

# US-RUSSIAN RIVALRY TOWARDS CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS (Future Study)

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## ABSTRACT:

*The region of Central Asia and the Caucasus enjoys a geostrategic position that has made it an American-Russian region of rivalry. The dimensions of this competition have emerged in relation to a range of economic, security and political interests in the region*

*Especially that the relations of the parties are based on the equation of consultation and the distribution of roles at the strategic level in how to manage the global system*

*Thus, the US and Russian strategies intersect in geopolitical areas that are of competitive dimensions - consensual without reaching the stage of the collision situation in a way that deals with the nature of the special strategic and economic and security interests of both the Russian Federation and the United States of America on their competitive directions with cooperative frameworks towards Central Asia and the Caucasus*

*Keywords: US-Russian rivalry Central Asia Caucasus*

## INTRODUCTION:

The study of strategic competition is one of the most important topics at the level of academic studies, because it stems from the reality and future of the relations between the competing parties of the interaction, as well as the variables that affect their impact on the level of the strategic environment.

Thus, the new strategic data of the post- US-Russian rivalries over geopolitical rivalries and interests, especially Central Asia and the Caucasus, as the competitive factor emerged with its potential security

implications for the stability of the region, although its indicators began to have economic implications

The promising prospects for estimating the reserves of energy supplies in the region, and the launch of the Partnership for Peace initiative by the United States in 1994 in an attempt to isolate and encircle the countries of this region within the framework of the Atlantic system away from the influence of Russian influence, especially in light of motivating the possibility of establishing a missile shield project In the center of Europe in Poland and the Czech Republic, and to limit the roles of regional forces and their negative roles of

extremist violent movements, and its growing interest in economic fields, especially in relation to the pathways of energy pipelines and future projects.

The Central Asian region and the Caucasus are the strategic backbone of the Central Asian region and the Caucasus. Therefore, it seeks to maintain its national security and achieve its political, economic and security interests. It therefore builds on its strategic capabilities to enhance its effective influence on this vital region.

In the Russian strategic sense, these factors contributed to the emergence of indicators of US-Russian rivalry towards Central Asia and the Caucasus.

The United States and the Russian Federation are at the top of the list of contenders in the region, each of them is a key player in the region by virtue of the potential to build capacity and the use of influence within the framework of the equation of competition between them, as well as their position in the structure of the international system, which seeks to achieve their goals and interests At the expense of other competing forces, especially China, Turkey, Iran and Israel.

The US-Russian rivalry in Central Asia and the Caucasus, and the broadening of its competitive relations at the strategic level between the United States of America and the Russian Federation, can have a relative rather than an absolute impact on the dimensions of US-Russian relations and on many international and regional issues of mutual interest to both parties.

The possibility of the extension of this competition to other international and regional parties, especially that Central Asia and the Caucasus represents a geostrategic region attractive to the parties to the competition and how to employ their influence

### **1. 1: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK: COMPETITION AND CONCEPTS APPROACH**

The concepts are the basic contents of each study within the context of determining the theoretical hypotheses related to the control of the terms of the study and the concepts that approach it. Therefore, we

will focus on the concept of competition to define it, and distinguish it from the concepts that approach it.

International competition is the inherent imbalances in the structure of the international community, imbalances that may grow and take forms of conflict if they are not addressed. States seek to maximize their gains in accordance with the concept of redefining the national interest in a manner that may be contrary to the interests of other States, Within limited geopolitical ranges, or may expand to include many areas such as political, economic, and military-security competition, especially if the competing countries are ideologically, politically, economically and culturally different ( 1 )

This indicates that the competition is: that there are relations between countries are framed within the borders of two or more to gain in them, especially that the other state does not see the matter as a loss realized, because there is potential for possible gains, because the relations between them did not come close to the case Conflict, for example competition in space exploration and knowledge (2)

Competition is also defined as a political concept that refers to a state of divergence between units of the international community that do not reach the stage of conflict and take political or economic exclusion to achieve interests and strengthen their position in this international and regional environment by

On the other hand, competition is understood as a particular situation where each of the participants is aware of the lack of consensus in the overall coordinators of possible future positions, and each of them is also obliged to take a position that is incompatible with the will and interests of the other party

