



# RSC “Master Class” Professional Training Program

Richard Giragosian  
Director

Regional Studies Center (RSC)

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# Briefing Issues

- The Siege of Nagorno Karabakh
- The Status of Armenia-Azerbaijan Negotiations
- Recent Developments in Armenian Foreign Policy
- The Broader Regional Context

# The Siege of Karabakh



# Closure of the Lachin Corridor



# From Crisis to Catastrophe



- Siege tactic neither new nor surprising, only latest element in deeper escalation
- Targeting civilian population
- Most vulnerable victimized most

# Dangerous Precedents

- The 2020 War for Karabakh seemingly vindicates use of force over diplomacy
  - Use of force further validated by imposition of blockade since December 2022
- Apparent victory of authoritarian power over weaker democracy
  - Undermines Western values & threatens Armenian confidence in democracy

# Armenia-Azerbaijan Bilateral Negotiations Pursuing a Peace Treaty

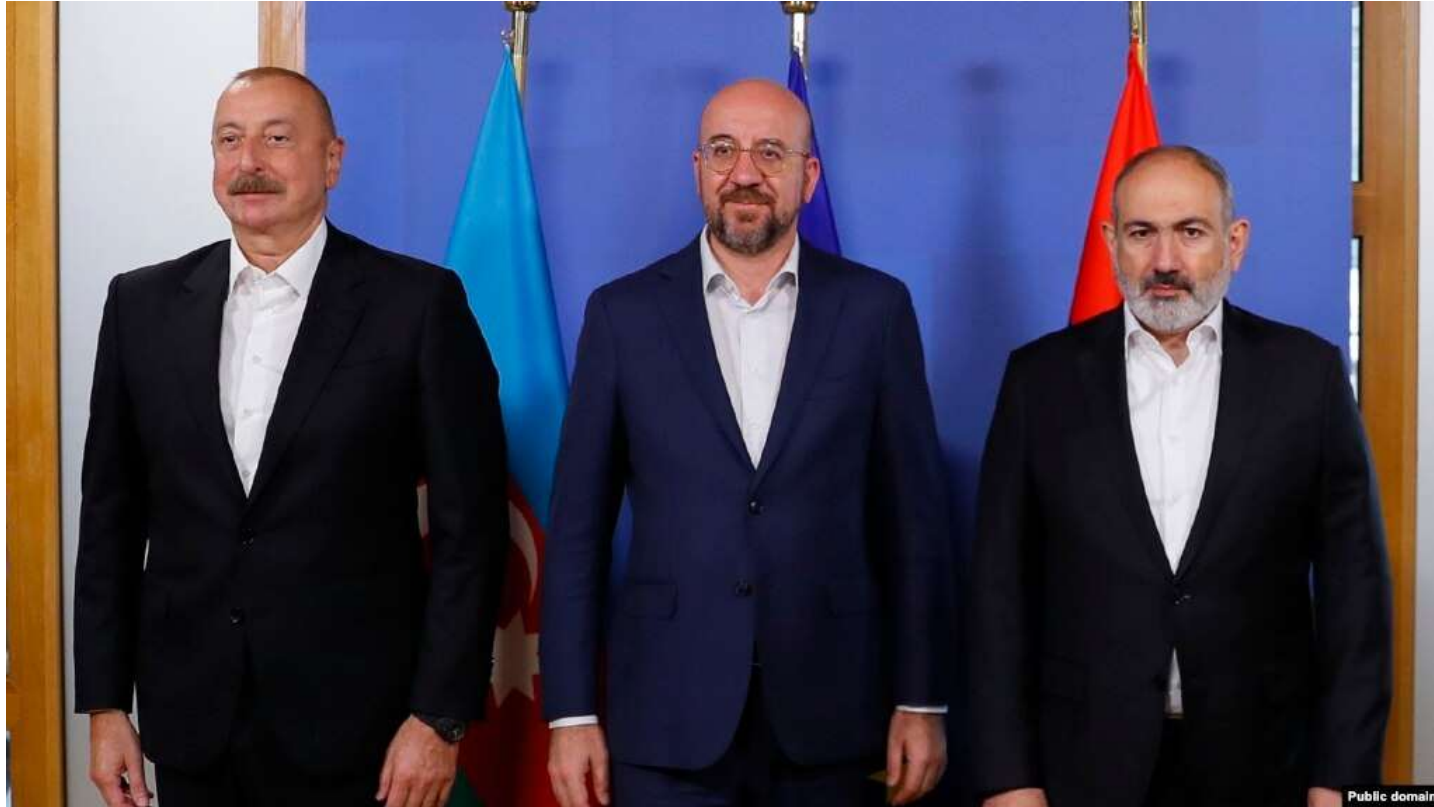


# Armenia-Azerbaijan Negotiations

## Format, Process & Agenda

- *Three Distinct Diplomatic Tracks:*  
Brussels; Washington; Moscow
- *Three Issues:*  
Drafting Bilateral Peace Treaty  
Border Demarcation & Delineation  
Restoration of Trade & Transport

