

ҚАЗАҚСТАННЫҢ ЭТНОСАЯСИ ЖӘНЕ ЭТНОМӘДЕНИ ПРОЦЕСТЕРІ И ЭТНОКУЛЬТУРНЫЕ ПРОЦЕССЫ СОВРЕМЕННОГО КАЗАХСТАНА ETHNOPOLITICAL AND ETHNO-CULTURAL PROCESSES OF MODERN KAZAKHSTAN

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STRATEGIC COOPERATION BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND KAZAKHSTAN IN STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS IN CENTRAL ASIA

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Abstract. The present paper states that today, the foreign policy of the New Uzbekistan, which is opening up in the international arena as a state whose main goal is to ensure a free, well-ordered and prosperous life for the people, is at the center of attention of the entire world community. Moreover, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are becoming the author of several global initiatives. Consequently, it is essential to date, our government has established diplomatic relations with more than 147 countries around the world, and 55 diplomatic and consular missions of Uzbekistan operate in foreign countries. Kazakhstan has established more diplomatic relations compared to its neighboring states. In addition, Uzbekistan is a member of more than 100 international organizations and is developing partnerships with multilateral cooperation structures. Today's turbulent times require a rational and consistent continuation of foreign policy.

Key words. Central Asia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, political dialogue, friendship, good neighbourliness, mutual understanding, interests of the region.

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ОРТА АЗИЯДА ЭКОНОМИКАЛЫҚ, САЯСИ ЖӘНЕ МӘДЕНИ ҚАТЫНАСТЫ НЫҒАЙТУДА ӨЗБЕКСТАН МЕН ҚАЗАҚСТАН АРАСЫНДАҒЫ СТРАТЕГИЯЛЫҚ ЫНТЫМАҚТАСТЫҚ

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Түйін: Бұл мақалада бүгінгі таңда халқының еркін, жайлы және бақуатты өмір сүруін қамтамасыз етуді басты мақсат еткен мемлекет ретінде халықаралық аренада танылған жаңа Өзбекстанның сыртқы саясаты бүкіл әлем қауымдастығының назарында екені айтылған. Оның үстіне Өзбекстан мен Қазақстан бірқатар жаһандық бастамалардың авторларына айналууда. Сондықтан бүгінде үкіметіміздің әлемнің 147-ден астам елімен дипломатиялық қарым-қатынас орнатқаны, шет мемлекеттерде Өзбекстанның 55 дипломатиялық және консулдық өкілдіктерінің жұмыс істеуі өте маңызды. Қазақстан көрші мемлекеттермен салыстырғанда дипломатиялық қарым-қатынастар орнатты. Сонымен қатар, Өзбекстан 100-ден астам халықаралық ұйымның мүшесі болып табылады және көпжақты ынтымақтастық құрылымдарымен әріптестік байланыстарды

дамытады. Бүгінгі аласапыран заман сыртқы саясатты ұтымды әрі дәйекті түрде жалғастыруды талап етеді.

Кілт сөздер. Орталық Азия, Өзбекстан, Қазақстан, саяси диалог, достық, тату көршілік, өзара түсіністік, аймақтың мүдделері.

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СТРАТЕГИЧЕСКОЕ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО МЕЖДУ УЗБЕКИСТАНОМ И КАЗАХСТАНОМ В УКРЕПЛЕНИИ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИХ, ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИХ И КУЛЬТУРНЫХ ОТНОШЕНИЙ В ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ

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Аннотация. В настоящей статье говорится, что сегодня внешняя политика нового Узбекистана, который на международной арене раскрывается как государство, главной целью которого является обеспечение свободной, благоустроенной и благополучной жизни народа, находится в центре внимания всего мирового сообщества. Более того, Узбекистан и Казахстан становятся авторами ряда глобальных инициатив. Поэтому крайне важно, чтобы на сегодняшний день наше правительство установило дипломатические отношения с более чем 147 странами мира, а в зарубежных странах функционируют 55 дипломатических и консульских представительств Узбекистана. У Казахстана больше установило дипломатических отношений по сравнению соседними государствами. Кроме того, Узбекистан является членом более 100 международных организаций и развивает партнерские отношения с многосторонними структурами сотрудничества. Сегодняшние беспокойные времена требуют рационального и последовательного продолжения внешней политики.

