

Pashinyan's visit to Tehran and Armenian-Iranian relations

Timing of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's visit to Iran, events that occurred during it, as well as statements made before and after the visit gave rise to some discussions. Actually, these discussions were not so unusual, because Iran's policy towards the South Caucasus in general and its relations with Armenia in particular constitute one of the most questioned areas of the official foreign policy concept of this country.

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In parallel to the collapse of the Soviet Union, the South Caucasus emerged as an arena for increased international struggle. In this context, the region started to be regarded both as an opportunity (for expansion) and as a risk area for Iran. Iran considered to achieve positive results by using ethnic and religious (sectarian) ties between the Republic of Azerbaijan and South Azerbaijan (mostly populated by Azerbaijani Turks) on the one hand, as well as using the entrapped position of Armenia on the other hand. At the same time, Iran believed that the South Caucasus would form a new market for its products, thus giving it an economic tool for asserting its influence over the region.

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Full text in Azerbaijani: <http://qafsam.org/page/600/az>