



Azerbaijan's Post-War Exercise with Turkey

OE Watch Commentary: The Armed Forces of Azerbaijan have typically carried out at least one joint military exercise a year with the Turkish armed forces for the past few years. The accompanying excerpted articles report on the most recent joint Azerbaijani-Turkish exercise and they provide a look at how this security cooperation relationship continues to develop following the 2020 Nagorno Karabakh War.

The article from *Kavkazskiy Uzel*, an independent Russian-language website with news from the Caucasus, reports on the Turkish government's announcement of "large-scale military exercises from 1-12 February in the city of Kars (located near the border with Armenia)." The article notes how "tankers, artilleryman, snipers and special forces personnel will work out combat skills" and that "the goal of the exercise is strengthen cooperation and improve coordination in joint operations as well as check the combat readiness of soldiers, including operating in winter conditions." The article includes a couple of interviews with military analysts who commented on the exercise, included one who stated that it "is a message that Azerbaijan and Turkey are ready to jointly respond to challenges and threats." Another analyst stated "the conditions in which the exercises are taking place, as well as the units involved, point to the development of offensive operations in mountainous terrain" and that "the location of the exercises is not related to military-strategic goals of the two sides." Instead, he says that "Kars could have been chosen because Azerbaijan is still preparing to liberate cities."

The article from *Trend*, a news agency based in Azerbaijan, also reports on the recent exercise and it notes that it involved "units from the Separate Combined Arms Army" from Azerbaijan and that they "worked on tactical-special tasks of combat engineering support in difficult conditions." The article also points out how "a lot of attention was paid to the use of tank bridge layers, clearing engineering vehicles and engineering ordnance." Overall, the exercise provides another example of how the governments of Azerbaijan and Turkey continue to carry out security cooperation and how Azerbaijani armed forces continue to prepare for operations in mountainous terrain and deal with engineering tasks that come with it. **End OE Watch Commentary (Stein)**



An armored engineering vehicle (IMR) used by the Moscow Military District to fight wildfires in the Moscow Region's Lkhovitsky district.

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:RIAN_archive_734015_Wildfires_in_Moscow_Region%27s_Lkhovitsky_district.jpg, Attribution: CC BY 3.0

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Source: “Военные эксперты сочли учения Азербайджана и Турции связанными с Карабахом (Military experts have considered the exercises of Azerbaijan and Turkey are connected with Karabakh),” *Kavkazskiy Uzel* (an independent Russian-language website with news from the Caucasus), 29 January 2021. <https://www.kavkaz-uzel.eu/articles/359201/>

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The conditions in which the exercises are taking place, as well as the units involved, point to the development of offensive operations in mountainous terrain, said military analyst Alexander Perendzhiyev...“The location of the exercises is not related to military-strategic goals of the two sides, he added...“Kars could have been chosen because Azerbaijan is still preparing to liberate cities”...



Continued: Azerbaijan's Post-War Exercise with Turkey

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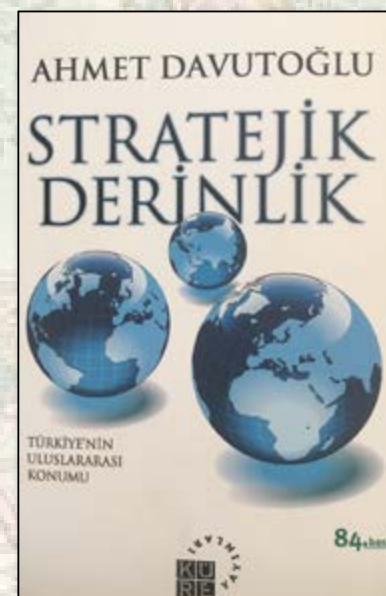
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Book Review: A Look Back and Forward at Turkey's “Strategic Depth” Foreign Policy Doctrine Karen Kaya February 2020

“Strategic Depth (Stratejik Derinlik)” is a Turkish book published in 2001. This was a time when international relations theorists were describing new frameworks of world order and security modalities following the end of the Cold War and bi-polar world. Works such as Francis Fukuyama's “End of History” and Samuel Huntington's “Clash of Civilizations” were icons of this intellectual period. It was in this context of a changing international system that Turkish International Relations Professor Ahmet Davutoğlu (who later served as Foreign Minister between 2009-2014 and Prime Minister between 2014-2016) attempted to define Turkey's position in his book “Strategic Depth.” From around 2002 to 2012, the foreign policy that Davutoğlu outlined in his book was considered the doctrine and roadmap for Turkish foreign policy.



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