



# ANKASAM

## bulletin

2 July 2023  
ISSUE: 2023/26

# Two Targets of Increasing Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan: CPEC and Energy Security

**06**

Indonesia's Place in  
China-USA  
Competition

**08**

Current Trends in  
Asia-Pacific  
Geopolitics

# CONTENTS

## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

- 03** **Two Targets of Increasing Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan: CPEC and Energy Security**  
Dr. Doğacan BAŞARAN
- 06** **Indonesia's Place in China-USA Competition**  
Zeki Talustan GÜLTEN
- 08** **Current Trends in Asia-Pacific Geopolitics**  
Zeki Talustan GÜLTEN
- 11** **Why Putin Awarded the Order of Alexander Nevsky to Dodik?**  
Dr. Doğacan BAŞARAN
- 14** **Current Situation on the Baku-Erivan Line and Lachin Corridor**  
Jafar JAFARLI
- 16** **The Effects of US-China Rivalry on the Security of the North Pacific**  
Elcan TOKMAK

## ANKASAM IN PRESS

- 18** Media

## JOURNALS

- 19** **Journal of International Crisis and Political Studies**

**Journal of Regional Studies**



## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# Two Targets of Increasing Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan: CPEC and Energy Security

Although the withdrawal of the United States of America (USA) and its allies from Afghanistan on 31 August 2021, ending the 20-year-long occupation called "Operation Enduring Freedom", started the second Taliban era, a power vacuum has emerged in Afghanistan.

It is known that this situation provided terrorist organisations with the opportunity to act. On the one hand, the ousted regime's emptying of prisons and the Taliban's declaration of general amnesty facilitated the activities of terrorists coming out of prisons in Afghanistan; on the other hand, the weapons left behind by the US



**Dr. Doğacan BAŞARAN**  
ANKASAM  
AF-PAK Expert

and its allies during their withdrawal fell into the hands of terrorist organisations. Moreover, the isolation policies of the international community, which punish the Afghan people under the pretext of punishing the Taliban regime, have deepened the economic problems in the country, the employment problem has reached the dimension of a humanitarian crisis, and this has facilitated the recruitment of terrorist organisations.

Considering that Afghanistan is geopolitically located in the heartland of the world, that is, in the heart of Eurasia, it can be foreseen that crises and instability will not be limited to this country. Perhaps the most decisive factor in the decision to withdraw was the US' desire to leave its two rivals, Russia and China, to face the instabilities in their immediate neighbourhood. There are strong allegations that this was the real reason for the withdrawal. In the face of this situation, all the states in the region have various concerns in terms of security and migration. The search for cooperation against crises also stems from these concerns.

In this context, it can be stated that Pakistan is one of the countries where terrorist acts have increased following the US withdrawal. Looking at the terrorist threats that the Islamabad administration has to face, it can be said that the issue is closely related to the power vacuum in Afghanistan. Pakistani officials frequently make statements drawing attention to this. As a matter of fact, both the use of weapons withdrawn by the US from Afghanistan in the terrorist attacks in Pakistan and the terrorists' attempts to evade the operations of the Pakistani Army by crossing into Afghanistan after the terrorist attacks confirm the arguments of the Pakistani government.

Currently, it is possible to talk about a two-dimensional terrorist threat in Pakistan. The first one is the attacks of the terrorist organisation Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Secondly, the increasing activities of separatist Baloch organisations are on the agenda. It can be argued that the attacks of these organisations serve two purposes.

The first is to destabilise the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), one of the most critical economic routes of the Belt and Road Initiative, which China is trying to implement in order to increase its influence in global trade. In fact, when we look at the attacks in Pakistan, it is seen that both the terrorist organisation TTP and the separatist Baloch organisations frequently target Chinese investments and Chinese workers.

At this point, it is essential to remind that the starting point of CPEC is the Balochistan Region. Because Gwadar Port, which is the point where CPEC opens to the oceans, is located in this region. It is possible to associate the Baloch propaganda against the Gwadar Port with the aim of destabilising the CPEC and thus undermining China's initiatives.

