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Exploring China's evolving strategic priorities in Central Asia: XXI century perspective

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Abstract. Considering the intricate and comprehensive nature of the international relations landscape in the current century, the heightened economic and diplomatic initiatives by the People's Republic of China in Central Asia gain significant relevance and emerge as a subject for scholarly discourse. In the process of delving into this comprehensive and dynamic interaction, it is imperative to examine and consider a myriad of diverse factors. After all, strategic interests are not static, and they have a propensity to evolve over time. In this context, China, with its strategic interests in Central Asia, is no exception, as they too undergo evolution. In this article, the authors attempt to analyze the decryption of key factors behind the intensification of Chinese initiatives in Central Asia and explore how these factors align with its broader regional and global strategies. Thus, this article attempts to address the research question: What are the key factors driving China's increasing economic and political engagement in Central Asia, and how do they align with its broader strategic interests?

Keywords: China, strategic interests, Central Asia, geopolitical, people.

Introduction

Throughout history, the significance and relevance of Central Asia for global and regional powers have primarily rested on its geographic location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Western and Eastern civilizations, as well as its proximity to superpowers such as Russia and China. The geographical positioning of Central Asia is both its greatest advantage and, simultaneously, its main drawback. In the 21st century, Central Asia holds key strategic

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importance for its eastern neighbor in the context of shaping its global image and achieving foreign policy goals and ambitions. This pivotal importance for China is further substantiated by historical backgrounds and connections with the peoples inhabiting the region, dating back millennia. However, in the rapidly changing and dynamic realities of the present, the importance and relevance of this region in China's foreign policy are determined by entirely different factors. While China's strategic interests in the region are multifaceted, often intersecting and mutually influencing each other, the authors of this study have identified key drivers behind China's heightened attention to Central Asia. These include potential economic benefits, the geopolitical landscape of the region, and security concerns.

The formation of interactions between China and the Central Asian countries has been significantly influenced by territorial proximity, alongside historical and cultural ties over an extended historical period. The historical development has led to a situation where China's market is partially dependent on trade with the Central Asian region and transit through these territories. Consequently, it is not surprising that in the 21st century, we observe China's growing presence in this region, leading to a deepening collaboration with the countries in the region. Despite the fact that the five Central Asian republics and Central Asia as a whole are not China's largest trading partners, the People's Republic of China (PRC) occupies and continues to maintain the highest positions on the list of key economic partners for the countries in the region. Thus, even if this region is not a primary focus in China's foreign policy, it can confidently be asserted that the strategic importance of Central Asia to China is growing each year as regional cooperation advances and deepens.

It is quite natural that the broader geopolitical and geoeconomic ambitions of the eastern neighbor determine its strategic interests in Central Asia and shape its relations with the countries of the region. The official announcement of the launch of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" (SREB) by Xi Jinping in September 2013, during his official visit to Kazakhstan, further underscored the significance of this region for Chinese foreign policy. The region plays a crucial role in the 21st century in achieving China's global goals by expanding trade cooperation and enhancing the flow of goods and services through this corridor. The geographical location, coupled with the transport and transit potential of the region, plays a defining role in heightened Chinese attention to the region, particularly in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative ("Yidai, yilu" in Chinese). The announcement highlighted the importance of the region due to its key strategic and transportation corridors within the "Belt and Road" initiative, which traverse the territories of the five Central Asian countries. The 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI) stands as a cornerstone of China's foreign policy in the 21st century, and it is in this region that the initiative plays a pivotal role as a gateway for China's mega-project of the 21st century. The primary objective of the BRI is to advance economic cooperation across the entire expanse of the Eurasian continent, allowing China to reduce dependence on maritime routes and alleviate the burden on sea ports. From 2013 to the present day, China has persistently made substantial investments in its mega-project, seeking to create new transportation corridors and modernize existing trade routes, the majority of which traverse through the territory of Central Asia.

