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## Some issues of relations between Afghanistan and Central Asia

**Abstract.** *The geopolitical importance of the Central Asian region is growing more and more on the international stage. Afghanistan's enduring strategic importance to the great powers, and their invasion of Central Asia and Afghanistan, had a strong impact on Central Asian foreign policy towards Afghanistan. It is relevant to consider the states of Central Asia and the region separately. And when we talk about the region, first of all, the issue of relations with Afghanistan is considered. This article provides an in-depth historical analysis of the interests and actions of Central Asia in relation to Afghanistan. The main goal of this study is to analyze the level of study in scientific papers of the entire period of relations between the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan. The historical relations between Afghanistan and Central Asia and the difficulties and obstacles of relations in modern times are considered. In addition, it will be shown what importance Central Asia has for Afghanistan. The study examines the relations of Central Asian countries with Afghanistan, the governments of Central Asian countries, the consistent implementation of political and economic policies in Afghanistan as an integral part of the desire of Central Asia to achieve a leadership position in its region. The article presents a long-term historical context of relations between the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan.*

**Keywords:** *peace, Central Asia, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan USA, USSR, national interests, risks.*

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### Introduction

*"Afghanistan is heart of Asia" – Mohammad Iqbal.*

*"Afghanistan is the Cockpit of South Asia" –*

*Lord Curzon.*

Central Asia – Afghan relation is not a newly emerged relations since countries were considered to be traditionally connected in socio-economic and political terms. Indeed, Afghanistan had been one of the pivotal neighborly partners of Central Asia for many centuries. As of the reason,

Central Asia's reconstruction activities are also not quite new to Afghanistan since it has been traditionally involved in many activities from the very beginning.

However, expansion of Central Asia's relations with Afghanistan was identified long time ago. It should also be noted that during the Soviet Invasion in Afghanistan Central Asian countries had close relationships with Afghanistan. Central Asian countries always supported Afghanistan.

Central Asian Countries considered to Afghanistan as a great neighbors, because

Afghanistan suffer a lot of problems from Pakistan and Iran during last 50 years.

Central Asia is a regional power which had a shared commitment to support and accommodate its neighbors without necessarily expecting to receive reciprocal benefits. Thus, during pro-Soviet regime in Afghanistan, Central Asia had a very cordial relation with Afghanistan. On this basis relations were evolved for strengthening their socioeconomic and cultural system.

Accordingly, there are various reasons for Central Asia to extend the good and friendship policy towards Afghanistan. However, one of the prime reasons for Central Asia for pursuing its policy is that of frequent terrorist attacks which strongly affected Afghanistan. To overcome the menace of terrorism in Central Asian soil, Central Asia needed Afghans support. Also, Central Asia intends to renew its age-old relations with Afghanistan. However, after September 9/11 attack on World Trade Centre (WTC) Central Asia has been involving seriously in accomplishing its economic, political and social reconstruction policies in Afghanistan encompassing the fields of health, education, transports, commerce and trade, science and technology cultural exchange and agriculture.

However, the changing nature of power politics in Afghanistan blockage of Central Asia's transit route to Afghanistan has created many hindrances in Central Asia's soft approach engagement with Afghanistan. Russia invasive attempt in Afghanistan was foremost attempt to through imperialistic and hegemonic intention. The attempt was abrupted by the USA by indulging in developing many small group organizations in order to check out USSR from Afghanistan. The Cold war between two ideologically different camps is the root causes of all chaos of Afghanistan hitherto. Further, domestic factors like unstable and weak governance in Afghanistan and Central Asia's geographical factors compelled Central Asia to extend the assistance towards Afghanistan during these periods. Therefore, this study throws light upon Central Asia's policy, reasons and the subsequent implications upon the most instable and terror-inflicted Nation.