Secondly, it can also be argued that both the attacks of the terrorist organisation TTP and the terrorist acts of separatist Baloch organisations target Pakistan's energy security. As is known, Pakistan is an energy dependent country. In order to overcome this dependence, the Islamabad administration imports energy from Russia and Iran. Undoubtedly, like Beijing, Moscow and Tehran are also seen as "other" actors by the Washington administration. In energy imports from these countries, both Gwadar Port and Balochistan Region come to the fore. Therefore, it is obvious that the attacks target the commercial interests of these countries and Pakistan's energy security.

As it will be recalled, on 21 May 2023, a terrorist attack was carried out by a group trying to infiltrate into Iran through the Pakistani border. Although the attack was clearly condemned by the Islamabad administration in a very strong language, Tehran made statements inviting Pakistan to increase measures in the interest of border security. It is highly significant that this terrorist attack came after Pakistan's negotiations to increase its energy imports from Iran. Moreover, the attack also has a CPEC dimension. Because during these talks, Pakistan also discussed the issue of overcoming the deficiencies of Gwadar Port by purchasing electricity from Iran. [i]

As it can be understood, terrorist acts in the region have threatened energy security by aiming to create insecurity in the Islamabad-Tehran line on the one hand, and served to destabilise CPEC on the other. At the same time, this situation has occasionally led Beijing to make various demands on the security of investments, leading to minor conflicts in China-Pakistan relations. Similarly, the process also has a Russian dimension. Because the escalation of these attacks during a period when Russia will import liquefied natural gas by sea to Pakistani ports puts Pakistan's energy security and Russia's economic revenues at risk. Therefore, it is understood that the terrorist attacks are also intended to sabotage the relations between Islamabad and Moscow.

In conclusion, after the withdrawal of the US and its allies from Afghanistan, there has been a significant increase in terrorist attacks in Pakistan. It is seen that the main target of these attacks is CPEC and Pakistan's energy security. Moreover, China is indirectly targeted through CPEC, and Iran and Russia are also indirectly targeted through the energy security dimension. Therefore, it is possible to argue that the terrorist organisation TTP and separatist Baluch groups are proxy actors serving the US goal of destabilising its rivals.

[i] "Terrorist Attacks Put Pakistan's Bid to Import Energy from Iran in Jeopardy", My Republica, <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/terrorist-attacks-put-pakistan-s-bid-to-import-energy-from-iran-in-jeopardy/?categoryId=81>, (Date of Accession: 02.06.2023).



## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# Indonesia's Place in China-USA Competition

After the economic depression in 2008,[1] China overtook Japan[2] as the world's second largest economy[3] in 2010, leading to a fierce power struggle with the United States of America (USA) in the global system. As a matter of fact, although the said competition is based on economy, this competition also has geopolitical and geostrategic dimensions. Because, in particular, the fact that the USA and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) want to implement the containment policy that they implemented and obtained results against the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) during the Cold War[4]

against China also adds a regional perspective to this competition.

Within the framework of this policy, it is of great importance for the West to establish close relations with states such as Australia, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Vietnam. On the other hand, the West's influence in the region is not limited to these collaborations alone. Indeed, the West is creating an anti-Chinese pole in the region and deepening its containment policy with organizations such as the ANZUS Treaty[5], implemented in 1951 in partnership with the USA,



**Zeki Talustan  
GÜLTEN**  
ANKASAM  
Asia-Pacific  
Research Assistant

Australia and New Zealand, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)[6], created in 2007 with the cooperation of the USA, Australia, Japan and India, and the AUKUS Pact[7], established in 2021 in cooperation with the USA, United Kingdom and Australia.

On the other hand, the fragility of the security equations of the region and the increase in regional polarization force the regional states to choose sides. In this context, it is known that Indonesia has a Western stance. Moreover, it can be said that Indonesia has tended to work more closely with the West due to the tense security environment of the region.

As a matter of fact, it can be argued that an important outcome of this situation is the agreement of Indonesia and Germany to hold joint exercises on May 5, 2023, in line with the goal of strengthening defense cooperation.[8] German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius and Indonesian Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto held a meeting in Jakarta.