Thus, the concept of competition within the framework of international relations is that the parties to relations interact in areas where conflict does not cause the moment of interaction. There is no sense that there is a conflict between them, but there is what can be called the geopolitical vacuum that can be transformed Within a framework of subsequent time-frames to a conflict in the event of an intersection of wills

This may be due to the fact that competition is a complex process involving parties' wish to obtain something in the local, regional or international domain, which the other parties do not struggle with, but is adapted within the framework permitted by the interacting parties

The concepts of competition in the framework of international relations show us a set of these concepts related to the concept of competition, especially the conflict which is the closest and most interrelated with the concept of competition, a term usually used to refer to a situation in which a certain group of individuals engage in a conflict with a group Or other groups, because each of these groups seeks to achieve contradictory objectives on the other (3 )

,As the conflict is defined as a conflict of national will resulting from the difference in the reality of States and their decisions and objectives and the possibility of the use of resources, after which one of the forms of competitive behavior between individuals or groups on the strength and values and resources, in order to neutralize or harm the opponents of this side, but on the other hand we see Competitiveness may rise to become a feature of wrestling when international units try to strengthen their positions at the expense of others, and work to get them out of the circle of strategic action (4 )

The other concept, which falls within the framework of the approach between competition and related concepts, is the conflict which is based on presenting it to two scenarios, the first objective, which is based on a competitive situation according to realistic considerations of the conflicting parties in order to achieve their interests, and the other is subjective and based on the understanding and interpretation of the dispute. Self-motivation for the parties and not as it exists and aware of the ground

This leads us to the definition of international conflict as the conflict and clash of the desires and interests of national States resulting from differences and antagonisms in the motives, perceptions and objectives among the units of the international community.

The war, according to Karl von Klauswitz, reflects the phenomenon of the use of violence as a means of

protecting the interests or strengthening the influence or resolving a dispute over the conflicting interests of two or more parties through violence as a method of war management, especially that war is an extension of policy but other means

Thus, war is interpreted as the actual clash by employing armed violence to resolve root contradictions after other methods are ineffective in influencing the course of other events (5)

The concept of tension is a reflection of a situation that does not lead to the use of force, especially as tension refers to a state of fear, suspicion, divergent perceptions, mutual distrust of interests, or perhaps the desire to control. However, it remains in this context, And a mutual threat from the parties to influence each other This tension is a pre-conflict situation.

The international crisis is a term used to denote a serious imbalance in the normal relations between sovereign states because of their inability to resolve a conflict between them, especially as the crisis expresses a position that combines the elements of surprise, danger and uncertainty.

Therefore, the crisis is a situation resulting from a change in the internal and external environment of the political decision-making unit, and this position, which is shaped by the moment it occurs in the perceptions of decision makers

In the light of this realization, we can come to define the crisis as a tense situation facing the decision-makers in a country that contains a great threat to the values and objectives they carry, because it is frustrating and gives them a narrow time to determine the response And raises the possibility of systematic violence (6 )

## **1 . 2: THE GEOPOLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS IN THE AMERICAN-RUSSIAN PERCEPTION**

The Central Asian and Caucasus region is gaining significant importance in the strategic thinking of the United States of America and the Russian Federation, given the geostrategic location and the economic value

of the countries of the region, as well as their significant importance in the external political decision-making circles, 2001, and its motivations to serve the interests of the Russian and American sides and how to formulate the objectives of their future strategies for the region. Hence, we will focus on clarifying this importance to the Central Asian and Caucasus region in the strategic perception of the Americas J and Russian.

The geopolitical importance of Central Asia and the Caucasus in the American perception

Many researchers and political experts, such as Stephen Kills, have confirmed that Central Asia and the Caucasus are turning into an epicenter of international conflict that will make it one of the hot spots in the world, so this intense competition will make it the world's largest arena for big power politics.

By Nkvard Nobel businessman and industry that (in this region there is a clear link between oil, politics and blood

The breakthrough of Central Asia and the Caucasus is one of the American goals,

For the following reasons: (7 )

.1. Central Asia and the Caucasus are one of the important energy supply areas, as well as their future reserves.

