azerbaijan has increasingly focused on developing renewable energy potential, particularly solar and wind power in the Caspian region. The renewable energy transition in the South Caucasus has attracted growing international investment and cooperation, including interest from Chinese companies [8; 14].

2.Investment Landscape and Industrial Cooperation. Energy investment remains the cornerstone of economic cooperation between China and Azerbaijan. Chinese companies have participated in a range of projects related to energy infrastructure, including oil exploration, pipeline development, and renewable energy installations [5; 15]. Data indicates that between 1995 and 2023, China's total direct investment in Azerbaijan reached US$930.8 million, of which US$754.1 million was directed to the oil and gas sector, accounting for approximately 81 percent of total investment. China's investment portfolio in Azerbaijan demonstrates a clear concentration in the oil sector.The most representative example is the collaboration between China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR). Through its overseas subsidiaries, CNPC has jointly invested over US$600 million in the Salyan onshore oil field. This project has not only boosted Chinese oil extraction equipment and service exports but has also accumulated valuable experience for Chinese enterprises operating in the Caucasus region. Furthermore, investment in oil exploration projects has stimulated related supporting enterprises to invest in Azerbaijan, gradually forming a certain industrial agglomeration effect. The expansion of bilateral cooperation has also been supported by broader regional integration initiatives, which aim to improve transport connectivity and energy trade across Eurasia. These developments contribute to the strengthening of economic ties between the two countries within the BRI framework [1; 4].

3.Geostrategic Positioning. Azerbaijan occupies a strategically important position along the emerging Eurasian transport corridors, particularly the so-called Middle Corridor connecting China with Europe through Central Asia and the South Caucasus. This corridor is increasingly seen as an alternative trade route that complements existing maritime and northern transport routes [6].

Following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the traditional trans-Eurasian energy supply chain experienced severe disruption. European countries, urgently seeking alternatives to Russian energy sources, have increasingly recognized Azerbaijan's strategic importance. Its BTC oil pipeline, Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum (BTE) gas pipeline, and the planned Trans-Caspian energy corridor position Azerbaijan as a key player in filling gaps within the Eurasian energy supply chain. The country’s role in energy transportation has also increased through the development of major pipeline projects connecting the Caspian region to European markets. These projects strengthen Azerbaijan’s geopolitical importance in regional energy security and international energy trade [3; 7]. Under the Belt and Road Initiative framework, deepening energy cooperation with Azerbaijan

not only helps China expand its energy sources in the Caspian region but also creates new channels for China-Europe energy trade.

4.Drivers of Bilateral Cooperation. China-Azerbaijan energy cooperation is driven by both government-level agreements and market-based initiatives. Azerbaijan seeks investment and technology for developing its energy resources and modernizing its infrastructure, while China aims to diversify its energy import sources and expand economic connectivity across Eurasia. The two countries have signed numerous cooperation documents within the Belt and Road framework, providing institutional guarantees for energy sector investment and trade. Azerbaijan positions itself as one of the most important strategic hubs on the Silk Road and actively participates in the Belt and Road Initiative, creating favorable political conditions for deepening bilateral energy cooperation. Simultaneously, in recent years, several large Chinese enterprises have begun investing in the Azerbaijani market, actively participating in local energy infrastructure projects and achieving notable results—demonstrating market confidence in cooperation prospects.

The relationship exhibits strong complementarity and interdependence. Azerbaijan needs stable export markets and investment sources to develop its oil and gas resources while diversifying its energy revenues; China needs to expand its energy import channels and reduce over-reliance on single source. This complementarity constitutes the inherent driving force for bilateral cooperation. However, because Azerbaijan's energy exports have long relied on existing pipeline infrastructure serving Europe, cooperation with China will face short-term constraints related to transportation routes and infrastructure. Establishing a land-based energy corridor connecting the Caspian Sea, Central Asia, and China represents the key to unlocking bilateral cooperation potential.

Geopolitical Risk Types and Impact Mechanisms

1.The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: Persistent Security Threats. Despite its strategic advantages, the South Caucasus remains a region affected by geopolitical tensions and unresolved conflicts. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has historically created security challenges that may affect regional infrastructure projects and energy transportation networks [7]. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict represents one of the longest-lasting and most impactful unresolved conflicts in the South Caucasus, posing multi-dimensional security challenges to Sino-Azerbaijani energy cooperation.

