

Caspian Oil in International Relations

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Abstract

In the report the problems, which cause the big international resonance in this period, are considered. This is before all stipulated by the huge volume of hydro carbonic raw material of the sub region which is considered as a counterweight to the oil of the Persian Gulf.

On the other side in geopolitical meaning the Caspian region includes giant territory on the border of Europe and Asia. This region includes 5 naturally boarding Countries: Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran. Besides that “near Caspian” countries of the region are North Caucasus/Ciscaucasus, Transcaucas, and vast space of the Central Asia. A Number of specialists consider Georgia and Uzbekistan as a Caspian Countries. Ankara in 1997 declared Turkey as a “Caspian Country”.

And at last many countries and regions in fact are interested in Caspian oil and competing hardly to become more powerful in Caspian region and other neighboring regions, in particular in Central Asia. It concerns those great world players such as USA, EU, Russia and Peoples Republic of China, who undoubtedly consider Caspian Countries reach with hydro carbonic raw material as an important element of geo political struggle for the control over strategically important regions of the world.

The Caspian region and Central Asia are in the center of international policy and international relations and acquire very big attention.

Keywords: Caspian oil, international relations, Caspian region, Central Asia

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To last years, world press began to write much about oil zone the Caspy. Value and a role of oil zone of the Caspy were sharply increasing in world politics and the international relations. The attention of practically all-leading countries of globe has been riveted to it. It is not surprising if to consider following important factors of the international value.

First, in geopolitical understanding the region of Caspy includes in itself huge territory on a joint of the Europe and Asia, which at the present stage quite often call to uniform names Eurasia. It is accepted to include actually near-Caspian five states in it - Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran. Except for that “nearby – Caspian” is the countries of sub regions of Northern Caucasus, Transcaucasia and extensive space of the Central Asia. Besides a number of experts rank as the “Caspian” republics Republic Uzbekistan and Georgia, and Ankara in 1997 has proclaimed the Eurasian state Turkey the “near-Caspian” state.

Secondly, important value in world politics both the international relations that factor, that Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Georgia - were former republics of the collapsed powerful state - the USSR. Now it is the young independent states, which are carried out independent external and the internal policy and with which now it was possible to carry out and spend corresponding relations, not looking back on Moscow.

In the third, the Caspian region draws attention of all world political and industrial elite at the present stage, first of all, because of the stocks of hydro carbonic raw material revealed and predicted here - some oil, gas of a condensate and natural gas. However, some experts have got excited, having put forward idea that hydro carbonic stocks of the countries of Caspian region considerably exceed stocks of similar raw material in the countries of a zone of Persian Gulf. Closer to true nevertheless it is necessary to consider opinion of

experts of information management of the Ministry of power of the USA which have defined the greatest possible size of stocks of the Caspian oil in 24-26 billion tons. It is certainly, not oil of a zone of Persian Gulf neither on volume, nor on quality, on a geographical and strategic arrangement. All the reconnoitered both proved stocks high quality and perfectly geographical located on stacks of three continents of oil of a zone of Persian Gulf make 90-95 billion т. However data cited above by the American experts on the Caspian oil equally impress all even if, by calculations of experts of the ministry of fuel and power of the Russian Federation, really taken on an initial stage of stocks of hydro carbonic raw material on the Caspian shelf essentially it is less and in evaluation on conditional fuel did not exceed 10-15 billion tons.

At the same time concerning oil powers to which it is possible to carry the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Republic Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and a number of other states of zone Caspian region is observed constant distortion of the facts about their original stocks of the major at the present stage of kinds of power raw material. Besides, foreign experts quite often all argue about political and stocks of hydro carbonic raw material not only on Caspian Sea, but also in such for a long time well-known oil-and-gas for a long time globe, as a zone of Persian Gulf more.

Nevertheless oil of Caspian region last years takes the worthy place in economic and the politician as a whole, and in fuel and energy balance of the states of globe in particular. To it the evident certificate expansion of a role alongside with other CIS countries of the states of the Central Asia in world production of hydro carbonic raw material. According to the forecasts, the accepted strategy of the CIS countries, to 2015 five leading countries of commonwealth will be extracting more than 700 million t. oil in a year. The same year for limits of commonwealth of the independent states it will be

exported more 320 million t. oil and mineral oil. Russia will provide 78 export of the CIS, Kazakhstan - 11, and other countries in common-11.

The fourth, it is impossible to bypass and that important factor, that an arrangement of Caspian sea in particular, and Caucasus and extensive space of the central Asia as a whole between the basic existing and potential commodity markets of oil and mineral oil - to the Europe Asia and also between the basic suppliers of power resources - the Near and average East Northern Africa, Russia in a present geopolitical situation has such great value.