After the meeting in question, Pistorius said that they discussed some agreements regarding submarines and agreed to deploy minelayers in waters close to Indonesia.[9] The two states are planning to organize a joint military exercise; but it has been reported that they did not make any explanation about it.[10] This good dialogue and defense-based agreement between Jakarta and Berlin is crucial for Western influence in the Asia-Pacific Region. At this point, it can be determined that the implementation of a joint exercise will disturb Beijing and make the security equations more fragile by increasing the military presence of the West in the region.

In addition to all these, a meeting took place between Subianto and Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles on 5 May 2023. After the meeting, Subianto stated that the two governments agreed on joint military training in Australia and stated that the cooperation between the parties would contribute to regional peace and stability. Later, in the statement made by the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, it was emphasized that Canberra promised to deepen its relations with Indonesia in the field of defense.[11]

It should be emphasized that; Australia is the only state involved in regional cooperation with the USA, such as the ANZUS Treaty, QUAD and AUKUS Pact. This gives Canberra a strong Western identity, even though it is geographically located in the east. Because it can be said that Australia is one of the most important allies of the USA in particular and of the West in general in the Asia-Pacific. For this reason, it can be predicted that the relations to be developed between Jakarta and Canberra will be critical for the containment of China and will increase the military and geopolitical

influence of the West in this region.

As a result, the USA wants to surround China in the Asia-Pacific, which adds a regional perspective to the competition on the Washington-Beijing line. As a matter of fact, the alliance relations established by the Washington administration in the region draw attention. It is seen that Indonesia has become one of the key actors in these cooperations.

[1] "As PacWest Shares Dive, Are We Seeing the 2008 Financial Crisis All over Again?", Cable News Network, <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/05/11/business/2008-banking-crisis-comparison/index.html>, (Date of Accession: 06.06.2023).

[2] "Having Lagged far behind China for Decades, can India Replicate China's Success in GDP Ranking Any Time Soon?", Global Times, <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1274920.shtml>, (Date of Accession: 06.06.2023).

[3] "The World's Largest Economies", World Data Info, <https://www.worlddata.info/largest-economies.php>, (Date of Accession: 06.06.2023).

[4] "US Policy of Containment: Definition, Cold War&Asia", Study Smarter UK, <https://www.studysmarter.co.uk/explanations/history/cold-war/us-policy-of-containment/>, (Date of Accession: 06.06.2023).

[5] "The United States and Australia: A Vital Partnership for the Indo-Pacific Region and the World", U. S. Department of State, <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-and-australia-a-vital-partnership-for-the-indo-pacific-region-and-the-world/> (Date of Accession: 06.06.2023).

[6] "The 'QuadFather': The Legacy of Shinzo Abe and the Quad", Observer Research Foundation, <https://www.orfonline.org/research/the-quadfather-the-legacy-of-shinzo-abe-and-the-quad/>, (Date of Accession: 06.06.2023).

[7] "Aukus Deal: US, UK and Australia Agree on Nuclear Submarine Project", British Broadcasting Corporation News, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-64945819>, (Date of Accession: 06.06.2023).

[8] "Germany, Indonesia Agree to Strengthen Defense Ties", Associated Press News, <https://apnews.com/article/germany-indonesia-defense-ministers-12bc802aaef3926e019903261a88fd7>, (Date of Accession: 06.06.2023).



## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# Current Trends in Asia-Pacific Geopolitics

The fundamental security dynamics of the global system are read and understood through the Asia-Pacific region. This is because there are bilateral problems between states in the region, conflicts that create regional problems and issues that resonate globally. It can be argued that the first of these is the Taiwan Question. This is because Beijing sees Taipei as separatists that should be annexed to the mainland, hence the tension between the two actors.

Another important problem is the South China Sea and the Nine-Dash Line, on which there is no agreement. As a matter of fact, Beijing has various claims over this sea, which disturbs many countries. The Philippines, Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan are the countries that stand out in this context and have problems with China over the South China Sea. Despite calls for compliance with international law and compliance with the law of the sea, tensions remain high.