The vulnerability of energy infrastructure makes it an attractive target during conflicts. The BTC oil pipeline and BTE gas pipeline are crucial for maintaining energy security for Turkey and Europe. These pipelines traverse Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey, with some sections located dangerously close to the former Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, presenting significant security risks.

SOCAR officials have explicitly stated that Armenia's long-term occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions posed a persistent threat to international oil and gas pipelines. This threat materialized in July 2020 when the Tovuz conflict directly jeopardized internationally significant oil and gas infrastructure. Although the initialing of a peace agreement in 2025 has brought hope for conflict resolution, historical grievances and lingering tensions mean that regional stability will require sustained effort to consolidate.

2.Great Power Competition: The Geopolitical Chessboard. Azerbaijan, located in the Caspian Sea and Caucasus region, has historically been a crossroads of major power interests. Following the Soviet Union's collapse, a power vacuum emerged in which Russia sought to maintain its traditional influence while Western powers hoped to establish a Caspian energy route bypassing Russia. China, as a major energy consumer, has seen its regional influence grow amid these complex dynamics, creating a challenging external environment for bilateral energy

cooperation.

For an extended period, energy exports from Central Asia and the Caspian region relied primarily on Russian-controlled pipeline networks. Russia not only collected transit fees but also used this leverage to influence the foreign policies of energy-exporting countries. Following the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022, global supply chains were disrupted and subsequently readjusted, significantly elevating Azerbaijan's strategic position and transit value within the "Middle Corridor."

Azerbaijan has actively seized this opportunity, vigorously promoting Trans-Caspian Corridor (TCC) development. President Ilham Aliyev frequently attends regional summits advocating for joint corridor construction. While the United States, Europe, China, and Turkey pursue different objectives, they all support Central Asian countries' participation in the TCC. The U.S. focus centers not on commercial profit but on reducing Central Asian dependence on Russia, thereby strengthening its own regional influence.

3.The European Factor: Competition and Lock-in Effects. The European Union proposed the "Southern Gas Corridor" plan as early as 2008. Its core objective was to bypass Russia by transporting Caspian gas through the Caucasus and Turkey to Europe, thereby reducing dependence on Russian gas. After years of construction, this corridor has formed a complete system. Originating at Azerbaijan's Shah Deniz gas field, it connects directly to Europe through multiple pipelines — a gas transmission channel completely independent of Russian infrastructure. European energy policy has increasingly emphasized diversification of natural gas supply sources, particularly after disruptions in global energy markets. Azerbaijan has become an important partner for the European Union through its participation in the Southern Gas Corridor [2; 9].

In January 2026, Azerbaijani natural gas officially entered Austria and Germany, marking its transformation from a secondary energy supplier to a major pillar of European energy security. Currently, Azerbaijani natural gas supplies 16 countries, with 11 representing long-term, stable relationships. The Southern Gas Corridor has evolved from a planned project into a real, vital network transporting substantial natural gas volumes.

As the world's largest energy importer, China considers the Central Asia-Caspian region crucial to its energy security. However, the "lock-in effect" created by the EU through long-term contracts, dedicated infrastructure, and political ties ensures that Azerbaijan prioritizes gas supplies to Europe, creating significant competitive and substitution pressures on China-Azerbaijan energy cooperation.

Strategic Responses and Recommendations.

1.Current Cooperation Dynamics. During the 8th China International Import Expo (CIIE), Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev stated that China-Azerbaijan relations are at their best historical period, with both sides highly valuing economic cooperation. China is Azerbaijan's fourth largest trading partner and largest source of imports. From January to September 2025, bilateral trade reached US$3.4 billion, a year-on-year increase of 28 percent, demonstrating the continued deepening of economic and trade cooperation and its enormous potential. China adheres to openness, inclusiveness, mutual benefit, and win-win cooperation in promoting international trade and global value chain development. The Belt and Road Initiative also creates favorable conditions for Azerbaijan to fulfill its role as a regional logistics and transportation hub.