.Secure the pathways for the transfer of energy supplies to world markets.2

3 weaken Russia and strengthen its secession from its immediate vicinity (Central Asia and the Caucasus.)

4 Confront the possibility of Islamic regimes in the Central Asian and Caucasus republics

5. not to enable China to achieve strategic gains in those republics be proportionate to the great growth in the indicators of economic strength

Central Asia and the Caucasus constitute a geostrategic axis for two reasons :

The first is related to the geographical manifestations of the Eurasia region. Central Asia and the Caucasus

constitute an observation area and a passage towards the geopolitical areas and important resources, since they are located at the convergence point of Russia to the north, Iran to the south, China to the east, Turkey and the Caspian Sea to the west

The other is the importance of the geopolitical area of Central Asia and the Caucasus to the United States of America as an important base for the tightening of Russia from its southern borders. This explains the continued American move to formulate the justifications for intervention in the region. The region is also a pressure on Iran, , And China because of its proximity to one of Tibet's provinces of Tibet (8 )

this regard, the Pentagon report, published in October 1999, states that Washington viewed Central Asia as a source of concern during the days of the former Soviet Union. But it changed after the independence of its republics, as this region has become a close interest in the strategic thinking of America, which is centered on the flow of oil to the United States of America,

Especially after increasing US interest in access to vital resource sites such as oil and its sources

The US strategy for the Central Asian and Caucasus region focuses on how to make comprehensive adjustments in the geostrategic situation of the post-Cold War era. In this regard, Stephan Cetanovic, the former US Assistant Secretary of State for Independent States, And the Central Asian countries), delivered on April 30, 1998, in which he emphasized that the US strategy towards the Caucasus and Central Asia is based on five basic elements: (9 )

.1 Strengthening political, economic and military-security mechanisms towards the Caucasus and Central Asia.

.Finding effective mechanisms for settling regional disputes .2

.Cooperation in the management of international and regional security issues.3

-4 Development of energy sources and the establishment of corridors of security for how to transfer.

. 5 Establishing the Euro-Asian corridor to transfer the Caspian oil supply to international markets to ensure that the countries of the region are involved in the European and Atlantic systems

. The strengthening of the US presence in the region contributes to the United States of America's management of regional and international balances and monitoring the nature of the ruling interactions of the development of the potential of the competitive strategic capacities of Russia, China and India, which have an impact on the future of the global strategy.

In the framework of this strategy came the decision to expand NATO eastward towards the western border of Russia and the radical amendment of the doctrine of the military alliance, which transformed it from a defensive alliance to protect Europe from the Soviet threat to a military organization granted itself the right to intervene militarily in any part of the world and fall within the implications of this strategy Also the policy of American penetration in the Asian region of Russia in Central Asia and the South Caucasus countries, especially Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The objectives of the US strategy are to include China in two main axes

The first is to employ the geographical seam between China and Central Asia to form a kind of strategic isolation to prevent Chinese expansion to the west after tightening the cordon from the east and south where Japan and southern Europe. (10 )

Axis II: Central Asia, according to Eurasian theory, is a geopolitical hub for the strategic expansion of regional and international players, as well as control of the region's energy supply resources.

Most neoconservatives called for the idea of dual containment of Russia and Iran in the Central Asian and Caucasus region to limit the influence of these two countries in this region. In this context, a special US strategy was put in place to form a geopolitics belt around Russia and Iran to undermine their influence in this region. In the light of the recommendations made by the geopolitical thinker Zbigniew Brzezinski

The oil of Central Asia and the Caucasus has been a magnet for the United States for many reasons

.The region's oil is of good quality.

.Most oil production in these countries is destined for export rather than domestic consumption.

-The countries of the region lack the capital and technology necessary to access independently to oil and oil fields sites, which gives greater opportunities for US companies.

Therefore, the United States of America seeks to economically diversify the geographical sources of energy, which is a direct route to American foreign policy. The United States views Central Asia and the Caucasus as a geostrategic extension of the Arabian Gulf region and it is the ideal way out of the American economy. Large resources and large investment opportunities, especially as the region suffers from declining production and requires large capital for investment purposes (11 )

In its 1999 report to the White House on US security policy, the US National Security Council (NSC) stated that the United States will continue to have vital interests to gain good foreign oil resources, especially in Central Asia. We must continue to form a force that will fortify our imports of oil and natural gas.