### Theoretical and methodological base

The purpose of the article is to present an in-depth historical analysis of the motivations and actions surrounding Central Asian countries' foreign policy toward Afghanistan in the modern era. The need for this research stems from a significant gap Central Asia-Afghan relationship that accounts for the modern era of the countries' interactions in detail; discussed subsequently, the few examples that do exist, developed over the last 21 years, the research, rely primarily on and secondary sourcing (often offering only partial, or Central Asia and Afghan perspective), and lack sound historical methodology, particularly the use of archival records. This is surprising given that Central Asia and Afghanistan are both geopolitically strategic places, with the latter holding a formidable history of many states' stalemated conflicts, extensive meddling, and protracted investment of blood and treasure. Thus, this little-researched subject holds immense potential for the expansion of historical and political connection between Central Asia and Afghan studies and their related fields and is pertinent for policymakers of the states invested in Central Asia.

Other realities of the literature have inspired this work. There are many histories on Central Asia and Afghanistan respectively—including some that briefly address interactions with the other country—but none that provide a long-view assessment focusing specifically on the dynamics of the Central Asia-Afghan relationship. There also exists a profusion of political and diplomatic histories on Central Asia and Afghanistan with the discussion narrowed to the period leading up to and following 1992, when central Asian countries experienced dramatic changes in independence, government making, and policy making in their political orientation. However, this tendency exposes a bias of contemporary historians, political scientists, and international relations theorists in framing the discourse on modern Central Asia and Afghan politics. While this era was indeed a definitive turning point when these nations underwent transformative political changes, this perspective negates the

lessons and products of the previous centuries of Central Asia and Afghan experience and considers these long-existing civilizations within an extremely limited context.

Even less examined is the extensive diplomatic history of Central Asia relationships.

Therefore, the period chosen for examination here, new Central Asia 1992 contributes a broader understanding of the historical underpinnings of Central Asia regional foreign policy that is too frequently neglected in the contemporary Era.

This Article also fundamentally challenges another now-engrained tendency in the literature and in new policy circles within its immediate neighborhood. Martin McCauley draws on his vast knowledge of the region and its history to provide a clear and highly readable account of Afghanistan and the Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, which have the same religion, culture, and historical bonds.

Therefore, utilizing a historical methodology of primary and secondary source integration and analysis-including available documentary and archival records, Central Asia and Afghan primary sources, the existing scholarship, and other Western, Central Asian, and Afghan secondary sources - the main objectives of this work include:

1) To detail and examine the motivations and actions comprising Central foreign policy toward Afghanistan in modern history

2) To understand how Central Asia and Afghan policy has historically fit within wider foreign policy aims, particularly its priority relationships with the superpowers active in its region.

3) Relatedly, to determine how and why Central Asia has used its relations with and/or role in Afghanistan as a point of leverage with the superpowers, the implications for this behavior, and what it achieved in line with Central Asia foreign policy objectives.

4) And, to demonstrate continuity in modern Central Asia regional foreign policy, despite its differing regimes' stated and actual ideological and structural differences. This is based on historical mythology informing an

ideological drive toward Central Asia nationalism throughout the period examined in this work.

Central Asian governments consistently pursued policies of political and economic in Afghanistan as an integral part of some central Asian countries' desire to find a way through Afghanistan to south Asia. This persistent approach is grounded to achieve economic stability because central Asian countries are double landlocked countries, and Afghanistan's stability and support are useful for central Asian countries because they have close economic, political, and security bonds with each other's.

Methods. It should be noted that because the principal concentration of this article is Central Asia's role in Afghanistan's peace and stability and its foreign policy toward, and influence in Afghanistan and its relevance to Central Asia's wider regional and global interests, Afghan, Central Asian countries policies and motivations are often addressed where relevant but are not given the same intensive consideration.

As mentioned, a historical and scientific methodology has been prioritized for this work. The timeframe was largely dependent on the availability of high-quality primary sources, with a preference for archival and book, article, and news sources, as well as other types of Central Asian countries and Afghan primary sources (memoirs, speeches, etc.). Due to declassification procedures for government records.