**Zeki Talustan  
GÜLTEN**  
ANKASAM Asia-Pacific  
Research Assistant

On the other hand, although Japan and South Korea cooperate on the nuclear threats posed by North Korea and the containment of China under the leadership of the United States of America (USA), there are many problems between them. The first of these is the problem of forced labor during Japan's invasion of South Korea[1] in 1910.[2] Another is the problem of "comfort women" from the same period, which is still not fully agreed upon.[3] There is also the Dokdo/Takeshima Islands dispute between Tokyo and Seoul.[4]

Moreover, the region is in the midst of a serious polarization. Indeed, alliances based on the US and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) play an important role in regional geopolitics. In this context, it can be argued that the West's most important allies in the Asia-Pacific are Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and Vietnam.

The ANZUS Treaty of 1951 with Australia, the United States and New Zealand,[5] the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) with India, Japan, the United States and Australia,[6] and the AUKUS Pact with the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia are[7] concrete examples of the regional manifestations of these alliances. These alliances both increase regional tensions and polarization and make the regional security environment more fragile.

In addition, North Korea's nuclear threats pose significant regional and global security concerns. Indeed, Pyongyang conducts both Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) and nuclear tests quite frequently. In fact, 2022 was the year in which North Korea conducted the most such tests.[8] For this reason, within the framework of a common threat perception, the US, South Korea and Japan jointly organize drills against North Korea.[9] However, these exercises do not seem to have deterred Pyongyang; on the contrary, they seem to have further provoked North Korea.

As a result, the Asia-Pacific region is characterized by numerous problems. Moreover, it does not seem possible to solve these problems in the short term. In this context, it can be said that the region will be the center of the struggle for influence between the US and China in the near future and will host the fault lines of global security. Perhaps, the actor that gains an advantage in the Asia-Pacific will also assert its superiority in the global power struggle.

[1] "Factbox: Old Disputes Overshadow Visit by Japan's Kishida to South Korea", Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/old-disputes-overshadow-visit-by-japans-kishida-skorea-2023-05-05/>, (Date of Accession: 25.05.2023).

[2] "South Korea to Compensate Victims of Japan's Wartime Forced Labour", British Broadcast Corporation, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-64858944>, (Date of Accession: 25.05.2023).

[3] "Dead End? US' Two Biggest Allies, Japan&South Korea, Find No Comfort in Ties Over Issue of 'Comfort Women'", The Eurasian Times, <https://eurasianimes.com/uss-two-biggest-allies-to-counter-china-japan-south-korea-find/>, (Date of Accession: 25.05.2023).

[4] "Japan Protests South Korean Politician's Landing on Disputed Islands", Kyodo News, <https://english.kyodonews.net/>, (Date of Accession: 25.05.2023).

[5] "The United States and Australia: A Vital Partnership for the Indo-Pacific Region and the World", U.S. Department of State, <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-and-australia-a-vital-partnership-for-the-indo-pacific-region-and-the-world/>, Date of Accession: 25.05.2023).

[6] "No Plans to Add New members to Quad Grouping Now: White House, The Times of India, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/no-plans-to-add-new-members-to-quad-grouping-now-white-house/articleshow/99924649.cms?from=mdr>, (Date of Accession: 25.05.2023).

[7] "AUKUS Deal: United States, United Kingdom and Australia Agree on Nuclear Submarine Project", British Broadcasting News, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-64945819>, (Date of Accession: 25.05.2023).

[8] "North Korea's Record Year of Missile Testing is Putting the World on Edge", Cable News Network, <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/12/26/asia/north-korea-missile-testing-year-end-intl-hnk/index.html>, (Date of Accession: 25.05.2023).

[9] "S. Korea, US, Japan Hold Drills as N. Korea Slams US 'Nuclear Blackmail'", Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/south-korea-us-japan-hold-missile-defence-drills-counter-north-korea-2023-04-17/>, (Date of Accession: 25.05.2023).



## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# Why Putin Awarded the Order of Alexander Nevsky to Dodik?

