

Turkey's **Middle Corridor** energy + trade  
trans-regional connectivity project in West Eurasia.

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# Turkish Eurasianism ideology used as a geopolitical strategic tool by AKP

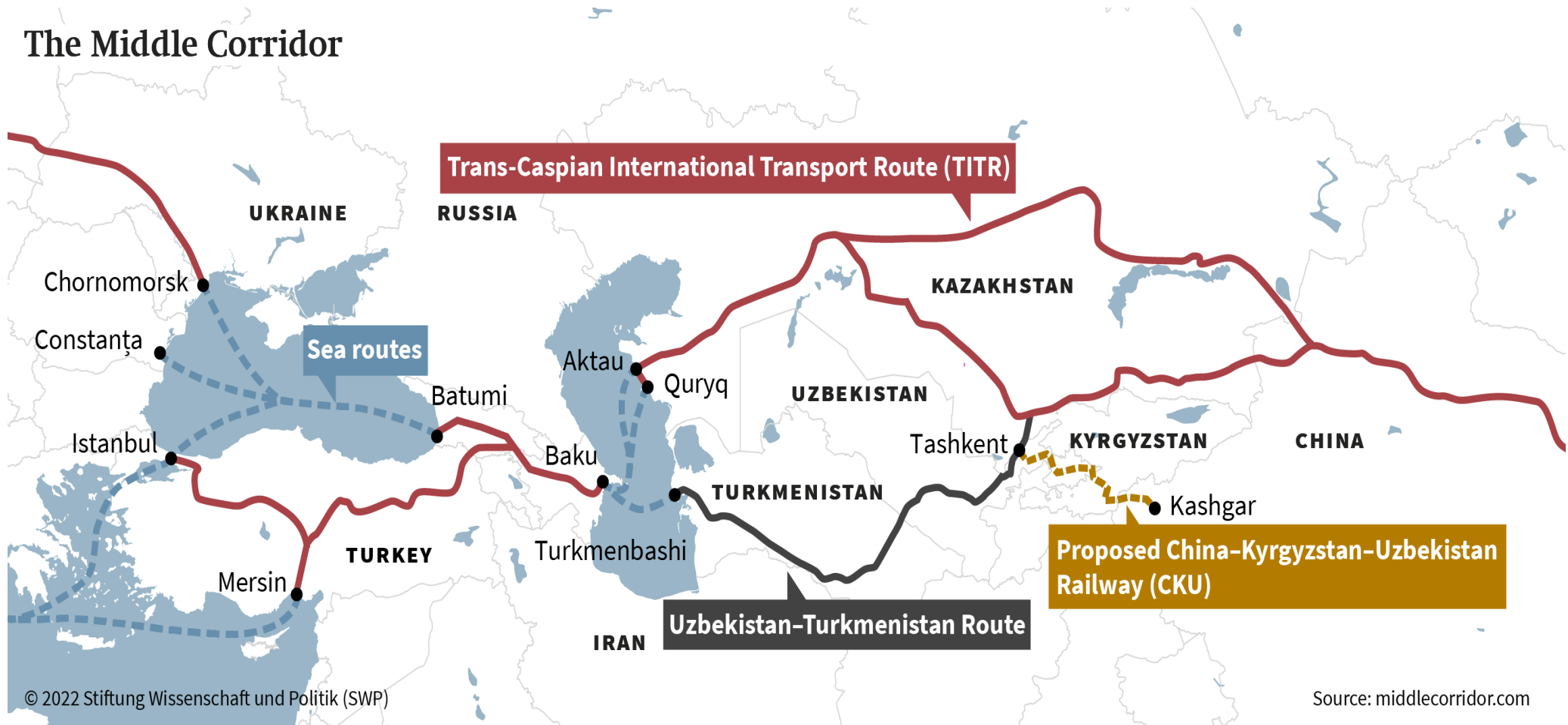
**Turkey** pursuing its ambition to gain the **status of Middle Power**, has undertaken the 'Middle Corridor' initiative whose main objectives are:

- creating a belt of prosperity in Central Eurasian region,
  - reinforce its own sense of regional ownership,
  - connect Europe to Asia, notably the Caucasus, Central Asia, East Asia, and South Asia,
  - create connectivity between the East-West and the North-South corridors,
  - expand markets and create large economic scales.
- In other words, **Turkey's vision for a multi-polar world** with her as one of the poles within the scope of her questioning the world order constructed by US in the aftermath of WWII (1945).
  - Ankara instrumentalizes ex-Ottoman Empire's Sultan status as Khalifa of the Umma (Muslim community), to revoke in world public opinion the injustice of refusing the Islamic World -other ways the Islamic identity-

the **right** to be included as an equal partner and competitor in the foundation of the capitalist development and definition of the ecumenical civilization.

# Turkey's Eurasia inter-regional trade and energy connectivity initiative: 'The Middle Corridor'

(Eldem Tuba, 'Russia's Corridor on Ukraine and the Rise of the Middle Corridor as a Third vector on Eurasian Connectivity', SWP, 2022: 3)



## Ukraine war repercussions in Eurasia connectivity: 'Middle Corridor' calculus.

Russian invasion in Ukraine (02.2022) has disrupted overland connectivity via the New Eurasian Land Bridge, also known as

'**Northern Corridor**', which passes through Russia and Belarus, both countries' heavily sanctioned by the West.

While the '**Middle Corridor**' will not be able to fully replace the Northern Corridor,

regional integration along the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route is likely to increase its potential at the expense of **Russia** in the long-term.

**Turkey's** close cultural ties with the **Central Asian republics**, combined with the latter's willingness to diversify their foreign relations away from Russia and China,

provide Turkey with greater leverage in the region.

# Turkey 'Middle Corridor' - China 'One Belt' initiative effective coupling.

**China** convened the 'China-Central Asia' economic summit (08.23) to discuss furthering Chinese investments in the region,

in order to develop BRI's rail transport projects linking CA countries with China.

Such an outcome, could obstruct the **West-CA project** of improving their mutual energy, economic and political cooperation,

which targets *Beijing and Moscow partnership against the West*, primarily Washington.

However, Chinese and Russian interests collide for supremacy, particularly in CA, the ME and Africa.

Thatfor, the '**Middle Corridor**' project may be useful from **China's** perspective, having a trade route that Russia does not dominate (the case of the Northern Corridor) and the United States cannot directly interdict (the case of the traditional maritime route).

- Thank you for your attention.