Central Asia and the Caucasus, at the heart of which is the Caspian Sea, is one of the most important sources of wealth globally.

Central Asian and Caucasus republics, which from the Brzezinski perspective are the geopolitical focus of the Asian continent, derive their value from their geographical location. They constitute the main gateway to the Asian continent and the source of important resources for geostrategic athletes who draw their own strength, such as Russia and China (12 ).

Within the framework of this competition, NATO has attached great importance to the possibility of annexing Georgia as the most remote power of Russian influence, making it part of Europe and a member of the Atlantic system. Moreover, NATO is of particular importance to Azerbaijan, Marines on the shores of the Caspian Sea. The US program of cooperation with

Azerbaijan included the formation of special units to carry out the tasks that were wanted by the forces of the Caspian Sea alliance, forces originally proposed by Russia.

In view of the importance of Central Asia and the Caucasus in terms of security, the Pentagon has included in the framework of the distribution of military leadership in Central Asia Central American Command, and thus the United States of America supports military cooperation with the countries of the region by reforming the defense structures of these countries and conduct training courses for officers ( 13 )

As well as the signing of joint defense agreements and regional defense arrangements along the lines of supporting the establishment of the GUUAM in 1997, which includes Georgia, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Moldavia. 5 This alliance represents a step away from Russian control, Support the United States of America for all projects that would reduce the Russian influence in the region, and worked in coordination with Turkey to provide military assistance and increase the volume of cooperation with the countries of the region

In the war on terror, in February 2002, the United States sent troops to Georgia under the guise of training Georgian forces to fight terrorists fleeing Afghanistan and tracking al-Qaeda fighters fleeing into the Caucasus Mountains. In February 2002, the United States announced that it was continuing to supply Training and preparation program (\$ 64 million) for Georgia ( 14 ).

In 2004, the United States of America provided assistance to the Central Asian countries (\$ 650 million) and signed cooperation agreements with Tajikistan to use its bases in Turgan, Tepni and Kliab, as well as training Tajik forces in counterterrorism techniques, as agreed by the United States of America and Azerbaijan In 2004 to equip the Azerbaijani navy and border guards with armed speedboats, mobile radar stations to monitor the airspace and strategic sea basin. Azerbaijan also arrived in Azerbaijan to conduct joint patrols and train rapid reaction elements to guard the extended gas pipeline Baku to Turkey, as well as the allocation of \$ 130 million to Azerbaijan and

Kazakhstan to carry out naval patrols and the establishment of centers for monitoring and control.

So we can say: The United States of America aims to provide such assistance in the framework of strengthening US regional participation in the region and break the monopoly of Russia and highlight the possibility of the extension of US power to that region, with the possibility of linking the region to the West through the Partnership for Peace and the development of military capabilities Defense, while preventing military dependence on Russia and excluding the possibility of the latter acting as a sole mediator in resolving conflicts in the region (15)

In this competition, the United States adopted the competitive landscape towards Russia in two complementary directions:

The first is to multiply Russia by reducing the effectiveness of its role in the surrounding geopolitical circle. Through the use of means of indirect economic pressure and the provision of sophisticated military weapons to contribute to the strengthening of strategic capabilities.

The other is to deter Russia by following a number of measures, including building alliances of security partnership with the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus and developing their own capabilities and helping them to increase their capabilities in all fields ( 16 )

### **1. 3: THE GEOPOLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE CENTRAL ASIA AND CAUCASUS REGION IN RUSSIAN PERCEPTION**

We believe that the importance of the South Caucasus stems from the concept of Russian national security, which places the South Caucasus as one of its important priorities. The exclusion of the South Caucasus from Russian sovereignty means the dimensions of Russia from geopolitically important areas in the geostrategic balances of the post-Cold War era. In the coalitions of the Caucasus region, since the March 1995 agreement is the basis for the establishment of Russian military bases on Armenian territory and the joint protection of the border with Turkey.

