

# Chapter 10

## The Role of the Nakchivan (Zangezur) Corridor in Transportation and Regional Development and Its International Economic Significance

**Aziz Cumhuri Kocalar**

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0580-9530>

*Nigde Omer Halisdemir University, Turkey*

**Hatice Dilaver**

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4484-5297>

*Nigde Omer Halisdemir University, Turkey*

### ABSTRACT

*This work was written to investigate how the Zangezur Corridor is an important project that supports regional development and cooperation by creating a strategic connection point between Turkey and Azerbaijan. The research method in the study is situational, and with the implementation of this project, Turkey and Azerbaijan will have the opportunity to deepen their relations both among themselves and at the regional level. The study is a mixed research method (based on quantitative and qualitative data), and if the land and/or railway line known as the Zangezur Corridor or Nakhichevan Corridor is opened to transportation, direct transportation will be provided between Azerbaijan and the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.*

### INTRODUCTION

The corridor serves as a strategic bridge between Turkey and Azerbaijan, constituting a significant project that supports regional development and cooperation. This corridor aims to overcome geographical

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barriers, enhance regional economic integration, and strengthen historical, cultural, and economic ties. With the implementation of this project, Turkey and Azerbaijan will have the opportunity to deepen their relations both internally and on a regional level. However, successful integration requires meticulous attention to a range of factors, including strategic planning, infrastructure development, and social projects.

Nakhchivan, with its geographical location and historical richness, stands out as a region hosting a strategically important passage known as the Zangezur Corridor. This corridor holds critical importance not only in terms of regional transportation but also in the context of international economic relations.

Nakhchivan is an autonomous republic bordered by Turkey, Iran, and Armenia. The Zangezur Corridor serves as a strategic passage connecting Nakhchivan with other regions of Azerbaijan. This corridor plays a crucial role as a transit point linking the Caucasus to Central Asia. The transportation network, including road and railway connections, transforms Nakhchivan into a hub for regional trade.

The Zangezur Corridor assumes a bridging role for regional development. The geographical advantages of Nakhchivan enhance the economic potential of the region. Encouraging investments and increasing trade contribute to the diversification of Nakhchivan's economy, triggering regional development.

Nakhchivan holds a strategic position in the international economic arena through the Zangezur Corridor. This corridor provides a direct land connection between Turkey and Azerbaijan, facilitating swift and efficient trade. Additionally, its proximity to the border with Iran facilitates the facilitation of trade with Iran.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This article is of a review nature, and the theoretical content related to the research topic has been determined by examining domestic and foreign literature, internet sources, scientific books, and national and international journals. The theoretical part of the article has been shaped through an ongoing review of the literature, with the addition of current and relevant sources. The hypotheses of the study have been formulated through working on the research hypotheses.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF ZANGEZUR CORRIDOR**

The Zangezur Corridor stands out as a strategic transit point in the South Caucasus. This corridor serves as a crucial transportation and trade route, connecting Azerbaijan's Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic with its mainland and integrating Armenia into regional economic integration. The strategic significance of the Zangezur Corridor should be evaluated in conjunction with political, economic, and security factors in the region. Historically, Zangezur was a region predominantly inhabited by the Muslim Turkish population until the Soviet Union Era, and its demographic structure began to change after being connected to Armenia by the Soviet Union in the 1920s.

Historically, the Zangezur Corridor has been a connecting point between different cultures, ethnic groups, and states. In the present day, the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic is separated from Azerbaijan's mainland by the Meghri Region. Therefore, the Zangezur Corridor will integrate Nakhchivan into Azerbaijan's political, economic, and social structure by connecting it to Azerbaijan. The corridor will facilitate Nakhchivan's opening to the outside world and participation in regional cooperation, while also strengthening Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

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