

IRSTI 11.25.15

¹G. Askhat, ²Zh.R. Zhabina

Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages, Almaty,
Kazakhstan
(E-mail: ¹gulnash@inbox.ru, ²zhansayazh@list.ru)

The influence of diasporas on international relations

Abstract. Over the past few decades Diasporas have become significant players in the international arena playing a significant role in domestic and international politics and have the power to influence both to national foreign decisions. Diasporas bring intellectual, political, social and cultural links between two countries influencing bilateral relations of states.

In this context, the article studies the influence of Diasporas on international relations. Diasporas are widespread and they have influenced international politics since ancient times and have moved from their home countries for centuries, for many reasons. There is no country in the world which doesn't have any emigrants. Today Diaspora groups and individuals are being recognized as major actors who can play a significant role in domestic and international politics and have the power to influence both to national foreign decisions.

Keywords: diaspora, non- state actor, ethnic group, emigrants, migration, domestic and international politics.

DOI: 10.32523/2616-6887-2018-124-3-18-23

Changes in the international system have followed each other throughout the history. The largest change in the post-war international system had an impact on the policies pursued by the actors in the system. These changes increase the uncertainty of the system causing the difficulty to actors to determine their position. Traditional bilateral and multilateral relations are complemented by new relationships between states. On this basis, there are new actors in international relations. Their number is striking for its diversity and their role is constantly and steadily growing in the world. Actors are any authority, any organization, any group or even any individual which play a role that is attributable in international relations. They have powerful economic, political or social power and are able to influence at a national and sometimes international level.

Among the non-state actors in international relations it is accepted to allocate intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, transnational corporations and other social forces and movements acting on the world stage. As Burlatskiy F.M. and Galkin A.A. assert "different actors play different roles: some of them occupy the forefront and are the "stars", while others are nothing more than bit players, they all participate in the creation of a complete performance on the world stage" [1, p.98].

Cohan R.O. compares the world politics as an extensive and multi-layered web of links connecting the numerous and diverse participants in international interactions, such as multinational corporations, transnational social movements and international organizations, financial groups and other private actors, including diaspora. In his book "Global diasporas" Cohan states that diaspora studies have gone through four phases. According to him, first phase is from the 1960s and 1970s, the classical meaning, a description of the dispersion of Africans, Armenians and the Irish. The second phase is in the 1980s and diaspora was described as different categories of people – 'expatriates, expellees, political refugees, alien residents, immigrants and ethnic and racial minorities tout court'. Mid-1990s was the third phase which was marked by social constructionist critiques of 'second phase', the current phase is considered as the fourth phase [2, p1].

Ethnic issues occupy a significant place in the modern social sciences. Intensification of ethnic processes –“Ethnic revival” attracted the attention of researchers in the 60-70’s of 20th century. The interest of political scientists, especially researchers of international relations to ethnic problems has increased in connection with the disintegration of the bipolar system and the increasing importance of ethnic factors in world politics. The greatest attention of researchers is drawn to ethnic problems that have already manifested themselves on the world arena and influenced bilateral and multilateral relations and the formation of a new international order.

At the end of the 20th century, the world faced such a phenomenon as “ethnic revival”. “The explosion of ethnicity” in the 90s attracted the attention of political scientists and researchers of international relations in connection with the role that ethnic problems began to play in international politics. The relevance of research in this field is steadily increasing, which is due not only to the growing number of ethnic conflicts threatening international stability and security, but also to the influx of migrants that change the structure of traditional societies. There is a wide range of opinions about the causes and motives of ethnic contradictions, their relationship with the political sphere.

Diasporas are widespread ethnic or national groups across different countries. They have influenced international politics since ancient times and they continue to do so today. People have moved from their home countries for centuries, for many reasons. Some are drawn to new places by positive factors, others find it difficult to remain where they are and migrate because of negative factors. These have contributed to the movement of people. There is no country in the world which doesn’t have any emigrants. They have moved because of poverty, hunger, persecution, discrimination, civil war, unemployment. Recently migrant numbers have risen rapidly in the last decade simply for education and better jobs. Today Diaspora groups and individuals are being recognized as major actors who can use their influence and financial resources to contribute to local development in their homelands. Likewise, today migrants aren’t considered as poor victims of underdevelopment anymore.