That - is Caspian region zone in immediate prospects can become one of the important oil regions on all extent of commonwealth of the independent states. It is thought, there is no special doubt that this region will borrow appropriate its oil-and-gas stocks and dynamically growing manufacture of hydro carbonic raw material, and also to a geostrategic arrangement a place in economic and the politician, in the international relations.

And actually transformation of the states applied the Caspian Sea - the Russian Federation, Republic Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Iran - in particular, and Caucasus and the Central Asia as a whole in 90th years XX in a zone of enhanced attention of world political and industrial elites. The fact conclusive, before in this among them the most powerful with military-political and economic the points of view the state of the present - the United States of America which for today besides are the basic consumers of power resources on a planet and one of main their manufacturers. Their consumption only oil for today exceeds 1 billion tons a year while in the country manufacture of this most valuable hydro carbonic raw material makes only nearby 300 million tons a year. As dependence of the USA on import oil the management of this country is anxious at the present stage by problems of the safety connected by delivery to the American market of cheap foreign oil raises. Such anxiety amplifies in

connection with that dependence of the USA on Near-Eastern oil raises, in particular from a zone of Persian gulf, and a continuous rise in prices on oil which, in opinion of the American strategists, in many respects depends on a position of the Arabian states rich with oil in the organization of the countries of exporters of oil (OPEK).

In this connection it is important to note, that managements of the USA and other industrially developed states of the world from the end of 60th years XX did the corresponding attempts directed on easing of the dependence from oil, region on globe by strengthening a role in the world oil market of other petroliferous regions of the world. In 60 - 70th years XX concerned such regions on a planet, as northern sea, Latin America, Northern part of Northern America, Africa, East and Northeast Asia. In 90th years of XX - in first 5-6 years of XXI in their hopes have substantially appeared with tied, naturally, with oil of the CIS as a whole and Caucasus and the Central Asia in particular and features. However, in our opinion, the Near East and Northern Africa which basically include the Arabian states, continue to remain player's number one in the world oil market. Here it is concentrated two thirds of oil resources and about 40 gas stocks of a planet. This region continues to deliver a significant part of consumed hydro carbonic raw material on the world oil market. And the forecasts occasionally published in the American and West-European press, it is far not consolatory for the USA and other industrially developed countries of the world on this account. Moreover, in the near decades, the role of oil and that of natural gas of the Near East and Northern Africa in economic can become stronger.

Nevertheless, in the USA and other industrially developed countries of the world attempts on easing a role of the Near East and Northern Africa in the world oil market does not stop. As it was specified above, it in many respects

explains that heightened interest which show their head to Caspian region at the present stage. However it is one of the major, but not the unique factor of display of interest to this region of a planet. Anyway first five years of XXI have examined, that the Caspian region to which in the geopolitical plan carry the countries of the Central Asia still remains a place where interests of many countries converge, including the USA, the Chinese National Republic, the Russian Federation and Turkey. Along with significant stocks of hydro carbonic raw material it is caused by its favorable geographical and geopolitical position, crossing of transport ways which further development can affect both regions as a whole, and on the separate countries, in particular the Central Asia, in it entering.

Proceeding from such interests in particular and features the leading countries of the world also operated in this region. Strategic interest of the USA in Caucasus and the Central Asia has been sounded by the State Department of this country in April 1997 in the special report to the congress. It was marked in it, that the USA have direct interest in expansion and diversification of world power stocks. And here it was especially emphasized, that such interest has not only economic, but also strategic character as it concerns area of safety of the country. In July of the same year the then assistant to public sector S. Telbot has declared exclusive American interest in independence and stability of t marked he states of the Central Asia. Here it has especially allocated, that for the USA extremely important that the American oil companies have got access to region where are located not less than 200 million barrels of oil.

The next years became obvious, that the policy of the USA in region of Caucasus and the Central Asia is connected not only with economic gains, but also it in the certain degree reflects them geostrategic and geopolitical

aspirations. To it following factors testify. During the period of 1998-2004 the USA has given to eight near-Caspian large scaled states the help at a rate of more 1 billion US dollar. Its significant part was received by Georgia where the special attention has been given not only protection pipeline, not only and not so much passing on territory of Georgia, how many in the certain degree around of territory Russian Federation. Rather actively and energetically acted Caucasus and in the Central Asia and the American oil companies. For example, American Chevron and Mobile (giants in the world of oil) have accepted active enough participation in Tengyz the project on the territory of Kazakhstan. The total cost of this project has been certain in 20 billion US dollars. License for chisel works on Kazakhstan deposit Kashsgan has received specially formed North-Caspian Consortium which structure in a row with others the prominent western oil companies included also American oil company Mobile Oil. Other oil company Texaco, enclosed up to 1997 in development Karashagan gas condensate 6 billion US dollars has declared deposits (Kazakhstan) in October 1997 increase connection financial participation in the project up to 20.12.5 more Texaco Oil has conceded companies Adzhip and British gas and in result the share of each of three specified western companies has made 32.5.