As a core Caspian oil and gas producer, Azerbaijan offers high-quality crude oil and natural gas that can effectively supplement China's traditional energy import sources. This enhances the diversification and resilience of China's energy supply, reduces dependence on any single region, and strengthens capacity to withstand risks. Sino-Azerbaijani energy cooperation transcends purely economic considerations and carries significant geostrategic importance: the land-based energy

corridor through Azerbaijan represents an important supplementary route for alleviating China's "Malacca Dilemma." Trilateral China-Azerbaijan-Turkmenistan energy cooperation appropriately balances geopolitical location, resource potential, and strategic security considerations. Azerbaijan's advantages in corridor construction, energy resources, and international cooperation experience also contribute to China's efforts to build a more balanced Eurasian energy cooperation network.To ensure sustainable cooperation, China and Azerbaijan should continue expanding joint projects in both traditional and renewable energy sectors. Stable oil and gas cooperation remains essential for regional energy security and economic development [3; 10].

2.Policy Recommendations. To deepen China-Azerbaijan energy cooperation, several strategic approaches merit consideration:Stabilizing and Expanding Oil and Gas Cooperation: Consolidate the trade foundation and support Chinese companies' participation in equity cooperation, exploration and development of Azerbaijani gas fields, and the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline project. Leveraging Multilateral Financial Institutions: Encourage the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Silk Road Fund to focus on supporting South Caucasus energy projects, establish special funds, and innovate PPP and BOT investment and financing models to attract social capital. Promoting RMB Settlement Pilot Programs: Deepen financial cooperation by encouraging Chinese financial institutions to establish local branches, promoting currency swaps, exploring cooperation in energy financial derivatives, and reducing exchange rate and sanctions risks. Upgrading Transportation Infrastructure: Enhance the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars (BTK) railway, Georgian ports, and regional energy pipeline networks to improve transportation infrastructure and capacity.

3.Green Transformation: A New Cooperation Frontier. When China and Azerbaijan established a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2025, green transformation was designated as a key cooperation area.Renewable energy development represents one of the most promising areas of future cooperation. Investment in solar and wind power projects can contribute to sustainable energy transition and environmental goals in the region [8; 14]. Azerbaijan possesses abundant wind and solar resources and plans to significantly increase renewable energy's share in power generation while promoting offshore wind power construction. Chinese companies can participate in photovoltaic and wind power project development, sharing their extensive construction and operation experience. The two sides can also jointly build a green energy corridor, explore clean electricity exports, expand green economic cooperation space, and align with global climate change mitigation efforts.

4. Building a Systematic Geopolitical Risk Response Framework. Faced with geopolitical risks, China-Azerbaijan energy cooperation requires a systematic response framework:At the Macro Level: Promote deep integration of the "Middle Corridor" with the Belt and Road Initiative; establish a multilateral energy cooperation mechanism involving China, Azerbaijan, and Turkey; and leverage the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to build a Caspian Sea energy security dialogue platform that mitigates the impact of great power competition. At the Meso Level: Improve bilateral investment protection agreements; establish localized risk early warning mechanisms; promote local currency settlement and independent payment channels; and strengthen legal and risk prevention barriers. At the Micro Level: Guide Chinese enterprises to deepen localized operations; purchase political risk insurance; and optimize their "traditional energy + new energy" asset portfolio to ensure stable and sustainable cooperation.

Conclusion

China-Azerbaijan energy cooperation stands at a promising juncture, characterized by strong fundamentals, complementary advantages, and significant potential. The establishment of a

comprehensive strategic partnership in 2025, coupled with shared interests in green transformation, provides fresh momentum for bilateral collaboration. However, realizing this potential requires navigating complex geopolitical challenges, including unresolved regional conflicts, great power competition, and the competitive dynamics created by European energy diversification strategies.

By adopting a systematic approach that combines strategic vision with practical risk management—and by leveraging multilateral platforms, innovative financing mechanisms, and emerging opportunities in renewable energy—both countries can build a resilient and mutually beneficial energy partnership that serves their respective development needs while contributing to regional stability and global energy security.