Now, globalization has expanded the rate of migration and people are actively involved in the cultural, economic and political life of another country. In the context of economic and political globalization, migration processes have begun to play a significant role in the formation of the modern system of international relations. Today migrants aren’t considered as poor victims; numbers of migrants have risen rapidly in the last decade simply for education and better jobs. Today Diaspora groups and individuals are being recognized as major actors who can use their influence and financial resources to contribute to local development in their homelands. They have a unique role in international relations because they find themselves in between two countries, sharing in two cultures, having an emotional investment in two nations, and preserving social connections in two societies. As mobilized groups with a strong sense of identity, diasporas can play a role both in domestic and in international politics.

The Diaspora, as a rule, is an ethnic minority in the country of residence and tries to maintain material and spiritual ties with the country of origin.

In modern political science, the term “diaspora” refers to one of the six categories of ethnic politics and characterizes an ethnic group residing in new conditions, often in an unconventional environment. Diaspora is created by migrations, which, in turn, depend on the historical events that generated, shaped and developed it and the diaspora is a product of migration.

According to Mendikulova G.M. in Western political science, the theory of migration is divided into three groups: classical, conflictual, systemic. They are determined by the nature of the decision to leave the migrant: a) real, by comparing income and expenditure (classical theories); B) forced, under economic and political pressure (conflict); C) multi-causal with relative stress (systemic). Moreover the author states that in the modern period of political science particular interest was paid to the studies of the problem of the impact of diasporas on international relations as

an object of domestic policy and a subject of international relations connecting thread between the domestic and foreign policy of the state. The Diaspora, being one of the six categories of ethnic politics (irredento or non-reunified nations, diaspora, ethics as a strategic source, nations without their own state, transnational ethnic economic communities of internalization of minority rights) was an integral part of ethnic pluralism that affects interstate and interethnic relations and has the opposite effect of international problems on internal ethnic conflicts [3].

Thus, in a world of increasing interdependence, influence, mediated by various types of bonds, more than the direct use of force become a key issue in international relations. Diaspora is just one of the important and little studied actors present economic, political and cultural relations occupied its own niche in the political life of various countries. Diaspora has always existed, but it is now against the background of globalization the world interest in them as a socio-political and ethno-cultural phenomenon is extremely increased. In the context of economic and political globalization, migration processes have begun to play a significant role in the formation of the modern system of international relations. In this connection, the growing role and influence of the Diaspora is becoming an extremely important phenomenon in the international arena. It should be noted that researchers estimate that the migration processes in the world have a tendency to a permanent increase; more and more people are involved in them. Diaspora can contribute to the realization of the state's foreign policy objectives of its outcome. Understanding this fact is necessary in general to all countries, but especially those who today tend to occupy a leading place in the modern world politics and should be seen as a tool for promoting national interests in improving the country's foreign policy image.

The role of the diaspora in the political life can be characterized by the state as follows:

-Using the potential of diaspora to create a network of economic, political and other ties - a fairly common international practice. Often diaspora itself creates a system of networking and the state; the historic homeland is becoming one of the links in the international chain.

- Diasporas maintain a sufficient level of elements of national identity, the identity and address the challenges of assimilation, in the framework of a different nationality of the state of the environment.

- Coordination and implementation of the diaspora policy efforts of government agencies, directly concentrated in this field.

They have a unique role in international relations because they find themselves in between two countries, sharing in two cultures, having an emotional investment in two nations, and preserving social connections in two societies. As mobilized groups with a strong sense of identity, diasporas can play a role both in domestic and in international politics. As far as domestic politics is concerned, they may influence both the domestic politics of their homelands and the domestic politics of their host states regarding issues that are of interest to them. In the realm of international relations, they have the power to influence both national foreign policy decisions and the decisions of international organizations.

Over the past few decades diasporas have become more prominent on the world stage. Many scholars claim that diasporas are created by a forced or induced historical emigration from an original homeland and they find themselves sharing two cultures, having an investment in two nations as well as persevering social connections in two societies. They believe that they may play a significant role in domestic and international politics and have the power to influence both to national foreign decisions.

More important, many researchers who are doing research in the field of migration processes say that beyond their financial and material value, Diaspora groups bring intellectual, political, social and cultural capital linking the home state with a host state throughout the world. In addition to their domestic political involvement in the homeland and host states, Diasporas also directly influenced bilateral relations of states of concern.