This Article has made substantial use of these new records — some declassified as recently as just as political speeches and some agreements. In the online libraries, and famous writers in the Central Asia Regions and in the world.

### **Central Asia**

Central Asia is a region in the Asian continent that extends from the mountains of western China to the shores of the Caspian Sea. Pakistan and Iran create the southern border of the region, and the vast expanse of Russia is to the north. Afghanistan is considered a part of the region even though it was never a formal part of the Soviet Union. Central Asia was located on what was known as the Silk Road between Europe and



the Far East and has long been a crossroads for people, ideas, and trade [19].

Central Asia as commonly understood today is constituted of five republics Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Each of these republics is the direct successor to the Soviet Socialist Republic, and each became independent on the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1991.1 Barring a brief period of greater autonomy in some parts of the region in the wake of the twin 1917 revolutions in Russia, 1991 marked the first time the peoples of this vast and diverse region had been free of direct control from Russia for over 150 years [7, p. 9-13].

«Central Asia owes its importance to the vast economic potential and geostrategic location it has been endowed with, considering it is progressively turning into a world economic center” [18].

### **Historical Relation of Afghanistan and Central Asia**

Today’s Central Asian Republics – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan – were part of the Soviet Union from 1922 to 1991 and gained independence after the Soviet Union collapsed. Since then, Afghanistan’s eight northern and western provinces share over 2,000 Kilometers of the border with Tajikistan (1,344 km), Turkmenistan (744 km), and Uzbekistan (137 km) (The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2012).

Central Asia is a relatively understudied neighbor of Afghanistan. The region is often placed into a number of historical and political contexts—a section of the Silk Road, a pawn in the “Great Game,” the “spillover” state that exemplifies the failure of US foreign policy—that limit scholarly understanding [10, p. 67-89].

Afghanistan and Central Asia share a long common history. The north of present-day Afghanistan is linked to Transoxiana or Turkestan, the region to the north of the Amu Darya River, which more or less corresponds to the territories of contemporary Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. The Amu Darya has

not historically separated two different spaces. The broader region began to disintegrate in the eighteenth century and was divided altogether in the nineteenth century with the advance of the Tsarist and British colonial empires. The Emirate of Bukhara was the last direct historical link between Central Asia and Afghanistan; the last emir, Alim Khan, fleeing the advancing Bolsheviks, took refuge in Afghanistan in 1920 [11, p. 3-17].

Afghanistan and the Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, from their medieval pasts to the unpredictable present. Illuminating languages and landscapes, cultures, and society examines the rise of militant Islam and its impact on the region, the push and pull of global economics and politics, and possibilities for stability in an inherently unstable part of the world [12, p. 89].

Afghanistan and the five Central Asian Republics of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan share common security, economic and cultural space, and system.

Since 2001, there has been a noticeable improvement and increase in interaction, exchange, connectivity, and cooperation between Afghanistan and its northern neighbors [4].

On the eve of the military campaign in Afghanistan, led at first by the United States and then by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the states of Central Asia had complex attitudes towards Afghanistan. On the one hand, they were concerned about the potential spillover of already existing instability from Afghanistan, which had materialized in the form of incursions by the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) into Tajikistan in 1999 and Kyrgyzstan in 2000.

On the other hand, Turkmenistan—and, to some extent, Uzbekistan—had sought some kind of accommodation with the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, attempting at the same time to gain economic benefits from the stabilization of Afghanistan and the building of a gas pipeline to South Asian markets [15, p. 1-27].

Throughout their post-medieval histories, Afghanistan and their bordering central Asia

states have formed voluntary mirrors of each other's [20, p.605-620].

Since the mid-2000s, the image of the Silk Roads has also been linked, in the United States in particular, with the project of reviving the notion of the "Afghanistan neighborhood"—that is, of reintegrating Afghanistan into its regional environment, especially by creating a new relationship between post-Soviet Central Asia and South Asia [10].