Ключевые слова. Центральная Азия, Узбекистан, Казахстан, политический диалог, дружба, добрососедство, взаимопонимание, интересы региона.

Introduction

On August 8-9, 2024, the Head of our State Shavkat Mirziyoyev paid an official visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan. It took part in the sixth Consultative Meeting of the Leaders of the Central Asian countries. Within the framework of this meeting, a dialogue between the leaders of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in a narrow format and the first meeting of the Supreme Interstate Council took place in Astana, and a package of bilateral documents was adopted. The launch ceremony of joint projects took place.

At this meeting, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev was solemnly presented with the Badge of Honor of the Heads of State of the Central Asian countries for outstanding services to the development of friendship, good neighbourliness and mutual understanding between the states of the region. The Head of our State thanked the leaders of Central Asia for this high award and stressed that it is a recognition of the common achievements of our countries in strengthening regional cooperation and strategic partnership.

Theoretical analysis

At the historic meeting, the head of our state delivered a speech on the comprehensive development of the region and the further strengthening of cooperation. The President announced important priority areas and initiatives of Uzbekistan to enhance the position of Central Asian countries in the world community [1].

In particular, he expressed concern that Central Asia, due to its geopolitical position, is fully experiencing all the negative consequences of the global crisis of confidence and escalation of conflicts. What is happening around Ukraine and the Middle East directly affects the stable and sustainable development of the region. Traditional trade and transport chains were destroyed. We have become hostages of the sanctions policy, logistical costs have increased significantly, and inflationary pressures are growing. Opportunities in the global capital market are shrinking, protectionism is increasing, and new barriers are emerging.

The President stressed that today and tomorrow in Central Asia, the well-being of our countries and peoples largely depends on our common efforts, on our willingness to cooperate closely, take decisive measures and jointly promote the interests of the region [2].

In particular, the initiative of the "Youth Agenda of Central Asia – 2030", put forward by our President, proposals for the regular holding of a "Regional Youth Competition of innovative ideas and projects" to attract young people to cooperation programs, the adoption of the Central Asian Program for Educational and Academic exchanges, the development of an agreement on the mutual recognition of diplomas of higher education institutions of our countries, as well as the allocation of scholarships for the education of talented students in the region based on mutual The agreements equally pleased the responsible staff of higher educational institutions and representatives of the intelligentsia.

These important ideas, opinions and initiatives will undoubtedly become another opportunity that will open a wide path to peace for the youth of New Uzbekistan and will become one of the important steps towards the further development and prosperity of Central Asia [3].

The «zero problems with neighbours» policy, which Uzbekistan actively promotes, has become an important factor in creating new, stronger and more trusting relationships between the countries of the region. Cooperation based on the principles of good neighbourliness and respect for sovereignty contributes to strengthening economic ties, enhancing cultural exchange and jointly addressing common challenges.

As a result, Central Asia has witnessed the formation of a new architecture of regional cooperation, which opens up unique opportunities for all countries involved in this process. Ten years ago, the borders of the region were practically closed, and tensions over many issues, including water use and trade, were growing, but today Central Asia is moving towards harmonious cooperation.

Uzbekistan initiated the creation of new platforms for dialogue, one of which was the Consultative Meetings of the Heads of State of Central Asia. These meetings, which began in 2017, promptly turned into an important tool for discussing and solving pressing problems in the region. Already at the sixth summit in Astana in 2023, the countries of the region agreed on a common vision for the development of Central Asia until 2040, which indicates a growing mutual understanding and willingness to cooperate.

It should be noted that Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan have significant natural resources, a young and growing population, as well as an advantageous geographical location, being at the intersection of trade routes [4].

Research methods

To study and analyze the issue under study, the following methods were used: analysis, synthesis, generalization, comparative analysis, induction, deduction.

Results and their discussion

An important step was the creation of investment funds for the implementation of major joint projects. Within their framework, work has already begun on the launch of new industrial facilities in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, the construction of solar power plants in Kyrgyzstan and the introduction of modern water-saving technologies in agriculture.

In addition, the countries are actively developing transport and logistics corridors that connect Central Asia with Europe, the Middle East and South Asia. The breakthrough was the

agreement on the construction of the China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan railway, which is designed to reduce the time and cost of shipping goods between Europe and Asia.