The news in the Russian media on June 6, 2023 stated that Russian President Vladimir Putin awarded the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina Republika Srpska Milorad Dodik with the Order of Alexander Nevski. In the news in question, it was stated that this award was given to the Serbian leader for his contribution to Russia-Bosnia-Herzegovina relations as the reason for this situation.<sup>[1]</sup> However, Dodik is not Bosnia

and Herzegovina's; He is the leader of the Serbian ethnicity. This is very important in terms of revealing that Russia has benefited from pan-Slavist arguments in its policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as in the Balkans policy in general.

The Moscow administration has tended to increase its influence in the Balkans, especially



**Dr. Doğan BAŞARAN**  
ANKASAM  
AF-PAK Expert

after the Russia-Ukraine War that broke out on February 24, 2022. In this context, the Kremlin has approached its relations with Kosovo Serbs, Bosna Serbs and Serbia sensitively. Because Russia is giving the message that it can destabilize the Balkans through the Serbs.

The main reason for the situation in question is that the Russia-Ukraine War took place between Russia and the West at one point. Because the resistance of Ukraine depends on the aid provided by the Western states and the sanctions imposed on Russia. In this sense, the war targets the Kremlin's claim to be a "great state" and tries to make Russia accept that it is a "middle-sized power" through the war of attrition in Ukraine. The Moscow administration, on the other hand, resists this at some point.

In such an environment, it is extremely important for Russia to give the message that a war it will lose in Ukraine will not be limited to the territory of the country in question. In other words, Moscow wants to send the message to the West that Russia's defeat should evolve into a war that the whole world will lose.

In this context, Serbs make it easier for Russia to deliver this message. Because the actors supported by the relations established through pan-Slavism may cause many problems frozen in the geopolitically fragile structure of the Balkan geography to evolve into a hot conflict.

As a matter of fact, in the current situation, it is not possible to read the conflict in the north of Kosovo independent of the war in Ukraine. Of course, Kosovo or Bosnia and Herzegovina also has its own internal dynamics. Because there is a strong Serbian nationalism in the Balkans. Moreover, far-right currents are also in an upward trend. When the claim of the Belgrade administration to undertake the protection of all Serbs is included in this situation, it seems inevitable that the region will be dragged into chaos in the event of a gun explosion.

Although Serbia maintains relations with Russia following its goal of membership in the European Union (EU); Although it tries to carry out a balance policy that also preserves its western orientation, it is possible that Belgrade will also have to make a choice at some point. But the crux of the matter is the attitude of Serbian nationalists in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dodik draws attention with his pro-Russian stance. For this reason, the award of Dodik with an engagement by Putin is too important a development to be described as a coincidence.

As it is known, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo witnessed the interventions of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) during the bloody conflicts in the region and were positioned as pro-Western actors. This situation has brought about the importance of the Russian factor for the Serbs and Serbia, who continue their lives in the relevant countries. In this context, the award of Dodik by Putin, who defends the independence of the Bosnian Serbs and their attachment to Serbia if necessary, indicates that the instability of the region coincides with the imaginations of the Kremlin. As a matter of fact, Dodik's exits, which sometimes amount to provocation and threaten the stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina, also contribute to Moscow's ability to show its trump cards.

The situation in question is due to the fact that the Balkans are basically Southeast Europe. In other words, geopolitically, Russia is giving the message to EU member states that it may cause crises in the immediate vicinity of Europe. These crises have the potential to neg-

atively affect the union in terms of migration and security. This is why, despite all disagreements, it is seen that Western actors call for common sense and carry out mediation processes both in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the same time, the EU's promotion of Serbia's membership process stems from this.

As a result, Russia is giving the message that it can destabilize Europe by using its influence on the Serbs in the Balkans. Thus, Moscow reveals that it will not be the only loser of a war it will lose in Ukraine. After the tension in Kosovo, Putin's engagement to Dodik contains signs of this. For this reason, the ethnically heterogeneous structure of the Balkans is likely to cause geopolitical vulnerabilities in parallel with the hardening of the global power struggle.

[1] "Putin dodijelio Dodiku Orden Aleksandra Nevskog", Al Jazeera, <https://balkans.aljazeera.net/news/balkan/2023/6/6/putin-dodijelio-dodiku-orden-aleksandra-nevskog>, (Date of Accession: 08.06.2023).