After 9/11 The USA started the war in Kabul and while the invasion was happening, the US sent 1000 soldiers to Uzbekistan and 3000 soldiers to Kyrgyzstan [17, p.305-3019].

In the wake of these developments, the US made military exercises with Kazakhstan [17, p.305-3019].

Central Asia's relationship with Afghanistan is increasingly shaped by preparations for U.S./ NATO withdrawal in 2014.

External actors are also taking this into account when planning their bilateral and regional involvement. The main drivers of the forthcoming reframing of relations involve security assessments, preparedness for potential new threats, and the engagement of Russia, China, and the U.S. in the region [11, p. 3-17].

NATO forces draw down their military presence in Afghanistan, the country's northern neighbors have witnessed Taliban fighters swiftly overrun most of the rural parts of northern Afghanistan, establishing control over nearly all of the 1,500-mile border between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. By all indications, Central Asian states are preparing for a new reality in Afghanistan, one where the Taliban control most, if not all, of the country [8].

### **Central Asia's role in the peace process in Afghanistan**

Located at the crossroads of Central, South, and Southwest Asia, Afghanistan has geostrategic importance for economic integration and stability in the broader region. Its location can be an asset or a liability for the country itself and its immediate and regional neighbors. Decades of insecurity in Afghanistan have turned the

country into a liability in the region. Permanent violence in Afghanistan has invited transnational militants including Central Asians and Russians to seek safe sanctuaries in the country and use it as a launch pad for their operations across the greater region. These foreign Jihadists have an entrenched presence in Afghanistan and developed stronger relations with local militants. They do not only pose a security threat to Afghanistan and their home countries but in particular Central Asian militants also facilitate drug trade that originates from Afghanistan and "successfully" crosses Central Asia reaching all the way to Russia and Europe [9, p. 58-71].

While an old phenomenon, "terrorism" has become the most prominent political-security discourse of the new century. Since the terrorist attacks of 9/11, 2001, terrorism has engulfed many countries with significant economic, political, and social implications for the international community [4].

The Afghan crisis has grabbed the attention of the entire world and underlined the desperate need in the West for a better understanding of the region and its challenges in the face of increasingly militant interpretations of Islam [12, p. 176].

Afghanistan's peace process could be taking a major step forward in August with the potential commencement of intra-Afghan talks, said the U.S. chief negotiator. "This is an important moment for Afghanistan and for the region—perhaps a defining moment," said Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad. Peace in Afghanistan would be redound to the benefit of the entire region. As the peace process stumbles forward, one critical but often overlooked element is the role of Afghanistan's Central Asian neighbors [1].

«Central Asia is, somehow, a hinge zone», which has «regained undoubtedly an extraordinary importance both structural and conjectural». According to this expert, «if there were three major milestones of the 21st century, conflicts that had an effective impact on the reconstruction and creation of a new international order, these would be Afghanistan, Iraq and the invasion of Georgia by the Russian Federation» [18].

Central Asia and Russia can support Afghanistan to become a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The full membership of SCO would allow Afghanistan to use this platform for building consensus toward regional cooperation and fighting against the menace of militancy and drugs. Future relations between Central Asia and Afghanistan will also depend on whether the latter can gain support from Russia and China [9].

As part of the Istanbul Process, Central Asian states have joined various CBM (confidence-building measures) groups, with Kazakhstan agreeing to lead implementation in the Disaster Management CBM group and the Chamber of Commerce CBM groups, and Turkmenistan agreeing to lead the Regional Infrastructure CBM group [15, p. 1-27].

Unlike Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan appear eager to engage with the Taliban in the hope of securing economic access to South Asia [21].

In July 1999 it organized the Tashkent meeting of the warring sides and adopted the Tashkent Declaration "On the Main Principles of Conflict Settlement in Afghanistan," which served as the foundation of the resolution of the U.N. Security Council that described the meeting as an important step toward a political solution to the Afghan problem.