The next years became obvious, that the politician of the USA in region of Caucasus and the USA made active the actions and in other states of Central Asia. In particular and features they have shown significant interest to republic Uzbekistan, where nowadays live more than 26 million people. It is half of population of all Central Asia. In Republics Uzbekistan, and also to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan the USA has acquired the right to creation military bases. Thus, the USA became “not absolutely another's” force on Caucasus and in the Central Asia, anyway, in such states influential in these sub regions, as Republic

Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Republic Uzbekistan.

Power resources of Caspian Sea are one of the core and interests of the Chinese National Republic in the Central Asia, besides, certainly, its interest in maintenance of stability and provided safety in the given region, and also in Chinese province Ziyen-zyang joining to them - Uigur Independent Area the, testing separative moods.

Such interest increases in process of economic growth of the Peoples Republic of China. High rates of development of economy define greater need of China for power resources. The Peoples Republic of China today makes nearby 160млн. т oil in a year, and consumes about above 200 million т. In this connection for the Peoples Republic of China of power resources of Caucasus and the Central Asia can become a potential source of oil and gas as, in opinion of the Chinese scientists, oil and gas oil pipelines from these sub regions shorter and safe, but the central-Asian region gradually becomes the center connecting the Chinese national Republic and a number of the states of East and Southeast Asia with the Europe.

Among all central-Asian states the priority attention of the Peoples Republic of China gives Kazakhstan, as to the richest in the raw attitude and having extensive territorial spaces, and to Uzbekistan, rich with a source of raw materials and to the largest state in the Central Asia. In 1998 Kazakhstan and the Peoples Republic of China have signed the developmental contract the Chinese National Oil Company (KHHK) deposits in the western Kazakhstan that became during the then period the largest investment project with participation of the Chinese company abroad.

Representatives of the Peoples Republic of China continue will actively take root into the Central Asia as a whole to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in particular. For example in Kazakhstan in August 2005 the Chinese companies

have bought oil company Petro-Kazakhstan for 4 billion US dollar. Simultaneously the Peoples Republic of China it is anxious by delivery of hydro carbonic raw material from the Central Asia. For example, now oil from Kazakhstan in the Peoples Republic of China is delivered basically iron road by. In the long term the Peoples Republic of China it is interested in construction of an oil pipeline from this central-Asian State. Such idea yet realized though it has been stipulated in the signed agreement with CNPC. Readiness will build the pipeline most likely to depend on political necessity to diversify sources of hydro carbonic raw material, the world prices for oil and rates of growth of internal demand for oil in the country.

As a whole the official line of the Chinese policy in relation to the central-Asian neighbors represents close similarity of policy of the USA, but in the most constrained variant. The constrained position of the Peoples Republic of China in the Central Asia speaks most likely recognition of this region as zones of natural interests of the Russian Federation, from which Peoples Republic of China aspires to support the good relations necessary for the decision of more global and important strategic problems. However in long-term prospect in process of economic growth and in case of easing a position of Russia in region it is impossible to exclude occurrence and political interests on Caspian Sea and across all Central Asia.

After disintegration of the USSR by one of the key players competed for influences and promotion of interests in the Central Asia, there was Turkey. This Eurasian country has defined the role as the states, the bridge between Asia and the Europe, as the representative of the western partners in the Central Asia. On Caspian sea Turkey cautiously and deter able, that is connected with interest in maintenance of good relations with the Russian Federation, economic cooperation with which develops fast rates: first, strengthening foreign policy

positions due to the states of Caucasus and the Central Asia; secondly, aspiration to strengthening dependence of the West from policy of Turkey in both subs regions; thirdly, maintenance of deliveries of power resources on a home market; and fourthly, the control over expert streams of the Caspian hydrocarbons on the world market and as consequence realization of the first defining problem. Turkey is the main motive power of realization of the project of the basic export pipeline BAKU-Tbilisi-Jeihan.

In any case, the Chinese National Republic is one of the important players on Caspian Sea and in the Central Asia. Besides Kazakhstan as it was marked above, the Peoples Republic of China made active relations since Wednesday of the near-Caspian states the closest mutual relations Turkey supports with Azerbaijan. It is caused on the one hand by a historical, cultural and ethnic generality, and on the other hand similarity of foreign policy priorities (orientation to the West) the general interest in realization of the project of the pipeline of Baku-Tbilisi-Jeiohan. Bilateral cooperation extends practically on all spheres of interaction - from economic up to military-political. So, during incident between Azerbaijan and Iran on Caspian Sea, Turkey has unequivocally declared the readiness to support of Azerbaijan in case of military actions. As to a position of Turkey in the Central Asia, here they are not such strong as in Azerbaijan. The Central-Asian states most likely prefer to make active the relations with Western directly.

