

1. Azerbaijan is considered to be a very convenient platform within which the United States, Russia, Iran, and the West cooperate successfully and simultaneously. For instance, NATO and Russian Armed Forces has numerous met in Baku. What, do you believe, to be a major cornerstone in shaping such of role of Azerbaijan?

Very good question, indeed. It is almost like in Kazakhstan where is happening the similar. I cannot see any other countries in Asia (Eurasia – I prefer more that term) to have opportunities like that. Azerbaijan should continue with this kind of open policy contacts and it is very important from the geostrategic point of view, above all. I would add China, although contacts exist. You have to be aware that in today's populist (I am using now more this term than globalized because it is behind us) world where nationalism (read: Nazi-chauvinism) exclude other and different ones (examples are Hungary and Poland nowadays). Just an example of Poland where we have *contradiction in adiecto*: It is a biggest nation of immigrants in the world and they do not accept the immigrants today. Azerbaijan is not just a creator of the adequate cornerstone, but also an example of what I usually say "[More communication, less conflict](#)"

Another most important thing is the old saying: "Have your friends close to you, but enemies even closer". From geopolitical and geostrategic point of view that is the most important thing to do. Why? Because, nobody knows who will be the next enemy. Interest change friendships and the world has shown in the last XXth century that today's friends are tomorrow enemies. However, the upper most important thing is the Azerbaijan culture who are open minded to the World and challenges that the world politics put in front of them.

In the same time having Nebraska (state from USA) proclaimed 28.5.2019 as "Azerbaijan National Day" signed by the Governor of Nebraska, Peter Ricketts shows a lot about relationship between USA and Azerbaijan while the presidents of USA frequently make contacts and greet openly strong and developed country of Azerbaijan.

So, finally, major "cornerstone", as you said is straight and direct involvement of foreign policy of Azerbaijan having in mind that Ambassadors is not just to be seen at the local parties with celebrities in the country where reside (examples of Ambassadors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, all ex-Yugoslavia countries who are just awarded being loyal to the certain party and not being carrier diplomats), but also to present and represent a country in the way to attract foreign investment, explain foreign policy and help others and different ones to accept Azerbaijan as the new cornerstone of the XXI century international political arrangements.

2. What importance does the United States attach to Azerbaijan in the South Caucasus?

To be direct: 1. It is important, but not vital interest for USA; 2. Preserving regional stability; 3. Preventing the resumption of frozen conflicts and most importantly: 4. Supporting democratic change and better governance. Of course, having in mind international integration of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, as the main goal.

Of course, economy (read: money) makes the world goes around and the resources and geostatic locations are the most important one here. Who controls what. When it is controlled and how it is controlled.

Instead a frozen conflict, I think that the initiative (I reverse your question) should go from Azerbaijan side and try to re-arrange, together with EU, a meeting after meeting, after meeting and try to find most suitable solution for all. Remember, nobody wins, but everybody wins in this kind of conflicts. Just be the first one to acknowledge that through initiatives to the eternal meetings for the benefit of all. And even if somebody shows no interest for that, your soul will be clean and will show to the World that you were the first one to try.

3. What are the major milestones in the U.S.-Azerbaijan relations and what makes them stable?

Major milestones are the following:

1. Shared values and interests
2. Strategic partnership

Let me quote: *President Donald Trump, in his letter to President Ilham Aliyev in May 2017, noted: "Azerbaijan is a valued partner of the United States. Together, we are working to enhance global security through our joint counterterrorism efforts. We stand with the people of Azerbaijan and are committed to strengthening our relationship through dialogue on security, economic cooperation, and democratic principles."*

Although, for me, it is possibilities that offers Azerbaijan. Energy diversity; has a strategic neighborhood (do not forget relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan and importance for USA re having both countries as a close friends to USA).

One more thing: Azerbaijan is the Muslim country. And in the same time secular with the strong multicultural background. I was talking about that back in December 2018 at the [Scientific Conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) where you can clearly and methodologically see that on YouTube video.

Azerbaijan knows how culture and sports are important and it supports it in huge amount content. For USA it is also among the most important things.

4. To what extent could the Armenian lobby in the U.S. Congress hurt the bilateral relations between Baku and Washington?

Talking about lobby is very difficult. Why? Simple, because it changes, depending on the knowledge, strength and information richness of the lobbyists. I, Myself do not like lobbyists, but it is necessary to have them in this polarized world. Nobody cannot hurt me if I do not allow him/her to hurt me. Armenian lobby cannot hurt a good, open and direct politics. You just need to have and answer, immediate answer on any provocation from other side. For example, there is something called "positive manipulation" when you, in the school lead the kids towards your goal as a teacher. It is the same here. Very simple, your lobbyist should identify weaknesses of the other side and good point from your side and lead the World to understand the difference. In a positive way, without insulting, being obnoxious. Just truth. Because, truth liberates.

5. Is it possible to expect cancellation of Section 907 to the Freedom Support Act in the nearest future? To what extent it impedes the development of relations between the two countries?

You have forgotten the word "[waiver](#)". And it works so far very well. It goes slowly towards that, but surely – the cancellation. I am more than sure that under the next President of USA, as of 2020-2024 we will have that cancellation. Why? Azerbaijan is an example of the country which has developed very strong understandings within USA society that has done a lot of real changes toward real democracy. It is not demo(n)cracy but real understanding of the future for the benefit of all within and around the country. Democracy is a procedure and Azerbaijan is on a very good path to follow that....procedure. As much power as equal obligations. Yes, you might be a lighthouse for the Eurasia countries. Just continue with developing the responsibilities and obligations towards your own people. So far you have done an excellent job.

Remark:

Please, I would like to put in front of my name

***Assoc. Prof. Dr & Dr. Honoris Causa***

***Sabahudin Hadžialić***

***In a status of distinguish artist ( write) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and a professor of media and communication who teaches in Lithuania, Poland, BiH and Italy.***

***My official page is: <http://sabahadzi.weebly.com>***

***p.s. I have enclosed a photos of mine for you to choose which one***