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Topic of the Study- Caspian Sea Energy as a Factor in Eurasian Geopolitics

### **Abstract**

This research intends to explore the geopolitics of the Caspian Sea Region basin energy as the main factor and looking at from regional and international dimensions and factors in Eurasian Geopolitics. And also to locate the quantum of energy potential of the Caspian Sea region, study the relationship between energy resources and territorial conflicts in the region. And to find out whether the Caspian region could be a viable alternative to the West Asian energy hub, examine and focus the role of regional and extra regional powers in the region.

The Caspian region that is on an inland body of water (about 371, 00 sq.km) includes five independent states Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Russia, and Iran. Oil and gas reserves, have transformed Caspian region into an area of huge competitions, as well as co-operation, with state and for the control of these resources. This struggle is characteristic of the post-cold war competition for the control and security of oil and gases, which are concentrated in only a few region of the world. It takes Caspian region one of the most important geo-political areas in terms of aggravating existing instability in the post cold war era.

Energy and geopolitics of the Caspian region is an analysis of the consequences of the new worldwide energy situation. Uneven distributional pattern of energy resources has given geopolitical importance to the resources rich states and region. Dependency of the industrialized states for their oil and gas imports has transformed the resource rich region into the playground of geopolitics.

Caspian region is emerging as a potential region. After the collapse of Soviet Union, the geopolitical significance gave an opportunity to global and regional powers to enhance their

position in the region. Caspian region in current geopolitical scenario has emerged as a significant centre of gravity Asia; it lies as a bridge between Asia and Europe, rich in natural resources and the shortest transit route to Europe. And due to geographical proximity to China, West Asia and South, the basic interest of the countries of the region is to consolidate their independence safe guard, political stability and ensure economic progress. All of them are keen to get excess to the outside world.

The energy resources of the Caspian region may become one of the significant factors in the world energy balance. Nevertheless, there is no point in overestimating their role because their volume will constitute only 3 per cent of current world energy export. Of more importance is the question of what group of states will have a control over them and through the territories of what countries the oil and gas pipelines will pass

Owing the land locked nature of the Caspian Sea the ineffective and inefficient transportation of hydrocarbons is possible only through pipeline. The issue of potential through neighbouring countries became a priority for both regional and international powers, as well as for oil companies. Pipeline construction provides the transit states with several financial and political benefits, including access to oil or natural gas for their domestic needs; foreign investments and jobs; substantial transit fees; and political leverage over the flow of oil and gas. Thus, the process of choosing and constructing pipeline routes is complicated and requires delicate negotiations with many parties.

The key player in this region wants to divert the direction of pipeline according to their interest. Russia, China and U.S are trying to squeeze it towards north, east and west respectively.