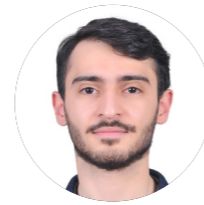
## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# Current Situation on the Baku-Erivan Line and Lachin Corridor

The Karabakh conflict, which has been going on for years, has recently evolved in different directions. Before 2020, there was a status quo in the region in favor of Armenia. However, since then, Azerbaijan has managed to turn the situation in the region in its favor. The Baku administration took its first strong step with a 44-day operation in the Karabakh region. In this sense, the Second Karabakh War ended in a ceasefire with the mediation of Russia.[1] On November 10, 2020, as a result of the Moscow Declaration signed between Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, it was agreed that a corridor would be opened to a part of Karabakh that could not be liberated from occupation and that this corridor

would be monitored and protected by the Russian Peacekeeping Force.[2] This route, located in the Lachin region, has been named the Lachin Corridor.

After the agreement, this route was opened for transportation. Thus, Azerbaijan showed its support for peace. However, the Baku administration claimed that the Armenian government did not implement some of the articles of the agreement. Therefore, the region witnessed hot conflicts. At the same time, the Azerbaijani government also claimed that the Lachin Corridor was being abused. Indeed, the President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, has stated that the-



**Jafar JAFARLI**

re is a huge trade in minerals as well as arms transportation on this route. He added that this situation harms the environment.[3]

Several protests have been organized by environmental activists in the region due to these allegations. This has led to stricter controls on crossings through the route. However, the Yerevan government claimed that the corridor was completely closed. Nevertheless, Azerbaijan proved with various evidences that the crossings continue.[4]

These problems and Armenia's prolongation of the peace talks led Baku to take an important step. On April 23, 2023, Azerbaijan sent troops to the beginning of the Lachin Corridor and established a checkpoint in this region. Subsequently, it raised a flag and announced to the world that the region was under Azerbaijani rule.[5]

This situation has been met with reactions by many actors around the world, especially by Armenia and the separatist government in Karabakh. In particular, Russia, the US and France are among the countries that have reacted. The US claims that this checkpoint will harm the steps taken for peace.[6] France, on the other hand, is working to remedy this situation by organizing a visit at the Foreign Minister level.[7] Russia also replaced the Commander of the Russian Peacekeeping Force in the region and appointed Alexander Lentsov. Lentsov stated that negotiations were being held to restore the situation.[8]

The new situation on the Lachin Corridor puts Yerevan in a difficult situation. Baku, on the other hand, seems to be preparing to take further steps. Russia is also sitting at the table with Azerbaijan in order to maintain its weight in the region. In case no decision in favor of Armenia emerges from this process, it can be predicted that the Armenian government's interest in the West will increase. The West, on the other hand, is trying to unite both countries under its will by using the Karabakh conflict. This is why Azerbaijan's step is an opportunity for the US. The Azerbaijani government, on the other hand, wants to gain the support of both the US and Russia and is conducting effective diplomacy to this end.

In conclusion, Azerbaijani control of the Lachin Corridor will prevent illegal crossings. Moreover, the Karabakh separatist administration will be weakened militarily. In this way, an important opportunity will be seized to prevent the "Third Karabakh War" that may break out in the future.

[1] "Azerbaijan Calls on Armenia to 'Accept Reality' Following 2nd Karabakh War", Anadolu Ajansı, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/azerbaijan-cal->

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/azerbaijan-cal->Is-on-armenia-to-accept-reality-following-2nd-karabakh-war/2850223, (Date of Accession: 28.04.2023).

[2] "Armenia-Azerbaijan, Tensions Rise As Baku Establishes Border Control on Lachin Corridor", Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso Transeuropa, <https://www.balcanicaucaso.org/eng/Areas/Azerbaijan/Armenia-Azerbaijan-tensions-rise-as-Baku-establishes-border-control-on-Lachin-Corridor-224902>, (Date of Accession: 28.04.2023).

[3] "BM Güvenlik Konseyinde Azerbaycan ve Ermenistan arasında Laçın Koridoru tartışması", Anadolu Ajansı, <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/dunya/bm-guvenlik-konseyinde-azerbaycan-ve-ermenistan-arasinda-lacin-koridoru-tartismasi/2769340>, (Date of Accession: 29.04.2023).