The latest developments, said the Uzbek president, suggested that the contact group (6 + 2 prior to 2001) should be transformed into 6 + 3 to add NATO to the process [6, p. 44-51].

The Taliban have said at all of their talks with other countries in the region that they pose no threat to the countries of Central Asia [22].

Both Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have signed agreements with Afghanistan on energy supplies in 2022, despite unplanned outages [5].

The third India-Central Asia Dialogue, held in India on 19 December Exploring ways to strengthen the bilateral relationship between CA and India, the third India-Central Asia dialogue not only discussed the traditional areas of commerce, capacity enhancement, and connectivity, but also the geostrategic and security implications of a Taliban-led Afghanistan

on the region. The foreign ministers "reiterated strong support for a peaceful, secure, and stable Afghanistan, while emphasizing the respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs [23].

### **Central Asian countries' support and relationships**

The Afghan government has promised to return the country to its historical role as a regional trade, transit, and transport hub – particularly by serving as a land bridge connecting energy-rich Central Asia with energy-hungry South Asia. To serve this purpose and in order to make Afghanistan an asset for the region, the country has initiated and is pushing for the implementation of major transnational transport and energy projects, including the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline; CASA1000 electricity transmission from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan; Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan electricity transmission known as TAP-500 VK Line; Lapis Lazuli Corridor – aimed at connecting Afghanistan to the Caspian, the Mediterranean, and the Black Sea through Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey and promoting connectivity of these countries. The Five Nations Railways Corridor will connect China, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Iran; and the "Sino-Afghan Special Railway transportation" connects Afghanistan and China via Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. In all of these initiatives, Central Asia is inevitable [3, 435-469].

**Kazakhstan's** flagship Bolashak education program has trained more than 1,000 Afghan students in Kazakhstan's universities, said Erzhan Kazykhanov, Kazakhstan's ambassador to the United States. In 2018, Kazakhstan hosted a regional conference on empowering women in Afghanistan, he said. Among other initiatives, he noted that Kazakhstan provided more than \$80 million of assistance to Afghanistan through its foreign aid agency KazAID. In fact, the lion's share of Kazakhstan's foreign aid budget to date has gone to Afghanistan, where KazAID focuses its attention on infrastructure, humanitarian aid, and gender equality initiatives [1].

Foreign Minister Beibut Atamkulov met with the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the Republic of Kazakhstan Mohammad Farhad Azimi on March 15, 2019. During the same meeting, the sides discussed the current state and prospects of Kazakh-Afghan cooperation in the political, trade, economic and humanitarian spheres. «Cooperation with Afghanistan within the framework of integration processes in the Central Asian region, the development of cooperation on the entire spectrum of bilateral and multilateral relations will have a positive impact on our relations. Kazakhstan has been contributing to the peace process and reconstruction in Afghanistan for many years» – Minister B. Atamkulov said.

There is a progressive dynamics of mutually beneficial relations between Kazakhstan and Afghanistan, as well as an increase in indicators in mutual trade. At the same time, the potential for trade and economic cooperation was noted. Kazakhstan has the potential in exporting grain and its products to Afghanistan, strengthen cooperation in the Transit, Transport, and humanitarian spheres, implement railway and infrastructure projects in Afghanistan, as well as continuing the educational program of Kazakhstan for Afghan citizens. At the same meeting, Afghan diplomat Mohammad Farhad Azimi, on behalf of his country's leadership, expressed interest in raising relations between Kazakhstan and Afghanistan to a strategic level and signing an appropriate agreement for this purpose. According to the ambassador, Afghanistan has signed similar agreements with Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

The important role of Afghan students studying civilian specialties in Kazakhstan universities, contributing to the peaceful construction of Afghanistan, was noted. In this regard, the Afghan side appealed for an increase in the number of educational grants. In the period from 2010 to 2021, more than 1 thousand citizens of Afghanistan studied in Kazakhstani universities. It should be noted that the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University also contributed to this important program. About 200 Afghan students study at Al-Farabi Kazakh National

University a year and contribute to the peaceful construction of Afghanistan.