For the Chinese side, the Belt and Road Initiative holds crucial geostrategic significance, as the main rationale behind the project is to connect the markets of China and Europe, thereby

facilitating the flow of goods and resources through this initiative. In this context, Central Asia is increasingly playing a prominent role, serving as the primary transportation corridor for China in its endeavor to link its market with that of Europe. Naturally, the Belt and Road Initiative positively correlates with China's global goals and ambitions to strengthen its geopolitical influence and reduce energy dependence through the diversification of trade routes.

Furthermore, the energy-intensive nature of the Chinese economy plays a significant role in the current scenario. In this context, it is natural for China to seek to ensure the stability of its economy and diversify the supply chain of energy resources, reducing dependence on a specific source and route for these resources, thus preparing for potential disruptions on any given route. Central Asia, known for its key geographical location, is also a region rich in natural resources, particularly in terms of energy reserves and resources. Consequently, it is in this context that the strategic importance of Central Asia for China is growing [1].

Moreover, it is essential to highlight a noticeable intensification of Chinese diplomacy in the region, which has been growing annually. Since 2001, when the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was established, China and the Central Asian states (excluding Turkmenistan) have shared a kind of regional forum, enabling these countries to develop multilateral diplomatic ties, strengthen economic cooperation, and collectively respond to security challenges. Through the creation and active participation in this regional initiative, China seeks to bolster its position in the region, reshaping the geopolitical landscape in its favor. Additionally, it is crucial to understand that in the 21st century, China places a significant emphasis on its soft diplomacy in collaboration with its partners. This trend is not bypassing Central Asia, as the region witnesses the active deployment of Chinese soft power instruments, exemplified by the Confucius Institutes.

In addition, Central Asia is perceived by many experts as a conflict-prone zone with a high probability of ethnic tensions, religious extremism, or political instability. The aforementioned factors, coupled with China's own concerns regarding the potential rise of separatist sentiments in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, underscore China's interest in collaborating with the countries in the region to ensure stability and security.

Methodology

The methodology employed in this research focuses on a comprehensive analysis of China's strategic interests in Central Asia in the 21st century, with a particular emphasis on geopolitics, geo-economics, and security issues. The study places significant emphasis on qualitative research methods due to the substantial volume of qualitative data. The utilization of a qualitative research approach in this context is essential for achieving a profound understanding of the multifaceted strategic interests of China in the region and the impact of these interests on China's relations with the countries in the region.

To construct a complete picture and gain a more detailed understanding of China's strategic interests and their dynamics in the region, a wide range of methods is employed in this study. These include a systemic approach, method of structural and functional analysis, method of synthesis and analysis of empirical research.

For a more detailed analysis aimed at identifying and determining existing relationships within the complex interaction of various factors in this dynamic system of China's strategic interests in the region, a systemic approach provides significant advantages. It allows not only the analysis of China's strategic interests but also their impact on regional dynamics.

To better understand the structural aspects of Chinese initiatives and strategies in the region, the article utilized the method of structural analysis. This method helps in identifying the goals, priorities, tasks, and key elements of these initiatives. Additionally, to determine the functions performed by these elements and how they interact with China's strategic initiatives, the functional analysis method was employed, facilitating a deeper examination of the effectiveness of these strategies.

To delve into a large amount of existing sources and data on this topic and integrate them into a cohesive whole, the synthesis method was used in the article. This method made it possible to establish a robust foundation for drawing conclusions by combining various theoretical approaches, results of existing research, and arguments from various experts on the subject, enabling a comprehensive analysis of China's strategic interests in Central Asia.

Furthermore, content analysis of various sources, including recent news and early publications from both foreign and local authors, was conducted. Finally, to validate assumptions arising from the use of the aforementioned methods, empirical research analysis was employed in the article. This allowed a thorough examination of all data, combining it with the results of previously conducted research to formulate and substantiate the proposed theses in this work more clearly. Thus, the choice of methodology is justified by the need for a comprehensive analysis of information from various sources. Finally, this research aims to contribute to the existing academic literature on China's relations with Central Asia.