REFERENCES

1.Kaczmarski M. China’s Belt and Road Initiative and Eurasian Connectivity, Asia Europe Journal,2021. [Electron.resource] URL:https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10308-021-00616-3 (Date of access: 16.03.2026).

2.Mammadov F. Energy security and Azerbaijan’s role in European gas diversification, Energy Policy, 2022. [Electron. resource] URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2022.112890(Date of access: 16.03.2026).

3.Shaffer B. The geopolitics of the Southern Gas Corridor, Energy Strategy Reviews, 2021. [Electron. resource] URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esr.2021.100600(Date of access: 16.03.2026).

4.Obydenkova A., Libman A. Belt and Road Initiative and Eurasian regional cooperation, Journal of Eurasian Studies, 2021. [Electron. resource] URL: https://doi.org/10.1177/18793665211011402(Date of access: 16.03.2026).

5.Vakulchuk R., Overland I. China’s Belt and Road Initiative through the lens of energy security, Energy Research & Social Science, 2022. [Electron. resource] URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2022.102510(Date of access: 16.03.2026).

6.Papava V., Charaia V. The Middle Corridor and Eurasian transport geopolitics, Journal of Contemporary Asia, 2023. [Electron. resource] URL: https://doi.org/10.1080/00472336.2023.2180960(Date of access: 16.03.2026).

7.Cornell S., Starr S. Azerbaijan’s strategic role in Eurasian energy security, Central Asian Survey, 2022. [Electron. resource] URL: https://doi.org/10.1080/02634937.2022.2041430(Date of access: 16.03.2026).

8.Overland I. The geopolitics of renewable energy in Eurasia, Energy Research & Social Science, 2021. [Electron. resource] URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2021.101949(Date of access: 16.03.2026).

9.Siddi M. The EU’s energy diversification strategy and the Southern Gas Corridor, Energy Policy, 2022. [Electron. resource] URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2022.112375(Date of access: 16.03.2026).

10.Guliyev F. Azerbaijan’s energy policy and international energy markets, Post-Communist Economies, 2023. [Electron. resource] URL: https://doi.org/10.1080/14631377.2023.2195162(Date of access: 16.03.2026).

11.Laruelle M. China’s Eurasian strategy and the Belt and Road Initiative, Asia Policy, 2021. [Electron. resource] URL: https://www.jstor.org/stable/27000076(Date of access: 16.03.2026).

12.Indeo F. The geopolitics of Caspian energy resources, Energies, 2022. [Electron. resource] URL: https://doi.org/10.3390/en15072510(Date of access: 16.03.2026).

13.Fardella E., Prodi G. The Belt and Road Initiative and global energy cooperation, Journal of World Trade, 2021. [Electron. resource] URL:

https://kluwerlawonline.com/journalarticle/Journal+of+World+Trade/55.4/TRAD2021023(Date of access: 16.03.2026).

14.Makhmudova M. Renewable energy transition in the South Caucasus, Renewable Energy, 2024. [Electron. resource] URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.renene.2024.01.046
(Date of access: 16.03.2026).

ВЛИЯНИЕ ГЕОПОЛИТИЧЕСКИХ РИСКОВ НА КИТАЙСКО-АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКОЕ ЭНЕРГЕТИЧЕСКОЕ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО В РАМКАХ ИНИЦИАТИВЫ "ОДИН ПОЯС, ОДИН ПУТЬ" И ПРИНИМАЕМЫЕ МЕРЫ

Юань Шии, Рауф Хасанов
Бакинский государственный университет, Баку, Азербайджан
e-mail:yuanshiyi0217@gmail.com

Аннотация. Данная статья представляет комплексный анализ развивающегося энергетического партнёрства между Китаем и Азербайджаном в рамках инициативы «Один пояс — один путь» (BRI), рассматривая его текущее состояние, геополитические вызовы и стратегические рекомендации для будущего сотрудничества.

