

# Turkish-Azerbaijani Relations: One Nation\_Two States? (Routledge Advances in Central Asian Studies)

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## AZERBAIJAN-RUSSIAN RELATIONS: AZERBAIJAN'S PURSUIT OF SUCCESSFUL BALANCED FOREIGN POLICY AZERBAIJAN-RUSYA İLİŞKİLERİ: AZERBAIJAN'IN BAŞARILI DENGELİ POLİTİKASI ARAYIŞI

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### ABSTRACT

*Disintegration of the Soviet Union weakened the long-lasting Russian dominance over the post-Soviet space. Russia has utilized all likely attempts to grasp the vital control through vibrant interdependence. Azerbaijan as the strongest state of the South Caucasus region leaped into the international arena by means of building extensive cooperation and integration. It has undertaken independent foreign policy toward Russia that could be characterized as quite pro-Russian with high loyalty, or/and even in some contrary cases, Russia was skillfully kept at bay. This study seeks to examine the foreign policy of Azerbaijan toward Russia with analysis of Azerbaijan's balanced foreign policy discussing whether or not Azerbaijan endeavours to preserve its national interests in her relations with Russia through a balanced foreign policy. The article scrutinizes the history of the relations between Azerbaijan and Russia from 1991 to 2013. It covers four major historical moments that caused turnovers in Russian-Azerbaijani relations.*

**Keywords:** Azerbaijan, Russia, post-Soviet Space, South Caucasus, Balanced Foreign Policy

### ÖZ

*Sovyetler Birliği'nin dağılması eski Sovyet coğrafyasında uzun süredir devam eden Rus hâkimiyetini zayıflatmıştır. Rusya kendisi için hayati önem taşıyan bu bölgenin kontrolünü elinde tutabilmek için pek çok girişimde bulunmuştur. Güney Kafkasya bölgesinin en güçlü devleti olan Azerbaycan, entegrasyon ve geniş çaplı işbirliği kurma yoluyla uluslararası arenaya dahil olmuştur. Azerbaycan'ın Rusya'ya yönelik sergilediği bağımsız dış politika, yüksek sadakattli Rus yanlısı olarak tanımlanabilir. Ancak belli durumlarda Azerbaycan dış politikası belirlenirken, Rusya ustaca uzak tutulmuştur. Bu çalışma*

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