This agreement will take effect until 2020, as well as Russian support for Armenia in its conflict with Azerbaijan on Karabakh through Russian armament, Russian military bases in Armenia, as well as arming the Armenian air force with the latest Russian fighter aircraft to balance Turkey's outstanding armament and the positioning of NATO bases in its territory.

The strategic value of Armenia for Russia is thus demonstrated by

.1 Armenia with its borders with Turkey and Azerbaijan is a vital point of pressure for Russia, especially with the absence of direct borders between Russia and Turkey.

.2 The inclusion of Azerbaijan by Azerbaijan, because the existence of an independent, Turkish-speaking Azerbaijan from which the oil and gas pipelines would be launched towards ethnically linked Turkey and its political support would prevent Russia from exercising monopoly on access to Central Asia and deprive it of the possibility of using the political pressure paper to influence these countries in the future ( 17 )

#### **1. 4 CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN A STRATEGIC BARRIER IN THE FACE OF EXTERNAL THREATS,**

especially during the second half of the last century, which posed a threat to Russian national security according to the military doctrines of Russian national security, and then set these beliefs Russia's options towards them, The political, economic and military pressures on these republics to limit the attempts to expand regional and international, or to emphasize the guarantee of Russian interests, which the latter must remain within the spheres of Russian influence, and here if we choose the second option, In Russia, Russia is aware that strengthening and upgrading the interests of these countries can contribute to the realization of Russian strategic visions in the long run. Which can be mentioned in the following context: ( 18 )

.1 The guarantee of stability in Central Asia and the Caucasus is based on the nature of mutual interests with it, based on the idea that the disruption of the system of safety and stability in the Central Asian and

Caucasus States carries with it negative implications for Russia.

-2 Employment of the geostrategic location of Central Asia, through which can improve the Sino-Russian relations, as well as the nature of relations between Russia and Iran and the Gulf States.

.3 Formation of a common economic space with the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus. In the long term, it achieves the possibility of modernizing and developing its economy by making it a market for the disposal of its products, and on the other hand.

.4 The use of the geostrategic capabilities of Central Asia and the Caucasus can lead to Russia's status as a regional and international power, which Russia is seeking to achieve in the medium term to future prospects. The Russian presence in the region will contribute to managing a range of security crises Regional and regional levels

In line with this, Russia had to rebuild a security and political system commensurate with the threat to its political existence as a state. Thus, the new Russian military doctrine of 1993 emphasized the need for Russia to assume its role as a major country.

The former must be subject to common policies and cooperation between all parties, and to keep the Russian influence in this space the most important priorities of Russian policy

The Russian Federation has given the assurance of the security of energy supplies of great importance to the post-cold war era. On April 21, 2000, the contents of the Russian military doctrine affirmed that the functions of the Russian armed forces in the economic sphere included the formulation of conditions for the security of economic activity and protection of Russian national interests Territorial seas, and the Caspian Sea has often sought a rival Russian orientation with the United States of America over influence in Central Asia and the Caucasus ( 19 )

Russia has a major gas agreement with Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, under which Russia monopolizes Turkmenistan gas, which has the largest gas reserves in the former Soviet republics after Russia until The

agreement included the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the old gas pipeline, which runs from Turkmenistan through Kazakhstan to the Caspian Sea coast to Russia, and the agreement included the construction of a new pipeline parallel to the capacity of 15 billion cubic meters in 2011, and on the other hand what Strengthens Russia's economic situation DVD in the region, the fact that Russia is a cultural model for the rest of the surrounding countries, Russian is the language of trade, employment, and the language of education, which contributes to the strengthening of Russia's position by employing soft power enablers.

Russia's interest in the region's wealth does not stem

From the loss of Russia to those wealth, but from : ( 20 )

.Russia fears that the Central Asian republics will become rivals in world markets .1

.2 Russia's refusal to transfer energy supplies through roads that do not pass through its land and ports.

.3 Russia's unwillingness to penetrate foreign oil companies in the Central Asian and Caucasus region.

For its part, Russia sought to limit attempts to establish additional pipelines through the establishment of Russia to the pipelines of Tengiz, Novoro Sisk, Baku and Novorossiysk, which would increase Russia's capacity to export oil of Azerbaijan and Central Asia from (400) thousand barrels per day to 2.240 million barrels per day.