The energy sector plays an important role in the economies of Central Asian countries, and its development is also becoming the subject of close cooperation. In 2023, an agreement was signed on the joint construction of the Kambarata HPS-1, which is an important step towards creating a single energy market in the region. Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan have agreed on additional discharge of water from the Toktogul reservoir during the summer growing season, which demonstrates a high level of coordination and mutual understanding.

Let's look at several initiatives to strengthen economic, political and cultural ties in Central Asia with the participation of Uzbekistan:

The growth of trade and industrial cooperation

In recent years, Uzbekistan, together with neighbouring countries, has been actively working to increase mutual trade and develop production projects. Thus, the trade turnover between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in 2023 amounted to 4.5 billion dollars, and the countries aim to increase this figure to 10 billion in the medium term. Within the framework of this cooperation, 69 joint projects worth 3.1 billion are being implemented, which will create more than 14.7 thousand jobs. In particular, Uzbekistan has launched a factory for the production of household appliances in Tajikistan, and in Kyrgyzstan for the construction of solar power plants.

Development of transport infrastructure

One of the key projects aimed at improving the region's transport connectivity is the construction of the China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan railway. This railway will connect Central Asia with the European railway network and open up new opportunities for the transportation of goods between East and West. In addition, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan significantly accelerated the delivery of goods from China to the region, which reduced it to 5 days.

Restoration of the energy system

In 2024, Tajikistan reconnected to the unified Central Asian energy system, which significantly improved the reliability of energy supply in the region. This initiative has become an important step in creating a sustainable energy future for Central Asia.

Strengthening security and stability

Uzbekistan has taken the initiative to develop a Concept for ensuring regional security and stability, which is aimed at coordinating the efforts of Central Asian countries in the context of global crises and escalating conflicts. This initiative is aimed at ensuring sustainable peace in the region and preventing conflicts related to water and energy resources.

Expansion of tourism potential

The concept of "One tour – the whole region" proposed by Tashkent is aimed at creating tourist routes covering several Central Asian countries. This allows tourists to immerse themselves in the diversity of cultures and historical heritage of the region within a single trip. An important step in this direction was the promotion of the idea of mutual recognition of national ID cards, which will greatly simplify border crossing and strengthen the tourist flow between the countries of the region.

In 2023, Uzbekistan received 6.6 million tourists, most of whom came from neighbouring countries, which indicates a growing interest in the cultural and historical attractions of the republic.

Undoubtedly, this contributes to the creation of a common cultural identity of the people living in the region.

Facts and figures

The volume of trade between Uzbekistan and the countries of the region in 2023 amounted to about 4.5 billion dollars, with a forecast of growth to 10 billion in the coming years. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are implementing 69 joint projects worth \$ 3.1 billion, which will create more than 14.7 thousand jobs. The construction of the Kambarata HPS, which is being carried out jointly by Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, will become an important stage in the

development of the region's energy sector. The plant's capacity will be 1,860 megawatts, and the total cost of the project is estimated at more than \$4 billion.

The length of the strategically important China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan railway line will be about 523 kilometres.

Conclusions

In general, it should be noted that by 2040, the Central Asian countries are aiming to create a single regional market, develop transport and communication corridors and increase mutual energy supplies. As you know, the economies of the region's countries are similar. This economy needs to be diversified. To date, the exchange of goods is not at the required level.

Our countries need to supply complementary products. Only then will the overall integration become consistent and the economies of the Central Asian countries will begin to develop rapidly. Due to the strong historical and personal friendly ties between the leaders of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, the current state of Uzbek-Kazakh relations is characterized by special dynamics, mutual understanding and a high level of trust. We believe that the visit of the two Presidents has historical significance not only for the peoples of the two countries but also for the development of the entire Central Asian region.

The leaders of the two countries advocate uniting the region and coordinating efforts through Consultative Meetings and the Central Asia Plus platform, which are becoming increasingly popular mechanisms for international cooperation. They actively support each other in global and regional political issues. Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan have a common goal – the transformation of the region into a territory with sustainable development, and the formation of a new model of peaceful life in this territory. It should be noted that the holding of a Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian states on the initiative of Uzbekistan, as well as the constant and comprehensive support of this platform from Kazakhstan, are strategically important in solving regional problems.

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