
PERSPECTIVES | TURKEY AND CHINA: CAN AZERBAIJAN BE THE BRIDGE?

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Since shepherding Azerbaijan's military victory last fall, Turkey has been on a Silk Road charm offensive. The challenge is turning talk into action.

With Turkey's economy lurching from crisis to crisis, Ankara appears to be reconsidering its previous feeble attempts at staking a place on China's Belt and Road Initiative. Azerbaijan is a key cog in the plans.

In 2015, Turkey proposed itself as the starting point for a "Middle Corridor" stretching through the Caucasus and Central Asia on the BRI, calling it the fastest route between China and Europe. Turkey worked with Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to facilitate trans-Caspian Sea routes and opened the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway across the Caucasus in 2017.

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