# Brussels: Facilitation



- Facilitating, not mediating negotiations
- Providing platform for engagement of Armenian & Azerbaijani Heads of State

# Washington: US Engagement



- Guiding multi-day talks between Armenian & Azerbaijani foreign ministers over drafting bilateral, inter-state peace treaty
- Critical staff support to bolster the process<sup>10</sup>

# Moscow: Reaction & Response



- Distracted & overwhelmed by failed invasion of Ukraine, Moscow has lost the diplomatic initiative to the West and struggles to demonstrate relevance



# UN Security Council



- UN Security Council as turning point: Armenia maintains momentum & regains diplomatic initiative

# Recent Reaction



- Anger & frustration directed at the international community
- Reaction to disparity in response between Ukraine & catastrophe in Karabakh

# Likely Reaction

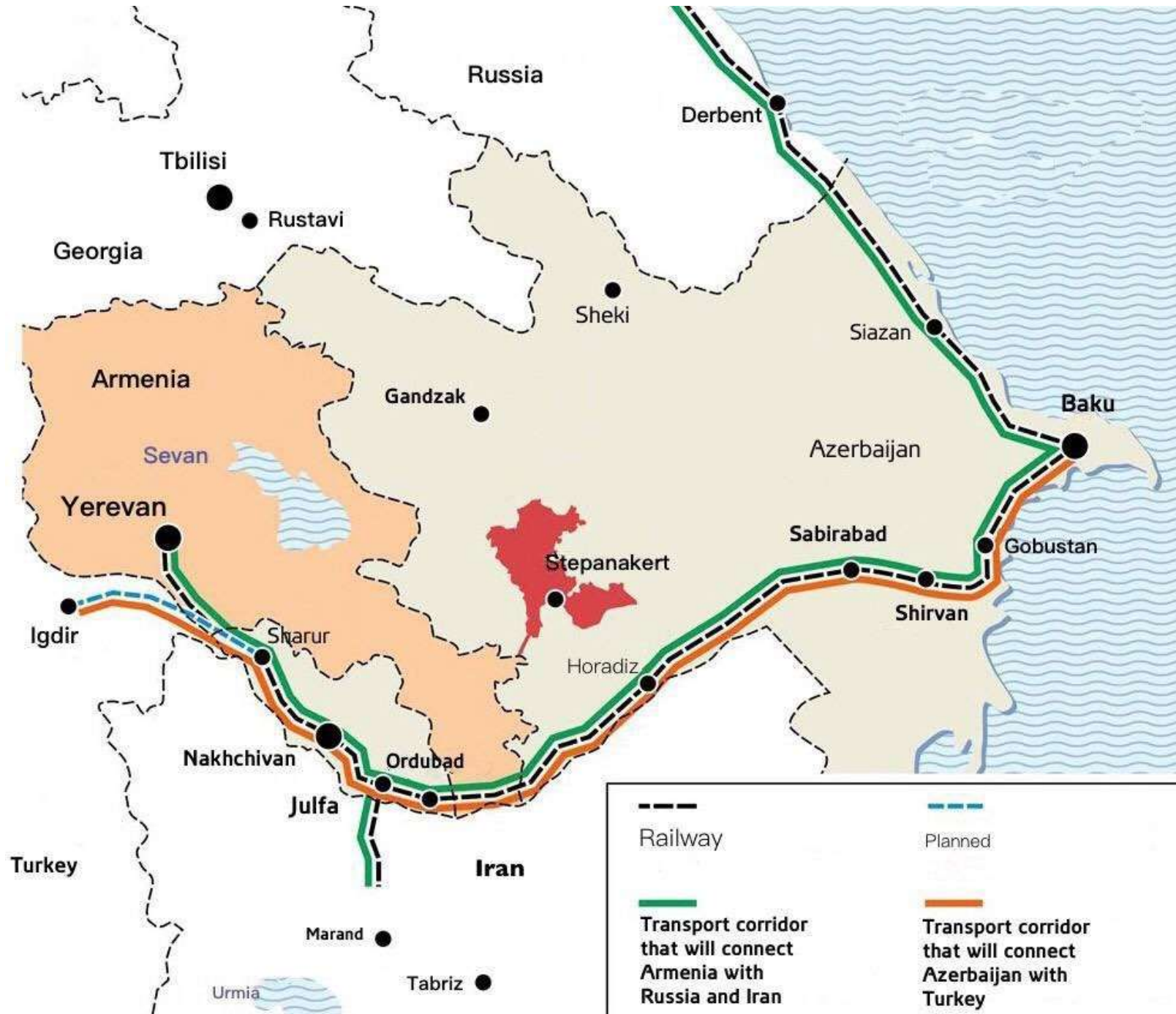


- Targeting Russia for failing to respond
- Testing Armenian patience with Russian refusal to act
- Russian complicity

# Post-War South Caucasus



# Connectivity: Trade & Transport



# Broader Regional Context

- Broader Trends & Triggers
- Region at Risk: Arena for Geopolitical Competition & Confrontation
- Strategic Significance & Implications for Western Interests