Discussion and results

Undoubtedly, the Silk Road has played a pivotal role in shaping the development of relations between China and the peoples of Central Asia. Along the path of the Great Silk Road, cities and entire civilizations emerged and flourished [2]. Historically, this region has served as a geographically crucial connecting hub for China, holding significant importance in expanding economic ties and extending its influence regionally and globally. However, in the intricate landscape of 21st-century international relations, this region holds substantial strategic significance for China, given the interplay of key drivers such as potential economic benefits, the geopolitical landscape in the region, and security concerns.

Since the declaration of independence, the countries of Central Asia have actively engaged in the international arena, thereby expanding international cooperation in various spheres. Consequently, the region's countries have actively developed bilateral and multilateral relations in different directions. Currently, the region witnesses an intersection of strategic interests among various regional and global powers. However, among the multitude of states with interests in the region, China stands out, sharing historical ties with the region since the time of the Great Silk Road, modern borders spanning over 3,000 km, and holding leading positions in

the list of countries with the highest share in the external trade of Central Asian countries (See Table 1). China stands as the largest trading partner for the majority of Central Asian countries, supporting the economic development of the region through substantial investments under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Trade volumes and the scale of economic cooperation between the countries of Central Asia and China are experiencing significant growth from year to year, as indicated by reports from the official statistical agencies of these countries. For instance, the report from the General Administration of Customs of the Republic of China highlights a noticeable increase in China's trade turnover with the countries in the region for the first half of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. While the trade growth between China and Kazakhstan, and China and Kyrgyzstan during this period increased by 26.8% compared to the first half of 2022, these figures show an 84.7% growth concerning Tajikistan, and 27.6% and 12.3% growth in the case of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, respectively [3].

According to data from the Bureau of National Statistics of Kazakhstan for January-September 2023, China occupies the first place with a share of 21.3% in the trade turnover of Kazakhstan, displacing Russia to the second place with a share of 18.6% [4]. Similarly, data from the Agency of Statistics under the President of Uzbekistan for January-November 2023 shows the largest volume of foreign trade turnover with China (21.3%) [5]. This trend is also evident in Kyrgyzstan, where according to the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2022, China (4 billion 130.3 million dollars) tops the list of the country's largest trading partners [6]. From the report of the statistical agency under the President of Tajikistan for January-July 2023, it can be seen that China (\$824.7 million) occupies the second place among the country's largest trading partners, pushing Kazakhstan to the third place in this list [7]. A similar situation is observed in Turkmenistan, where China is the main external trade partner and a key creditor [8].

Table 1. China's trade turnover with Central Asia

Kazakhstan	Countries with the largest share of foreign trade turnover: 1.China 2.Russia 3.Italy	– During January–September 2023, the trade turnover between China and Kazakhstan amounted to 21.7 billion US dollars, with imports of Chinese goods totaling 11.3 billion US dollars and exports accounting for 10.4 billion US dollars. – By comparison, the trade turnover with Russia for the same period reached 18.9 billion US dollars.
Kyrgyzstan	Countries with the largest share of foreign trade turnover: 1.China 2.Russia 3.Kazakhstan	– In 2022, the total foreign trade turnover of the Kyrgyz Republic amounted to 11.8 billion US dollars, of which China accounted for 4.13 billion US dollars, and Russia accounted for 3.23 billion US dollars.

Tajikistan	Countries with the largest share of foreign trade turnover: 1.Russia 2.China 3.Kazakhstan	– According to data for January to July 2023, China stands as the second-largest foreign trade partner of Tajikistan, with a trade turnover of 824.7 million US dollars. The top position is held by Russia with a trade turnover of 997.4 million US dollars for the corresponding period.
Turkmenistan	Countries with the largest share of foreign trade turnover: 1.China	– In 2020, the bilateral trade turnover between Turkmenistan and China amounted to 6.6 billion US dollars. Of this total, Turkmenistan's exports accounted for 6.01 billion dollars, while imports were at 444.7 million dollars.
Uzbekistan	Countries with the largest share of foreign trade turnover: 1.China 2.Russia 3.Kazakhstan	– According to data for January to November 2023, Uzbekistan's highest volume of foreign trade turnover was recorded with China (21.3% – 12.2 billion US dollars), followed by Russia (15.5% – 8.8 billion US dollars), Kazakhstan (7.0% – 4 billion US dollars), Turkey (5.0% – 2.8 billion US dollars), and the Republic of Korea (3.7% – 2.1 billion US dollars).

