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## **MOSCOW READY TO PLAY KARAKALPAK CARD AGAIN TO GAIN ACCESS TO NEW OIL FIELDS**

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The Jamestown Foundation (9 June 2020)

Paul Goble

Borders remain in dispute throughout Central Asia, with Moscow paying such close attention that governments in the region now feel the need to warn the Russian authorities not to become involved (Ritmeurasia.org, June 5). Often Moscow offers its services as a peacemaker in an effort to recover its dominant regional position (see EDM, May 29); but it also, albeit typically in covert fashion, backs one or another side so as to threaten governments that do not cooperate with Russia or to gain access to resources, especially oil and natural gas, found in the disputed territories. That makes a new article on Yandex Zen, which asks What Country of Central Asia Could Lose Half of Its Territory? (Yandex Zen, May 22), a matter of particular concern. The piece notably covers both of the aforementioned issues and develops themes that the Russian authorities have used on and off over the past decade.

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