Despite the above mentioned facts some research shows that diasporas are often involved in

ethnic or international conflict. Diasporas as being geographically removed from the homeland and the source of conflict may experience the conflict and they may have contributed to the dispute between the two states. Diasporas are often involved in ethnic or international conflict promoting conflict resolution at the same time fuelling the conflict [4].(Sheffer 2006)

It should be evident that these arguments are the real facts. Diasporas are building political and cultural bridges between two countries, contributing to enhance the quality of life and introduce best international practice. Diasporas are often in agreement with the policies of their country of origin regarding foreign policy issues facing the homeland and they mobilize in support of such policies. There are many examples of such cooperation between diaspora and country of origin. For example, Kotabe M. et al. (2013) examine cross-border movements of financial capital through foreign direct investment and the transnational flows of people and the different types of capital that they possess. The authors identify the role of Diasporas and how they invest in their home countries through direct and portfolio investments or through the establishment of new ventures in their homelands. Moreover Diaspora capital is a useful development resource for migration-sending countries, many of which are among the most capital needy in the world. And Diasporas build networks which overcome various challenges such as language and foreignness that result in positive economic effects in the homeland. The authors state that diasporans play influential roles in the foreign-market entry decision-making process, often encouraging their employers to at least investigate the possibility of investing in the diasporan's country of origin and generates new jobs and increased income [5].

Diaspora organizations and their smaller or bigger impact on international politics, the role of diasporas in international relations tends to be ignored or understudied. "Nauja Kleist (2008) examines how Northwestern European development aid agencies value the role of diaspora organizations and their development activities of diaspora organizations. The author focuses particularly on small and medium-sized diaspora organizations that contribute to development of home country. According to the author the promotion and establishment of networks between different diaspora organizations and other development NGOs support funds that diaspora organizations can apply to, but lack of attention to diaspora organizations as well as support programmes are characterized by low budgets [6].

However, different diaspora organisations may support different political actors in the homeland that share their own view on the conflict and which work either towards conflict resolution or towards adopting a more militaristic attitude against the enemy. Diasporas contribute to conflict resolution and to social and economic development of their homeland. UNESCO has focused on the importance of diaspora networks, the Diaspora Knowledge Networks in particular, and their potential for contributions to peace and development in their native countries (Mahroum & De Guchteneire 2006). Their skills, experience, connections are commitment to the well-being of their homeland [7].

Diasporas are political and cultural bridges between two countries. Diasporas widely recognized in international activities that aim at the promotion of international peace and development. To sum up today's world operates globally and locally. Diasporas have the flexibility to be both. It is also essential to provide good information about the local way of life to newcomers and ensure opportunities for people to mix and integrate. The growing role and influence of the diaspora is becoming an extremely important phenomenon in the international arena. It should be noted that researchers estimate that the migration processes in the world have a tendency to a permanent increase; more and more people are involved in them. Diaspora can contribute to the realization of the state's foreign policy objectives of its outcome. Understanding this fact is necessary in general to all countries, but especially those who today tend to occupy a leading place in the modern world politics and should be seen as a tool for promoting national interests in improving the country's foreign policy image.

References

1. Бурлацкий Ф., Галкин А. Социология. Политика. Международные отношения. – М.: Междунар. Отношения, 1974. – 98 с.
2. Cohen R. Global Diasporas. An introduction. Second Edition. –London: Taylor & Francis e-Library, 2008.- 238 p.
3. Мендикулова Г. М. Исторические судьбы казахской диаспоры. Происхождение и развитие. - Алматы: Ғылым, 1997.- 264 с.
4. Sheffer Gabriel Diaspora Politics: At Home Abroad. – New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006. - 308 p.
5. Kotabe M. Diaspora Investment and Entrepreneurship: The Role of People, Their Movements, and Capital in the International Economy//Journal of International Management. -2013.- Vol.19, Issue 1.- P. 3–5.
6. Nauja Kleist “Understanding Diaspora Organizations in European Development Cooperation – Approaches, Challenges and Ways Ahead”// Public Integrity, Fall -2008.- Vol.10, № 4- P. 335-343.
7. Mahroum Paul de Guchteneire Transnational Knowledge Through Diaspora Networks.- 2006.-Vol. 8,№ 1.-P. 120.

