

## Section «Global Studies and Geopolitics»

### Turkmenistan's search for energy security: The TAPI Pipeline

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The international relations agenda has changed considerably since the ending of the Cold War. Security in its military dimension has been relegated to the lower echelons, whilst the energy dimension of security has been elevated to the top. One region of the world where this can be observed is Central Asia. Energy-poor states on the periphery are concerned with adequate and reliable sources of supply from the energy-rich Central Asian states. A growing competition within the field of energy can be observed between energy companies, economists, strategists, energy planners and decision-makers.[i] The energy importers as well as energy exporters agree on the need for diversification, but disagree on the funding and the direction of diversification.

New actors have appeared on the stage and added new impetus.[ii] The hunger of China and India has altered the energy nexus of Central Asia. [iii]The discovery of giant new energy resources in Turkmenistan and Afghanistan has made greater Central Asia even more attractive, if that were possible.[iv] Therefore, the number of players in the energy game has increased, thereby escalating the stakes.[v] The traditional dependence on Russia by the post-Soviet states is lessening with the European Union desiring more Caspian gas as well as Pakistan and India hoping to transport Turkmen gas.[vi] China in the same context is planning to increase its imports of Turkmen gas and Kazakh oil. These developments all converge around the energy security identifications of both the importing and exporting states.[vii] Technical issues such as adequately maintained pipelines come into question.[viii] Maintaining security amongst the routes becomes a matter of concern. Therefore, security of supply becomes as important as diversification of supply.[ix]

This paper attempts to analyse the energy security concerns of Turkmenistan as well as identifying probable energy transport routes.

[i] Steven Blockmans, Hrant Kostanyan, Ievgen Vorobiov., ‘Towards a Eurasian Economic Union: The challenge of integration and unity’, Centre for European Policy Studies Special Report, 14 December 2012.

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[iii] Süreyya Yigit, 2012, “Türkiye, Büyük Orta Asya ve ŞİÖ Pekin Zirvesi”, OrtaDoğu Analiz, Ağustos 2012.

[iv] India and Pakistan's Energy Security: Can Afghanistan Play a Critical Role? | EastWest Institute,” accessed February 15, 2013, <http://www.ewi.info/india-pakistan-energy-security>.

[v] The Past, Present and Future of Russian Energy Strategy | Stratfor,” accessed February 14, 2013, <http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/past-present-and-future-russian-energy-strategy>.

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[vii] The Jamestown Foundation: Three Central Asian Countries Inaugurate Gas Export Pipeline to China," accessed February 15, 2013, [http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx\\_ttnews%5Btt](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt)

[viii] Simon Pirani, Central Asian and Caspian Gas Production and the Constraints on Export", Oxford Institute for Energy Studies Working Paper, December 2012.

[ix] The Jamestown Foundation: Beijing Proposes Turkmenistan-China Gas Pipeline Through Northern Afghanistan," accessed February 15, 2013, [http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no\\_tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=39510](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=39510).

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- iii Süreyya Yigit, 2012, "Türkiye, Büyük Orta Asya ve ŞİÖ Pekin Zirvesi", OrtaDoğu Analiz, Ağustos 2012.
- iv India and Pakistan's Energy Security: Can Afghanistan Play a Critical Role? | EastWest Institute," accessed February 15, 2013, <http://www.ewi.info/india-pakistan-energy-security>.
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- vii The Jamestown Foundation: Three Central Asian Countries Inaugurate Gas Export Pipeline to China," accessed February 15, 2013, [http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx\\_ttnews%5Btt](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt)
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