
**Seminar Presentation Notes
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**“LOOKING BACK, LEANING FORWARD:
ASSESSING ARMENIA-TURKEY
“NORMALIZATION”**

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I. KEY QUESTIONS

WHAT is it?

- Normalization: establishing diplomatic relations & re-opening the closed border
- Bilateral state-to-state process, Armenia-Turkey, not Armenian-Turkish reconciliation
- Based on an official Armenian state policy of “no preconditions”
- Normalizing relations as a basic minimum of international relations

WHAT is it not?

- Normalization is neither reconciliation nor rapprochement
- Normalization is not a defeat of Armenian foreign policy, not is it a policy of weakness

WHY then, WHY now?

- 2008 protocols & “football diplomacy” were not new, earlier efforts built the foundation for engagement; unofficial diplomatic relations
- August 2008 Russian-Georgia war offered new impetus and greater attention; opening for Russia and the West
- Armenia motivated by political weakness- lack of legitimacy overcame lack of political will
- Economic imperative to counter threat of isolation
- Demise of “one nation, two states” for Turkey-Azerbaijan, for Armenia-Diaspora

WHERE is it going?

- New Turkey- recalculation of Turkish national interest & correcting a failed policy
- New opportunity to isolate Azerbaijan- for both Armenia and Turkey
- New options & greater room to maneuver- Turkish to regain role as regional player
- Concept of Armenian national power DIME (Diplomatic, Information, Military, Economic)
- Diplomatic initiative, Turkey on defensive
- Information & PR value
- Military- weakens & isolates Azerbaijan, main military threat, also makes Turkey more predictable, threat misperception
- Economic- Yerevan largest urban center east of Aintab- regional not national economics

WHEN?

- 2016-2017- protocols dead; Armenian border as border with Eurasian Economic Union (EEU);
- Other factors: post-coup? Turkey-Russia relations?