Г. Асхат, Ж.Р. Жабина

Абылай хан атындағы Қазақ халықаралық қатынастар және әлем тілдері университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан

Диаспораның халықаралық қатынастарға ықпалы

Аннотация. Соңғы бірнеше онжылдықтар ішінде диаспора халықаралық аренада айтарлықтай акторларға айналды, олар отандық және халықаралық саясатта маңызды рөл атқарумен қатар, ұлттық шешімдерге де әсер ете алды. Диаспоралар мемлекеттер арасындағы екіжақты қарым-қатынастарға әсер ететін екі елдің арасындағы интеллектуалды, саяси, әлеуметтік және мәдени байланыстарды тудырады.

Осыған байланысты, мақалада диаспоралардың халықаралық қатынастарға ықпалы қарастырылады. Диаспоралар кеңінен таралған және олар халықаралық саясатқа ежелден бері әсер етті және ғасырлар бойы өз елдерінен әртүрлі себептер нәтижесінде қоныс ауударып келді. Әлемде эмигранттар жоқ елдер жоқ. Бүгінгі таңда диаспоралар мен жеке тұлғалар отандық және халықаралық саясатта маңызды рөл атқара алатын және ұлттық шешімдерге әсер ету қабілеті бар ірі актерлер ретінде танылады.

Түйін сөздер: диаспора, мемлекеттік емес актор, этникалық топ, эмигранттар, көші-қон, ішкі және халықаралық саясат.

Г. Асхат, Ж.Р. Жабина

Казахский университет имени международных отношений и мировых языков имени Абылай хана Алматы, Казахстан

Влияние диаспоры на международные отношения

Аннотация. За последние несколько десятилетий диаспоры стали значимыми игроками на международной арене, играющими значительную роль во внутренней и международной политике, и имеют право влиять на национальные иностранные решения. Диаспоры как раз являются одним из важных и мало изученных акторов современных экономических, политических, культурных связей, занявших собственную нишу во внутриполитической жизни различных стран. В этом контексте в статье рассматривается влияние диаспоры на международные отношения.

Диаспоры существовали всегда, однако именно сегодня на фоне всеобщей глобализации мира интерес к ним как общественно-политическим и этно- культурным явлениям чрезвычайно возрос. В условиях экономической и политической глобализации миграционные процессы стали играть значительную роль в

формировании современной системы международных отношений. В этой связи возрастание роли и влияния диаспор – крайне важное явление на международной арене.

Ключевые слова: диаспора, негосударственный актор, этническая группа, эмигранты, миграция, внутренняя и международная политика.

References

1. Burlatskii F.M., Galkin A.A. Sociologia. Politika. Mezhdunarodnye otnosheniya [Sociology. Policy. International relations] (International relations, Moscow, 1974).
2. Cohen R. Global Diasporas. An introduction. Second Edition (Taylor & Francis e-Library, London, 2008).
3. Mendikulova G.M. Istoricheskiye sudbi kazakhskoi diaspory. Proyshozhdeniye i razvitiye [The historical fate of the Kazakh diaspora. Origin and development. The historical fate of the Kazakh diaspora. Origin and development] (Gylym, Almaty, 1997).
4. Sheffer Gabriel Diaspora Politics: At Home Abroad (Cambridge University Press, New York, 2006).
5. Kotabe M. Diaspora Investment and Entrepreneurship: The Role of People, Their Movements, and Capital in the International Economy, *Journal of International Management*, **19**(1), 3–5(2013).
6. Nauja Kleist Understanding Diaspora Organizations in European Development Cooperation – Approaches, Challenges and Ways Ahead, *Public Integrity*, Fall, **10**(4), 335-343(2008).
7. Mahroum Paul de Guchteneire “Transnational Knowledge Through Diaspora Networks”, **8**(1), 120 (2006).

Сведения об авторах:

Асхат Г. – PhD-докторант Казахского университета имени международных отношений и мировых языков имени Абылай хана, улица Муратбаева 200, Алматы, Казахстан.

Жабина Ж.Р. – доктор политических наук, доцент, ведущий научный сотрудник Аналитического центра Библиотеки Первого Президента РК Елбасы, Алматы, Казахстан.

Askhat G. – a PhD student Kazakh Ablai khan University of International Relations and World Languages, Muratbayev street 200, Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Zhabina Zh.R. – Doctor in Political Sciences, Associate Professor, Leading Researcher of the Analytical Center of the Library of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Elbassy, Almaty, Kazakhstan.