

**\*Open Source/Educational Use Only\***

**2-15-23**

Week 2 Analysis

---

# **Strategic Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Initiative**

## **Weekly Newsletter**

Liberty University

Helms School of Government Students



**\*Open Source/Educational Use Only\***

# Table of Contents

*Weekly Newsletter*..... 1  
..... 1

*Syria and Turkey Earthquakes*..... 3  
    BLUF..... 3  
    Analysis ..... 3  
    Sources ..... 3

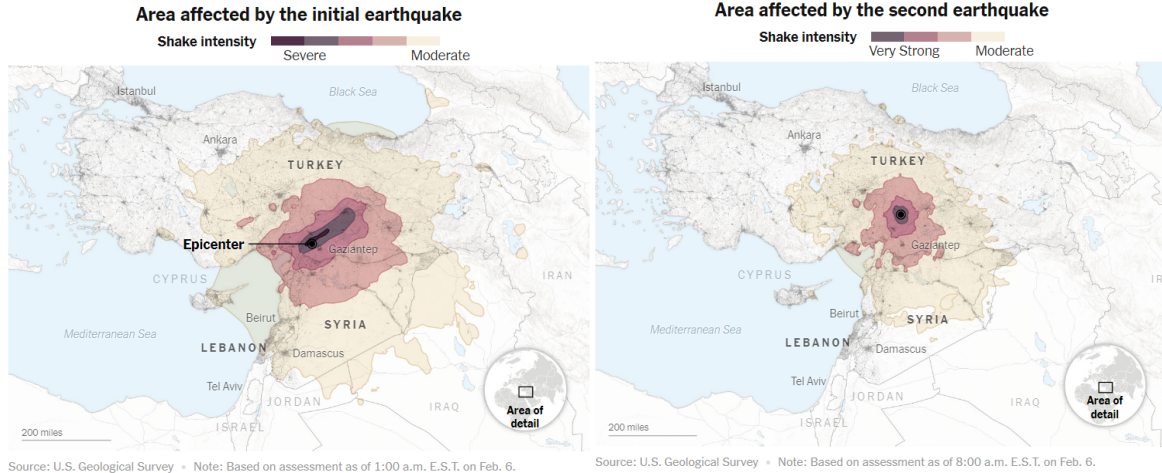
*Iran and Azerbaijan Tensions* ..... 4  
    BLUF..... 4  
    Analysis ..... 4  
    Sources ..... 4

*Russia Ukraine Conflict*..... 5  
    BLUF..... 5  
    Analysis ..... 5  
    Sources ..... 5

# Syria and Turkey Earthquakes

## BLUF

- Turkey and Syria were struck by two earthquakes of a 7.8 and 7.5 magnitude on Monday February 6 with the devastating effects reaching as far away as Lebanon and Israel.



## Analysis

### Overview

- Death Tolls: Turkey 29,605, Syria: 3,576
- Deadliest earthquake in Turkey since 1939, 6<sup>th</sup> deadliest natural disaster in the past 100 years.

### Analysis Technique

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prior natural response of aid causes nations to give</li> <li>- Change of focus to unity instead of Syrian politics</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Freezing temperatures</li> <li>- Poor internet connection</li> <li>- Damages roads</li> <li>- Cholera outbreak in Syria</li> <li>- Prison breaks</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diplomatic re-engagement between Turkey and other countries</li> <li>- Turkish building oversight</li> <li>- Tough on crime in Turkey</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- President Erdogan delayed reactions and re-election</li> </ul>

### Conclusion

- Turkey and Syria have suffered devastation from their recent earthquake. Although both nations have lost thousands of civilians, this natural disaster is forcing nations to come alongside them in their time of need.

## Sources

1. Reuters [1](#), [2](#)
2. [NPR](#)
3. [Business Insider](#)
4. [NY Times](#)
5. [Live Mint](#)

# Iran and Azerbaijan Tensions

## BLUF

- Tensions continue to rise between Iran and Azerbaijan after a terrorist attack on an Azerbaijani Embassy in Iran.

## Analysis

### Analysis Technique

- Analysis of Competing Hypothesis**
  - Best Case: Tensions ease and do not result in open conflict.
  - Worst Case: Tensions result in open/widespread conflict.
  - Most Likely: Balance of power is shift, displays of power continue.

Evidence:	Hypotheses			Key:	
	Tensions ease and do not result in open conflict	Balance of power is shifting, displays of power continue	Tensions result in open/widespread conflict		
Caucasus region heavily connected with Russia and Turkey	3	3	5	Does not support	1
Turkey likely to back Azerbaijan if conflict ensues	1	3	5	Unlikely	2
Recent terrorist attack on Azerbaijan embassy in Iran heightened tensions	2	5	3	Neutral	3
Iran's increasingly alignment with Armenia on military, political grounds	2	5	4	Supports	4
Azerbaijan's relations with Israel growing more overt	1	5	4	Strongly Supports	5
Open conflict would risk regional energy projects in Azerbaijan	4	4	2		
Total:	13	25	23		

- SWOT Analysis on Azerbaijan**

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Control of Nagorno-Karabakh</li> <li>- Relations with Israel</li> <li>- Oil production</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Armenia tensions</li> <li>- Iran tensions</li> <li>- Ethnic ties to Iran</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EU ties</li> <li>- Oil exports</li> <li>- Israeli alliance</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Russia</li> <li>- Armenia</li> <li>- Iran</li> </ul>

## Sources

- [World News Era](#)
- [AP News](#)
- [Stratfor](#)
- [SilkRoad Briefing](#)
- [Emerging-Europe](#)

# Russia Ukraine Conflict

## BLUF

- Tensions rise due to the push of forces from Russia to Ukraine.

## Analysis

### Analysis Technique

- **SWOT Russia's Belarus Plan**

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Location of Belarus in proximity to Ukraine</li> <li>- Military collaboration between Russia and Belarus</li> <li>- Belarus support</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ukrainian defiance's toward Belarus</li> <li>- Last of Citizen support within Belarus</li> <li>- Western support</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Belarus' economic reliance on Russia</li> <li>- Russia as an ally</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Western countries reactions</li> <li>- Missile oversight</li> <li>- Ukraine forces</li> </ul>

## Sources

1. [VOA](#)
2. [NY Post](#)
3. [NPR](#)
4. ISW [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)
5. [Aljazeera](#)
6. [The Hill](#)
7. RFERL [1](#), [2](#)

---

*“The question shouldn't be what we ought to do, but what we can do” – Rory Stewart*

---