Source: Reports of the National Statistical Authorities and Agencies of the 5 Central Asian Countries.

The growing significance of this region for China, particularly in ensuring its energy security, is inherently tied to the energy-intensive nature of China's , where internal reserves alone cannot guarantee its stability. In the complex geopolitical landscape of the 21st century, many superpowers strive to secure stable energy resource supplies and safeguard the routes of these supplies to ensure their energy security against various issues and disruptions. In this context, it is crucial for China to reduce its potential dependence on any specific energy supply route, preparing for diverse challenges and crises. Naturally, in such a complex situation, the importance of Central Asia, considered a region rich in natural resources, grows not only for China but also for other regional and global powers.

In this challenging situation, the resource-rich Central Asian region can serve as a source of energy diversification and security for China, aligning with China's long-term energy needs. And such a strategic maneuver is intended not only to meet China's internal energy needs but at the same time presents a significant opportunity to enhance energy sustainability. This stands as a crucial aspect for the long-term economic stability and growth of China. Therefore, through trade agreements, investments in infrastructure modernization in the region, and deepened economic and political interactions, China seeks to expand its access to the hydrocarbon resources of the region, ensuring its sustainable economic growth and reducing dependence on other suppliers and routes.

Furthermore, importing energy resources from abroad could provide a solution to one of the most pressing social issues for the Chinese administration, namely air pollution. In September 2020, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that “China will strive to peak CO2 emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060”. Additionally, it is crucial to emphasize

that these objectives align with China's stance regarding collective global efforts undertaken to combat climate change and its consequences in the realm of climate change, in accordance with the 2016 Paris Agreement. Thus, the heightened interest in energy supplies from Central Asian countries becomes understandable, correlating with the Chinese authorities' efforts to combat air pollution in the country [9]. In addition, considering that China is currently one of the largest consumers and importers of natural gas globally, the extensive investments by China in the construction of pipelines connecting Central Asia and China become understandable. According to data from 2021, the supply of natural gas solely from Turkmenistan (which is the major supplier of natural gas to China) accounted for approximately 75 percent of the total import volume from Central Asia [10].

The 21st century has marked a pivotal moment for China in its active pursuit of ensuring uniform internal development and reducing regional disparities within the country through the implementation of domestic strategies, notably within the frameworks of the Open Up the West Program (“Xībù Dàkāifā” in Chinese) [9]. In this context, China's economic presence in Central Asia extends beyond infrastructure investments under the Belt and Road Initiative and acquisitions of energy resources. It becomes evident that China is making active efforts to strengthen economic cooperation with the countries in the region, partly to address regional development imbalances within its own borders.

This assertion is supported by the fact that Xinjiang has become a key region in the Belt and Road Initiative, connecting Central Asia with the rest of China and serving as the pathway for major economic corridors of this initiative. Thus, the primary focus of 21st-century China extends beyond grand international projects and global initiatives; significant attention is also devoted to domestic strategies aimed at stimulating regional development and addressing economic disparities within its own territory.

In this regard, China endeavors to showcase the profitability of this cooperation for the Central Asian countries as well. This is achieved through substantial financial investments directed towards the development of energy and transportation infrastructure. Simultaneously, China actively channels significant funds into projects related to the extraction of hydrocarbon resources in Central Asian countries, aiming to demonstrate the convergence of economic interests between China and the five Central Asian republics, thereby trying to underline the purported win-win nature of this cooperation.