Основой двустороннего энергетического сотрудничества является высокая взаимодополняемость ресурсов. Азербайджан обладает значительными запасами углеводородов, включая около 2 миллиардов тонн доказанных запасов нефти и 2,55 триллиона кубометров природного газа в Каспийском регионе. Для Китая — крупнейшего в мире импортёра энергии — Азербайджан представляет ценную возможность диверсифицировать источники поставок и снизить зависимость от традиционных поставщиков. Эта взаимная выгода отражается в инвестиционных потоках: в период с 1995 по 2023 год 81 процент почти 1 миллиарда долларов прямых китайских инвестиций в Азербайджан был направлен в нефтегазовый сектор. Флагманский проект сотрудничества CNPC и SOCAR на сухопутном нефтяном месторождении Сальян, включающий более 600 миллионов долларов совместных инвестиций, является ярким примером такого взаимодействия. Важной новой тенденцией становится ускорение партнёрства в сфере возобновляемой энергетики: после установления в 2025 году всеобъемлющего стратегического партнёрства китайские компании начали переходить от роли подрядчиков к роли крупных инвесторов в «зелёную» энергетическую стратегию Азербайджана.

Однако статья выявляет сложные геополитические риски, угрожающие данному сотрудничеству. Длительный Нагорно-Карабахский конфликт создаёт прямые угрозы безопасности критически важной энергетической инфраструктуры, включая нефтепровод Баку–Тбилиси–Джейхан и газопровод Баку–Тбилиси–Эрзурум, проходящие вблизи бывших зон конфликта. Кроме того, Южный Кавказ является ареной соперничества крупных держав — России, Соединённых Штатов, Европейского союза и Турции, каждая из которых преследует собственные геополитические цели, усложняя условия для китайских инвестиций. Наиболее значительным фактором является стратегия Европейского союза по Южному газовому коридору, которая сформировала долгосрочные контракты на поставку и глубокие политические связи, ориентированные на поставки азербайджанского газа на европейский рынок, что потенциально ограничивает его доступность для Китая.

Для преодоления этих вызовов статья предлагает системный подход к реагированию. Основные рекомендации включают диверсификацию сотрудничества за пределы торговли

нефтью посредством участия в разработке газовых месторождений и Транскаспийского газопровода; продвижение расчётов в юанях для снижения валютных и санкционных рисков; использование возможностей многосторонних финансовых институтов, таких как Азиатский банк инфраструктурных инвестиций и Фонд Шёлкового пути; модернизацию транспортной инфраструктуры, включая железную дорогу Баку–Тбилиси–Карс; а также развитие сотрудничества в сфере «зелёной» энергетики через совместные проекты возобновляемой энергетики и создание предлагаемого «зелёного энергетического коридора».

В заключение статья подчёркивает, что энергетическое сотрудничество Китая и Азербайджана находится на критически важном этапе. Сочетая стратегическое видение с прагматичным управлением рисками — особенно через «зелёную» трансформацию и формирование структурированного механизма противодействия геополитическому давлению — обе страны могут создать устойчивое и взаимовыгодное партнёрство, отвечающее их национальным интересам и способствующее укреплению региональной энергетической безопасности.

Ключевые слова: Азербайджан, Китай, энергетическое сотрудничество, геополитические риски, "Пояс и путь", средний коридор, сотрудничество.

ГЕОСАЯСИ ТӘУЕКЕЛДЕРДІҢ "БЕЛДЕУ ЖӘНЕ ЖОЛ" БАСТАМАСЫ МЕН ШАРАЛАРЫ АЯСЫНДАҒЫ ҚЫТАЙ-ӘЗІРБАЙЖАН ЭНЕРГЕТИКАЛЫҚ ЫНТЫМАҚТАСТЫҒЫНА ӘСЕРІ

Юань Шии, Рауф Хасанов
Баку Мемлекеттік Университеті, Баку, Әзірбайжан
e-mail:yuanshiyi0217@gmail.com

Аңдатпа. Бұл мақала «Бір белдеу, бір жол» (BRI) бастамасы аясындағы Қытай мен Әзербайжан арасындағы дамып келе жатқан энергетикалық серіктестіктің қазіргі жағдайын, геосаяси сын-қатерлерін және болашақ ынтымақтастыққа арналған стратегиялық ұсынымдарын жан-жақты талдайды.