We can define Russian targets in the field of energy supply ( 21 )

.Establish a role for Russian oil industries in sectors related to oil and gas development 1

-2 Controlling the special activities of Western competitors, especially American activities.

.3 Obtain the maximum financial returns to strengthen the Russian oil industry, as well as maximize the control of oil exports to Central Asia and the Caucasus.

-4 Russian pursuit of the construction of pipelines in the northern Caspian Sea passing through Russian

territory, making Russia the decision to determine the amount of oil that will allow pumping, especially as Russia is a producer of energy supplies

Russia's anti-terrorism approach stems from pragmatic security interests. Russia feels threatened by growing chaos on its southern borders in the Caucasus and Central Asia that could lead to terrorist acts. Its support for the war on terrorism has prompted the United States and Europe to refrain from criticizing their human rights violations In Central Asia and the Caucasus, especially Chechnya and Georgia

Therefore, Russia has set its objectives of cooperation with the United States of America in the international campaign against terrorism as follows : ( 22 )

1 The recognition by the United States of America that Central Asia and the Caucasus are a Russian sphere of influence.

-stop the expansion of NATO to Eastern Europe, especially Georgia and Ukraine.2

.Introducing the war in Chechnya within the scope of the war against terrorism.3

-Opening of funds from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.4

Review the US administration for its position on the draft US missile shield 5

Thus, Russia's objectives of establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on December 21, 1991, which included the Central Asian countries, Ukraine and Belarus, is to strengthen its role in the Central Asian republics and to play a dominant role in the network of strategic interactions in the region, Russia's ability to absorb Ukraine in NATO, which will lead to the exit of Ukraine from the sphere of Russian influence and the emergence of a buffer state between Europe and Russia, which increases the isolation of Russia and its invasion of the geopolitical Asia, as well as Russia's pursuit of integration with the republics of Central Asia and the Caucasus Comes in Ata Commonwealth of the Commonwealth of Independent States because of Russia's perception of the nature of the benefits that you will get them

So we can say that the economic interests of Russia in Central Asia and the Caucasus falls into two main goals: ( 23 )

The first is the return of influence and the political and economic influence of Russia.

The other: supporting the Russian economy and revitalizing it and securing the energy supplies that the Russian economy may require in the future

### **1 . 5 THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN-RUSSIAN COMPETITION IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS**

The study of the future is an important method for countries and decision-making to identify global developments that may affect the vital and strategic interests of countries and to address the challenges that are likely to affect security and stability at the local, regional and international levels.

To reduce any risks or threats that may be faced, and then can plan for their future according to their will and interests and the requirements of their countries and peoples

The first demand: US-Russian competition levels for Central Asia and the Caucasus declined :

This scenario is based on the assumption that the US-Russian rivalry towards Central Asia and the Caucasus has declined as a result of the complex nature of the countries of the region, which still suffer from many geographical, economic and security problems that may, of course, be indicators of an environment that is not attractive to the US-Russian competition, The parties to the competition ( 24 ).

It is known that the closed countries are forced to search for the nearest and cheapest routes through the territory of neighboring countries in order to ensure the passage of their trade, except Georgia, all Central Asian and Caucasus countries are closed, as well as adjacent to the Russian Federation, which is closed, which doubles

Of the problems of continental failure of the countries of the region, especially in light of the lack of strategic balance between Russia and the region.

The United States has so far not weighed heavily in Central Asia and the Caucasus, preferring instead to push other parties such as Turkey and Israel, as well as NATO's tendencies as rivals to Russia in the region, and to signify that US policy towards the region. In the first Russian- 1994-1996 and the second war in 1999 reflected the ways of how the American trends and how to deal with Russia by its keenness to stand with Russia through economic and political support and promised an internal affair

As for the Russian-Georgian war in 2008, the relations between the United States and Georgia and the latter's employment as an American tool to reduce the Russian role in the Caucasus did not stand in the way of Russia's declaration of war against Georgia, which led to the strengthening of the Russian military presence in the territory of Georgia's Ossetia and Abkhazia, As well as to strengthen its maritime presence at the port of Batumi in Adjara, Georgia ( 25 )

The countries of the region suffer from many of the problems of diversity that Russia is indirectly exploiting, such as the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Iran and Azerbaijan, the civil war in Tajikistan, and the geopolitical States of Central Asia, which lack maritime access, Four alternatives to deal with the nature and privacy of the international environment and its interactions in both regional and international, which we mention as follows ( 26 )

.1 To activate the connection of Central Asian and Caucasus countries from the Caspian Sea to Europe and the Atlantic through Russia.