All these substantial investments in the modernization of the region's infrastructure and the trade agreements signed within the Belt and Road Initiative serve as crucial pillars supporting China's broader geopolitical ambitions. Due to various factors, including territorial proximity, shared borders, historical and cultural ties with the region's population, China was among the first countries to recognize the independence of the five Central Asian republics and establish diplomatic relations with the region. Not surprisingly, the region, intertwined with long-standing historical and cultural connections to China, holds significance for Chinese foreign policy beyond economic considerations, given its complex geopolitical landscape. Central Asia is a unique landlocked region covering 4,003,451 km² with a population exceeding 70 million people, sharing borders with key players such as Russia, Iran, and Afghanistan.

Initially, China's interaction with the newly formed republics of Central Asia focused on resolving border disputes, reducing illegal drug trafficking, and addressing illegal migration [11]. However, a series of significant factors, including the region's energy potential, China's need for hydrocarbon resources, economic interests, and its concerns about separatism in Xinjiang, underscored the region's importance for China. This led to the institutionalization of relations with the region through bilateral agreements and multilateral cooperation within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

As might be expected, beyond economic considerations, the geopolitical landscape in the region also influences China's heightened attention to Central Asia. In a broader context, the intensification of Chinese diplomacy and initiatives in Central Asia is viewed by some experts as an attempt to diminish Russian influence in the region, particularly citing examples where such attempts become more noticeable against the backdrop of the conflict in Ukraine. Moreover, the Central Asia-China summit held in May 2023 emerged as a significant political event for the region, contributing to the strengthened perception that China is becoming the primary partner for countries in the region, displacing Russia to a secondary position.

In this context, it is crucial to note the noticeable intensification of Chinese diplomacy in the region, which is becoming increasingly assertive. This ranges from the use of Confucius Institutes to showcase Chinese culture and language for the people of Central Asia, to media tours in China, and the growing frequency of mutual official visits between representatives of the countries in the region and China. All these factors indicate significant progress in regional cooperation, explaining China's eagerness to strengthen its economic initiatives in the region through soft power and diplomacy and illustrating a well-thought-out strategy to enhance its influence in the region. Currently, there are 13 Confucius Institutes operating in the region (5 in Kazakhstan, 4 in Kyrgyzstan, 2 in Uzbekistan, 2 in Tajikistan), and approximately 24 Confucius Classrooms (21 of which are located in Kyrgyzstan). It is also noteworthy that between 2004 and 2017, the Chinese government organized 61 trips to China through exchange programs for journalists from Central and South Asian countries [12]. All these factors indicate significant progress in regional cooperation, explaining China's eagerness to strengthen its economic initiatives in the region through soft power and diplomacy. This illustrates a well-thought-out strategy to enhance its influence in the region.

Central to the discussion is the informal division of labor or the fragile balance that operates between the two primary partners in the region, China and Russia. In the third decade of the current century, relations between these superpowers in Central Asia can be characterized by the term 'coopetition' (cooperation between competitors). At present, despite shared interests between the two states in the region, the strategies and initiatives they pursue here noticeably differ. In this regard, China's substantial investments, the intensification of Chinese diplomacy and soft power, and overall more assertive steps by China in the region on one hand, and Russia's long standing historical ties, including connections with the elites of the five Central Asian republics, as well as security partnerships on the other hand, contribute to making the already complex geopolitical landscape of the region even more intricate.

Definitely, the two main strategies of the two powers in the region, namely the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), are competitive projects pursuing different goals. On the one hand, there is the Chinese initiative, the Belt and Road, which aims to connect different markets and facilitate free trade. On the other hand, there is the EAEU, the main idea of which is to create a unified closed market and protect against external interference. However, other regional and global powers are also attempting to cooperate with the countries of Central Asia while pursuing their own goals. For instance, the Global Gateway Forum held in October 2023 in Brussels is perceived by many as the European Union's response to Chinese initiatives in cooperation with developing countries. It is noteworthy that Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the European Commission, emphasized that offering money may come from many, but it poses significant risks for recipient countries, subtly alluding to China and its Belt and Road Initiative. Thus, following the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine and the tense situation around Taiwan, the significance of Central Asia has increased for other global powers.