[4] "3 Soruda-Azerbaycanlı STK'lerin Laçın Koridoru'ndaki maden protestoları", Anadolu Ajansı, <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/analiz/3-soruda-azerbaycanli-stklerin-lacin-koridorundaki-maden-protestolari/2787503>, (Date of Accession: 29.04.2023).

[5] "Azerbaijan Sets up Checkpoints on the Lachin Corridor", Economist Intelligence, <https://www.eiu.com/n/azerbaijan-sets-up-checkpoints-on-the-lachin-corridor/>, (Date of Accession: 29.04.2023).

[6] "US 'Deeply Concerned' by Azerbaijan's Checkpoint on Lachin Corridor Bridge", VOA, <https://www.voanews.com/a/us-deeply-concerned-by-azerbaijan-checkpoint-on-lachin-corridor-bridge/7062738.html>, (Date of Accession: 29.04.2023).

[7] "Fransa Xarici İşlər Nazirinin Azərbaycan Səfəri Başlayır", Report, <https://report.az/xarici-siyaset/fransa-xarici-isler-nazirinin-azerbaycan-ve-ermenistan-seferi-baslayir/>, (Date of Accession: 29.04.2023).

[8] "Назначен новый командующий российскими миротворцами в Карабахе", Lenta, [https://lenta.ru/news/2023/04/26/karabakh\\_new/](https://lenta.ru/news/2023/04/26/karabakh_new/), (Date of Accession: 29.04.2023).





## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# The Effects of US-China Rivalry on the Security of the North Pacific

The United States of America (USA)-China rivalry is making its impact felt more and more in different parts of the world day by day. This situation, especially felt on the political fault lines where the parties are neighbors, affects the economic and political atmosphere of other parts of the world and shapes the decisions made by the states. Because the USA which still has the title of the world's largest economy even though it has a trade deficit and China which is growing gradually and will surpass the USA economy in the future according to the estimations, means both a critical investor and a security guarantee for many countries.

One of the most obvious examples of the situation is taking place in the North Pacific region. The region is the place where the competition of the Washington-Beijing is felt most intensely due to both the political fault lines it has and the economic giants it contains. In particular, the perception of security shaped around Taiwan and North Korea and the increasing economic intensity in the China-Japan-South Korea triangle can affect global balances. This worries all states about the developments centered on the North Pacific. As a matter of fact, the supply chain disruptions experienced during the Covid-19 epidemic caused a global cri-



**Elcan TOKMAK**

sis and set an important example in understanding the sensitivity of the region.

Looking at the security equation emerging over Taiwan and North Korea, it is clearly understood how dangerous the crises in the region can be when combined with the economic conflict situation. For example, in response to the sanctions imposed by the Washington administration on Huawei and ZTE that are Chinese origin companies in November 2022 due to the ongoing trade wars between the USA and China, China[1] on May 22, 2023, announced sanctions on Micron the US semiconductor manufacturer by expressing that the company poses a great risk with its products for China's information and national security.[2] It is clear that not only the USA will be affected by the sanctions but also South Korea will have to choose a side in this case.

While it is a question of whether the Seoul administration will continue to sell chips to its largest trading partner, the South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the interests of national companies will be protected by diplomatic methods.[3] It can be determined that South Korea, which acts with the motto of "Korea First!" in its foreign policy, is adversely affected by the US-China rivalry. Because South Korea, an ally of the USA, realized 155.8 billion dollars worth of exports to China in 2022 with the effect of the "Free Trade Agreement" that entered into force in 2015.[4] In addition, the fact that this export was made at a time when chip exports were on the decline and that 55% of the total chip exports realized to China,[5] reveals the size of the trade volume.