.To stimulate contacts with the Pacific through China.2

.Activate its connection with the Indian Ocean through Pakistan, India and Afghanistan.3

.Opening up to the Mediterranean Sea starting from the northern Caspian Sea and Turkey .4

requirement: US-Russian rivalry to Central Asia and the Caucasus :A second

This scenario is based on the assumption that strategic mistrust between the United States and Russia is geopolitical and security, and will continue with the

rise of Russia and the attempt to regain its status as a superpower in the hierarchy of the world order over the medium-term future term, The American strategic action in curbing the Russian expansion, as well as a lot of files with controversial issues between the two sides.

Russia believes that the justification for the objectives of NATO expansion can be understood within the framework of the American strategy of enshrining American hegemony to lead the world and encircle any global or even regional role that Russia can play, as well as containing China, especially after US policy succeeded in expanding NATO from Control of Central Asian power supply areas ( 27 )

The US missile shield is one of the most prominent issues of disagreement in the ruling relationship between the two sides, following the announcement of the United States of America's intention to deploy the missile defense system in 2007 in Poland and the Czech, which led to the entry of relations to the stage of tension, The deployment of this system is a direct threat to Russian national security, since the system can carry out espionage operations on Russian defenses stationed along the western border of the Russian Federation

In response to the US missile shield project, President Putin signed a decree on July 14, 2007: Suspending Russia's application of the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, as well as Russia's resumption in August of the Russian Long-range bombers (TU150, TU95) Carrying nuclear warheads and cruise missiles. In the same vein, Russia signed a memorandum of understanding with Russia whereby the Russian fleet would be allowed to use an old naval base at the Syrian port of Tartous and then return the Russian warplanes to the Mediterranean port, Walt Whose features are clearly crystallized after the events of the Syrian crisis ( 28 )

Thus, Russian-Iranian cooperation in the military fields faces strong opposition from the United States of America

According to American perceptions, Iran's acquisition of nuclear capabilities would contribute to limiting its ability to support its influence and activate influence in

the Middle East region and would be a determinant of American projects aimed at redrawing the maps of this new Middle East. The United States is then a superpower seeking to preserve the monopolistic polity, so it is concerned with nuclear non-proliferation, maintaining the effectiveness of the non-proliferation regime and preventing the entry of new members to the nuclear club, because Iran's success in possessing nuclear weapons will undermine the credibility of the counting system. Proliferation, as well as lead to stimulate nuclear arms in the Middle East region

Especially in the context of the sales of Russian weapons, which can result in imbalance in the regional balance of power and lead to destabilization in areas of vital value for US national security, while Russia seems serious in this endeavor to achieve economic goals

On the other hand, the American vision sees that there is a unipolar system in which the United States is at the top of its pyramid, and that this unilateralism is embodied in the ability of the United States to recognize American hegemony to lead the world ( 29 )

Which is intersecting with the Russian vision of the new international order, as Russia emphasizes the need to resort to the United Nations to mediate in resolving international disputes and in order to achieve that Russian Federation seeks to activate the role of the United Nations, as President Putin said that the international system in the twenty-first century should be based on mechanisms for the collective resolution of major problems and the primacy of international law, and the United Nations should therefore remain the principal center for the regulation of international relations in the twenty-first century

Third: Continuing cooperation in the framework of the US-Russia competition towards Central Asia and the Caucasus ( 30 ):

This scene is based on the premise that US-Russian relations, despite the post-Cold War tensions, did not reach the level of the conflict situation, but were interspersed with many modes of cooperation and competition, as well as the nature of the governing

interactions of the relations between the two countries. With the aim of maximizing gains for both sides in the framework of the equation of mutual strategic need, especially in the context of the self-realization of both parties.