Finally, one of China's paramount interests in Central Asia revolves around its security concerns. China perceives that any disruptions and instability beyond its borders will immediately have a negative impact, particularly worsening the situation in Xinjiang. It is not surprising that in 2013, when President Xi announced the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative, many experts and researchers argued that behind this initiative's launch lay not only the desire to connect various markets and create conditions for selling Chinese goods but also the Chinese administration's goal of tightening control over Xinjiang. Xinjiang, with its geographical proximity and close historical and cultural ties to the peoples of Central Asia, along with Taiwan, represents one of China's key interests concerning national security in the 21st century. Naturally, the Chinese administration believes that ensuring stability and economic development in its western territories requires maintaining stability and development in the areas adjacent to China's western borders, specifically in Central Asia. After all, it was precisely the concerns about potential tension in Xinjiang that became one of the main factors driving China to intensify contacts with the countries of Central Asia and further establish the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Evidently, an analysis of China's involvement in Central Asia in the 21st century must also consider its engagement in the realm of security. A series of potential problems and challenges, including ethnic tensions, religious extremism, and political instability, raise concerns for China due to its territorial proximity and longstanding historical and cultural ties with the population of Xinjiang. The active endeavors of the Chinese administration to address these challenges and foster regional cooperation in Central Asia on security matters aptly illustrate that stability and security in the region constitute pivotal interests for China.

Thus, from a more comprehensive viewpoint, it can be observed that potential economic benefits, complex geopolitical circumstances, and security issues stand out as key drivers reinforcing China's strategic interests in Central Asia. Undoubtedly, among the multitude of stakeholders in the region, China stands out significantly in terms of the volume of investments and assertiveness in its approaches, offering mutually beneficial cooperation to the countries in the region. However, considering the larger picture and the broader implications reveals that not everything is as

smooth as it may seem. Several experts continue to express serious concerns regarding the threat to the national sovereignty of the region's countries posed by China, particularly emphasizing the economic dependency on Chinese funds and drawing parallels with falling into a debt trap. Additionally, despite China making a substantial contribution to infrastructure development and regional cooperation in Central Asia through the 'Belt and Road' initiative, it also has certain drawbacks. Initially, Central Asian countries viewed the initiative as an attempt to link their market with those of other regions. However, after a decade, it becomes evident that the region's dependence on China has grown, but it has not become closer to other markets.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is essential to note that the analysis of China's active involvement in Central Asia in the 21st century must take into account a range of key and complex strategic interests that, by their nature, are multifaceted and dynamic. As mentioned above, the key drivers behind the growth of China's strategic interest in Central Asia in the 21st century include potential economic benefits, security issues, and the comprehensive geopolitical situation in the region. Thus, there is a need for a comprehensive analysis of China's interests in the region and its impact on the regional geopolitical landscape. In this regard, the importance lies in understanding that China's strategic interests are multifaceted and dynamically interact within the broader global strategy of China. The success or failure of China's strategy in Central Asia is likely to play a crucial role in shaping the geopolitics of Eurasia in the coming years. China's emphasis on further strengthening and deepening interactions with Central Asian countries, exemplified by the extensive presence of Chinese projects in the region under the Belt and Road Initiative, demonstrates a thoughtful strategy to enhance its influence in the region. The intensification of Chinese diplomacy in the region, including the implementation of soft power tools, along with multilateral interactions within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, complements China's economic initiatives under the Belt and Road Initiative. This creates a comprehensive and systematic approach to further deepening relations with Central Asian countries and strengthening regional cooperation.