On the North Korea side, military developments continue unabated. The Pyongyang administration, which has been carrying out missile launches and nuclear tests for a long time, has caused global concerns with its first spy satellite launch action[6] on May 31, 2023. For this reason, the United States and its allies within the United Nations (UN) framework argued that North Korea should be condemned. But China and Russia refused this request.[7] Moreover, Kim Yo-jong, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, stated that North Korea will carry out a new launch and strongly condemned the discussions within the framework of the UN by claiming that the UN was acting as a political appendage of the USA.[8]

In this context, it can be thought that China and Russia implicitly supported North Korea and thus its military activities as a result of their rivalry with the USA. This support may cause North Korea to focus its attention on its military actions in the region. This could put more pressure on the already fragile security environment.

Another reason why the region is economically and politically fragile is the Taiwan Question. As it is known, the Taiwan Question has a long history and its roots go back to the Chinese Civil War (1927-1949). The economic and commercial potential that Taiwan has gained after this period shows that almost all countries have to develop their technological relations with Taiwan. Besides being one of the most successful economies in Asia with its multinational companies, Taiwan is also in an indispensable position for the US-led West that wants to surround China geographically.

The fact that Taiwan is so important economically and geographically and that the Taiwan Problem is directly related to China makes Taiwan a part of the US-China rivalry. In this context, it is significant that the parties constantly warn each other regarding Taiwan. For instance, US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin warned China at the Shengri-La Security Summit on June 3, 2023, attended by many countries including China, and emphasized that a conflict in the Taiwan Strait would have devastating effects and damage the global supply chain.[9] Following Austin's statements at the same summit, Chinese Defense Minister Li Shangfu clearly stated that Taiwan is at the center of China's interests and that only Beijing will decide how to solve this problem.[10]

In addition, considering the Taiwan-US trade agreement signed on June 1, 2023 despite China's objections,[11] it can be seen that Washington is ready to use all the trump cards in its rivalry with Beijing, at the same time, trying to deter China from any military action.

To summarize, the US-China rivalry makes its impact felt in many areas and in various parts of the world. One of the regions most affected by this situation is the North Pacific area, because it is at the center of technological developments, and it has high economic developments. It is observed that the political fault lines in the region have become even more fragile with the effect of the USA-China rivalry. This can lead to negative consequences at the global level.

[1] Christy Lee, "China's Micron Chips Ban Is Litmus Test for South Korea", VoA, [www.voanews.com/a/china-s-micron-chips-ban-is-litmus-test-for-south-korea/7118446.html](http://www.voanews.com/a/china-s-micron-chips-ban-is-litmus-test-for-south-korea/7118446.html), (Erişim Tarihi: 06.01.2023).

[2] Dan Milmo-Graeme Wearden, "China Bans US Chipmaker Micron from Vital Infrastructure projects", The Guardian, [www.theguardian.com/business/2023/may/22/china-bans-us-micron-technology](http://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/may/22/china-bans-us-micron-technology), (Erişim Tarihi: 22.05.2023).

# ANKASAM IN PRESS

**27 June 2023**

ANKASAM President Prof. Dr. Mehmet Seyfettin Erol evaluated the current developments in foreign policy in TRT Ankara Radio Agenda program.

**27 June 2023**

Prof. Dr. Mehmet Seyfettin Erol, President of the Ankara Center for Crisis and Political Studies (ANKASAM), commented on Russia-based developments for A Haber.



*The latest issue of the International Journal of Crisis and Politics Studies, an international peer-reviewed journal operating within the Ankara Center for Crisis and Politics Studies (ANKASAM), has been published. Academic Keys, ASOS Index, CEEOL, Cite Factor, DRJI, Index Copernicus, Ideal Online, Research Bible, Sindex and TUBITAK DERGIPARK databases are scanned by our journal can be accessed via the link below.*

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CRISIS AND POLITICAL STUDIES VOLUME VII, ISSUE I

# JOURNAL OF REGIONAL STUDIES

*The latest issue of the Journal of Regional Studies, an international peer-reviewed journal operating within the Ankara Crisis and Political Research Center (ANKASAM), has been published. Our journal is scanned by Academic Keys, ASOS Index, CEEOL, Cite Factor, DRJI, Index Copernicus, Ideal Online, Research Bible, Index and TUBITAK DERGIPARK databases. You can reach our journal via the link below.*

ANKASAM JOURNAL OF REGIONAL STUDIES VOLUME VII, ISSUE I.