In this regard, we can point out that Russia's cooperation in the context of the war against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda and its adherence to the security initiative aimed at curbing the proliferation of weapons and supporting the efforts of the United States to use its pressure on Iran and North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons program In the foreign directions of Russia, but on the contrary was a useful decision for cooperation in the framework of the fight against terrorism, and bet that such cooperation will open the way to recognize Russia as one of the main poles in the management of the global system after the events of September 11, 2001

The events of September 11, 2001, were a small example, according to Paul Wolfowitz, of the fact that massive military force was not effective against actual and potential threats. This led to the realization of the American perception that American national security does not only recognize the US, Russia is still the negotiating country with the United States of America. It has signed bilateral strategic arms control treaties and has full membership in the Group of Eight (G-8) and is therefore capable of participating in the United States. United Nations In the use of direct influence on a range of international and regional issues ( 31 )

## CONCLUSION

The Central Asian and Caucasus region has become one of the strategically added strategic regions of the post-Cold War strategic American and Russian perception, which has stimulated the competitive strategic action of both countries as a result of each possessing a range of strategic capabilities that seek to employ them in a way that achieves their goals and interests. In light of the nature of the interactions governing the relations between the great forces of the post-cold war, which led to the followers of a strategy consistent with the nature of the new international variables by giving priority to economic considerations at the expense of And Central Asia and the Caucasus, with the elements of the nature of the geo-strategic

location and the possession of energy supplies, which has made it an important axis of the US-Russian competition, and thus sought the States The United States of America to ensure its influence in the region and to prevent the emergence of new Russian orientations with an imperial tendency to control Eurasia, which enters the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus within the framework of the geographical description, because of its importance in the US strategic perception, and the possibility of separation from the circle of influence Russia and its polarization within NATO's new strategy for the post-Cold War era, as well as limiting the direction of the Russian strategy aimed at full control of the energy supply routes in the Eurasian region. In return, Russia aims to achieve its objectives and strengthen its future roles in the region by employing a range of means Diplomatic and economic relations to maintain continuity with neighboring countries and to strengthen their awareness of the importance of maintaining ties with the Russian Federation to protect regional security in this region and to limit attempts to infiltrate the United States.

In line with the above, we have reached a set of conclusions, which we mention in the following context :

.1 The importance of Central Asia and the South Caucasus is based on the region's containment of huge energy resources.

-2 The status of the region in the American strategic perception is related to the data of the international environment, which involved geopolitical changes that transcended the geopolitical dimensions to the Central Asia and the South Caucasus region, which stimulated the possibilities of American strategic thinking to focus on making it a focal point for influencing the internal environment. From Russia, China and Iran at the same time.

.3 Central Asia and the Caucasus are of geostrategic importance to the United States of America, then part of the Eurasian region, which is the mainstay of global domination.

.4 The events of 11 September 2001 provided the opportunity for the United States of America to

strengthen its military presence in the region, as well as to strengthen its economic capabilities through the growing levels of investments and companies operating in the oil sector in the countries of the region.

.5 In the context of the American-Russian rivalry equation, Turkey formed one of the means of American orientation towards the region by employing Turkey's geographical links with the peoples of this region. Therefore, its project, Baku-Ceyhan, which is one of the American means aimed at undermining the Russian and Iranian roles in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

.6 Russia has not hesitated to adopt military options to achieve its interests in the region, and the Russian-Georgian war is the biggest proof.

.7 The policies of the United States of America and the Russian Federation have shown a kind of discipline and conformity to counter-terrorism and organizations of a criminal nature in the region.

.8 Both the United States and the Russian Federation have emerged as prominent rivals in the geopolitical rivalry equation, as we have already mentioned, so they have not volunteered to use their geostrategic potential to make gains in this region in a manner that serves the strategy of each country in isolation.

9 The US-Russian rivalry was not limited to the parties to the basic competition, but led to the emergence of geopolitical axes in the equation of competition, especially Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Israel, which lined up with the United States of America on the one hand, and Iran, Armenia and China alongside Russia.

10 Central Asia and the Caucasus has become an important area for the recruitment of projects and tracks of future energy pipelines, both US and Russian, on the other hand, indicating the growing indicators of competition between the two sides in this region in the foreseeable future

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