Analyzing China's active involvement in Central Asia at various levels illustrates that the reinforcement of China's interaction with the region is not solely dictated by short-term economic benefits but is an integral part of a more complex Chinese approach. This approach positively correlates with its broad global ambitions. While China's pragmatic economic aid and extensive financial investments attract the attention of Central Asian countries, along with China's attempts to showcase the “win-win” nature of this cooperation, the current intensification of China's involvement in the region and its growing influence limit the opportunities for Central Asian countries to pursue a multivector foreign policy. This, in turn, reshapes the geopolitical landscape of Central Asia in the 21st century, subjecting these countries to political and economic dependency on China.

Much of this threat arises from the limited capabilities of other powers in the region, as not all regional and global powers interested in the region possess the same broad economic and

financial potential as China. Consequently, this situation prompts the countries of the region to strengthen and deepen interactions with their eastern neighbor. In this context, to maintain a strategic balance in the region and strengthen their defensive potential, Central Asian republics must also prioritize activating interactions with other external powers in various directions.

Contribution of the authors.

I. Supyaldiyarov – work with literature, collection and analysis of material, design of a scientific article.

S. Aliyeva – definition of goals and objectives of a scientific article, work using research materials and methods, generalization and analysis of theoretical material.

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**Қытайдың Орталық Азиядағы өзгермелі стратегиялық мүдделерін зерттеу:
XXI ғасыр перспективасы**

Андатпа. Ағымдағы ғасырдағы халықаралық қатынастар ландшафтының күрделі және жан-жақты сипатын ескере отырып, Орта Азиядағы Қытай Халық Республикасының экономикалық және дипломатиялық бастамалары айтарлықтай өзектілікке ие болып, ғылыми талқылаудың тақырыбына айналуда. Осы жан-жақты және динамикалық өзара әрекеттесуді терең бақылау процесінде көптеген әртүрлі факторларды зерттеу және ескеру өте маңызды. Өйткені, стратегиялық мүдделер статикалық емес және олар уақыт өте келе дамуға бейім. Бұл тұрғыда Орта Азиядағы стратегиялық мүдделері бар Қытай да ерекшелік емес, өйткені олар да эволюциядан өтіп жатыр. Бұл мақалада авторлар Қытайдың Орта Азиядағы бастамаларын жандандырудың негізгі факторларының транскрипциясын талдауға және осы факторлардың оның кең аймақтық және жаһандық стратегияларына қалай сәйкес келетінін зерттеуге тырысады. Осылайша, мақалада бұл зерттеу сұрағына жауап беруге талпыныс жасалды: Қытайдың Орта Азиядағы артып келе жатқан экономикалық және саяси қатысуын анықтайтын негізгі факторлар қандай және олар оның кең стратегиялық мүдделеріне қалай сәйкес келеді?

Түйін сөздер: Қытай, стратегиялық мүдделер, Орта Азия, геосаясат, халық.

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**Изучение меняющихся стратегических приоритетов Китая в Центральной Азии:
перспектива XXI века**

Аннотация. Учитывая сложный и всеобъемлющий характер ландшафта международных отношений в текущем столетии, активизировавшиеся экономические и дипломатические

инициативы Китайской Народной Республики в Центральной Азии приобретают значительную актуальность и становятся предметом научного обсуждения. В процессе углубления в это всеобъемлющее и динамичное взаимодействие крайне важно изучить и учесть множество разнообразных факторов. В конце концов, стратегические интересы не статичны, и они имеют склонность эволюционировать с течением времени. В этом контексте Китай сегодня стратегическими интересами в Центральной Азии не является исключением, поскольку они тоже претерпевают эволюцию. В этой статье авторы пытаются проанализировать расшифровку ключевых факторов, стоящих за активизацией китайских инициатив в Центральной Азии, и исследовать, как эти факторы согласуются с его более широкими региональными и глобальными стратегиями. Таким образом, в данной статье предпринята попытка ответить на исследовательский вопрос: каковы ключевые факторы, определяющие растущее экономическое и политическое участие Китая в Центральной Азии, и как они согласуются с его более широкими стратегическими интересами?

Ключевые слова: Китай, стратегические интересы, Центральная Азия, геополитика, народ.

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