Besides in region the countries of the European Union (EU) and the Japanese oil companies, and also representatives of oil powers of Southeast Asia, Indonesia and Malaysia actively operate.

That is the Caspian oil, undoubtedly, has drawn attention of many states and regions of the world which heads besides have shown interest in Caucasus and the Central Asia because of their geostrategic and geopolitical arrangement.

At the same time such active actions of many countries and regions of the world and especially the USA and China in the wide plan for Caucasus and in the Central Asia should Cause corresponding concern of the Russian Federation which is one of key players of the Caspian region. It takes firm positions here that are caused by following factors:

Historical and cultural potential. Russia is present at region already during more than hundred fifty years. The control over the region, provided imperial Russia, and then the Soviet Union, predecessor which subsequently became Russia, have served as the powerful base to a leading position modern Russia on Caucasus and in the Central Asia. The general coexistence in structure of one state has connected the Russian Federation with other republics on Caucasus and the Central Asia close historical and cultural communications. It has substantially defined the big weight and influence of Russia on Caucasus and in the Central Asia.

Transit potential. The Russian Federation is on a joint of the Europe and Asia and has an output to the seas that provides to it the important strategic position as the transit state. And now the basic route of transit Caspian oil is carried out on territory of the Russian Federation as earlier it there was a uniform system of the main oil pipelines of the USSR.

Military potential. Russia possesses strong enough armed forces compared with other states of Caucasus and the Central Asia that is the important factor in business of upholding of the positions on the given question.

Hydro carbonic riches. The Russian Federation potentially is one of the richest with hydro carbonic raw material alongside with Republic Kazakhstan of the state in region of Caucasus and the Central Asia, that else more strengthens actions Russian Federations on upholding the geopolitical and economic interests here.

In these directions the Russian Federation has achieved the certain shifts. So, at settlement about the status of Caspian Sea Russia, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan take identical positions. Russia and Kazakhstan became the first states, which have completely settled questions of division of a sea-bottom. Settlements of the given question between two large oil-extracting states should, in our opinion, will provide even greater stability and investment appeal of oil interests in region and noticeably to strengthen positions of the Russian Federation on Caucasus and in the Central Asia.

Gradually and again the Russian Federation in other states on Caucasus and in the Central Asia strengthens the positions. It, in particular, features concern with such rich hydro carbonic raw material of the states of region, as Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, in relations with which at Russian Federations there are last years appreciable motions. A bright example for it is one of the most influential and densely occupied subjects in the Central Asia - Republic Uzbekistan. Visits of president of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov to Moscow here became encouraging, and V.V. Putin to Uzbekistan per 2004 by way of activization of relations between two states, and also displays of interest of the powerful Russian oil-and-gas companies on problems of investments into economy of Uzbekistan.

Thus, opening of greater stocks of oil and natural gas in zone of Caspian region, on Caucasus and the Central Asia has cardinally changed position of these subregions in the world. To these subregions began to show attention in many regions and the countries of globe. It especially concerns such leading countries of the world as Connection States of America, the European Union, and the Chinese National Republic. Such interest to the states of Caucasus and the Central Asia does not cease. Certainly, here there are many geopolitical and economic interests. But the main thing as to us is thought, fault to all to it

“the Caspian oil” which at the present stage in conditions of significant growth of consumption of power resources and in search alternative of Near-Eastern and North-African oil have turned to the important objects of the international relations is.

國際關係中的裏海石油

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摘要

這裡要論的是裏海區域內的大量碳氫原料，被認為能與波斯灣石油相抗衡的油原，是短期內引起重大國際迴響的問題。

地緣政治所謂的裏海區域，包括歐洲及亞洲邊界的大片領土。這個區域包括五個天然邊界的國家：亞塞拜然、俄羅斯、哈薩克、土庫曼、及伊朗。除了靠近裏海的國家外為北高加索、橫越高加索及中亞的巨大空間。有些專家認為喬治亞與烏茲別克為裏海國家。土耳其在 1997 聲明，她也是裏海國家。

事實上，許多國家及地區對裏海石油有興趣，並盡力競爭獲取影響裏海區域及其他相鄰區域，特別是中亞的力量。此事涉及世界強權如美國、歐盟、俄羅斯、以及中國。毫無疑問地，這些國家體認到，取得裏海國家碳氫原料是作為地區政治鬥爭的重要籌碼，進而控制世界重要的戰略區域。

總之，裏海區域及中亞位於國際政治及國際關係的中心，並獲得極大的注意。

關鍵字：裏海石油、國際關係、裏海區域、中亞

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