Екіжақты энергетикалық ынтымақтастықтың негізі ресурстық өзара толықтыруға сүйенеді. Әзербайжан Каспий аймағында шамамен 2 миллиард тонна дәлелденген мұнай қорына және 2,55 триллион текше метр табиғи газға ие. Әлемдегі ең ірі энергия импорттаушысы Қытай үшін Әзербайжан жеткізу көздерін әртараптандыруға және дәстүрлі жеткізушілерге тәуелділікті азайтуға мүмкіндік беретін маңызды серіктес болып табылады. Бұл өзара тиімділік инвестициялық ағымдардан айқын көрінеді: 1995–2023 жылдар аралығында Қытайдың Әзербайжанға салған шамамен 1 миллиард АҚШ доллары көлеміндегі тікелей инвестициясының 81 пайызы мұнай-газ секторына бағытталған. CNPC пен SOCAR арасындағы Сальян құрлықтағы мұнай кен орнын бірлесіп игеру жобасы, көлемі 600 миллион АҚШ долларынан асатын инвестициямен, осы ынтымақтастықтың айқын мысалы болып табылады. Маңызды жаңа үрдіс ретінде жаңартылатын энергия саласындағы серіктестіктің жеделдеуі байқалады: 2025 жылғы жан-жақты стратегиялық серіктестіктен кейін қытайлық компаниялар Әзербайжанның «жасыл» энергетикалық стратегиясында мердігер рөлінен ірі инвестор рөліне өте бастады.

Алайда мақала бұл ынтымақтастыққа қауіп төндіретін күрделі геосаяси тәуекелдерді де анықтайды. Ұзаққа созылған Таулы Қарабақ қақтығысы Баку–Тбилиси–Жейхан мұнай

құбыры мен Баку–Тбилиси–Эрзурум газ құбыры сияқты маңызды энергетикалық инфрақұрылымдарға тікелей қауіп төндіреді, өйткені олар бұрынғы қақтығыс аймақтарына жақын орналасқан. Сонымен қатар, Оңтүстік Кавказ Ресей, АҚШ, Еуропалық одақ және Түркия арасындағы геосаяси бәсекелестік алаңына айналған, бұл қытайлық инвестициялар үшін жағдайды күрделендіреді. Ең маңызды факторлардың бірі — Еуропалық одақтың Оңтүстік газ дәлізі стратегиясы, ол Әзербайжан газын еуропалық нарыққа бағыттайтын ұзақ мерзімді жеткізу келісімдері мен терең саяси байланыстарды қалыптастырды, бұл өз кезегінде Қытай үшін қолжетімділікті шектеуі мүмкін.

Осы сын-қатерлерді шешу мақсатында мақала жүйелі жауап беру тетігін ұсынады. Негізгі ұсыныстарға мұнай саудасынан тыс ынтымақтастықты кеңейтіп, газ кен орындарын игеру мен Транскаспий газ құбырына үлестік қатысуды қамтамасыз ету; валюталық және санкциялық тәуекелдерді азайту үшін юаньмен есеп айырысуды дамыту; Азия инфрақұрылымдық инвестициялар банкі мен Жібек жолы қоры сияқты көпжақты қаржы институттарының мүмкіндіктерін пайдалану; Баку–Тбилиси–Карс теміржолын қоса алғанда, көлік инфрақұрылымын жаңғырту; сондай-ақ бірлескен жаңартылатын энергия жобалары мен ұсынылған «жасыл энергетикалық дәліз» арқылы «жасыл» энергетикалық ынтымақтастықты дамыту кіреді.

Мақала қорытындысында Қытай мен Әзербайжан арасындағы энергетикалық ынтымақтастықтың шешуші кезеңге жеткені атап өтіледі. Стратегиялық көзқарасты тәуекелдерді прагматикалық басқарумен ұштастыру, әсіресе «жасыл» трансформация мен геосаяси қысымдарға қарсы құрылымдалған тетіктерді дамыту арқылы, екі мемлекетке де ұлттық мүдделерге сай келетін, өзара тиімді әрі тұрақты серіктестік қалыптастыруға мүмкіндік береді және аймақтық энергетикалық қауіпсіздікті нығайтуға ықпал етеді.

Түйін сөздер: Әзірбайжан, Қытай, энергетикалық ынтымақтастық, геосаяси тәуекелдер, белдеу және жол, орта дәліз, ынтымақтастық.