Speaking about bilateral trade, M. Azimi noted that Kazakhstan is the largest trade partner for Afghanistan in the region.

**Turkmenistan** has the second-largest natural gas reserves after Russia. The TAPI project seeks to connect the country with South Asia via Afghanistan, enabling it to diversify the destination of gas exports beyond China [14].

**Uzbekistan** in 2018 brought together 21 countries, the U.N., and the EU to support the peace process at the Tashkent Conference, which reaffirmed strong support for intra-Afghan talks with the Taliban without preconditions. Afghanistan is already a top 10 trading partner of Uzbekistan, noted Vakhobov, Uzbekistan's ambassador to the United States. Uzbekistan is also expanding its supply of electricity to Afghanistan with projects that will not only increase production capacity but create new jobs for Afghans [1].

One possible reason for Uzbekistan's continuing dialogue with the Taliban is its strong interest in broadening access to South Asia. Uzbekistan is one of only two double-landlocked countries in the world (the other being Liechtenstein), so overcoming logistical hurdles is a key consideration in President Mirziyoyev's efforts to attract foreign investment. Improving transport networks was one of the main issues discussed at an international conference on connectivity with South Asia, hosted by Uzbekistan in July [21].

Tashkent explained that Uzbekistan is open to engaging with the Taliban and pointed to the general drivers of Tashkent's policies towards neighboring Afghanistan. Tolipov explained that committed to not interfering in any country's internal affairs, Tashkent would be ready to contact anyone who assumes power in Afghanistan in the spirit of maintaining peaceful and friendly relations with Kabul [2].

**Tajikistan** is concerned about ethnic Tajiks living in Afghanistan, who are said to outnumber the Tajiks in Tajikistan.

The level of concern regarding their "compatriots" in Afghanistan appears higher



than for the ethnic kin in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

Unlike Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan appear eager to engage with the Taliban in the hope of securing economic access to South Asia [21].

**Kyrgyzstan** Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, 8 interstates, intergovernmental and interagency agreements, and treaties have been signed:

1. Protocol on establishment of diplomatic and consular relations (Moscow, November 12, 1999);

2. Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Afghan Interim Administration (Kabul, March 27, 2002);

3. Memorandum of Cooperation between the Financial Intelligence Service of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Center of Afghanistan in the field of countering laundering money from crime and financing of terrorism (Sanya, China, January 22, 2008);

4. Protocol on consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Bishkek, January 22, 2013);

5. Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the State Committee for National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic and the National Directorate of Security of Afghanistan (Kabul, March 2013);

6. Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Institute of Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan (Kabul, February 16, 2014);

7. Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (March 26, 2014);

8. Protocol on cooperation and bilateral consultations between the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan (February 16, 2014).

The following drafts have been initiated and sent for consideration to the Afghan side by the Embassy:

- Agreement on international road transport between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan;

- Trade Agreement between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan;

- Agreement on avoidance of double taxation and prevention of tax evasion between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan;

- Memorandum on cooperation between the Ministry of Interior of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to combat illicit trafficking in narcotics, psychotropic substances, and precursors;

- Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the Ministry of Interior of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

According to the information of the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, The Agreement on Establishment of an Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation is at the signing stage.

## Conclusion

All Central Asian states are concerned about the security situation in Afghanistan. The rapid withdrawal of ISAF forces is seen as leading to destabilization, with negative consequences for Central Asia including the potential spillover of militant activities, the spread of radical Islamist ideas, increased drug trafficking, and the likelihood of a refugee crisis. This is in contrast to the 1990s when Turkmenistan stated that it did not perceive Afghanistan as a threat, and the other four Central Asian states could invoke their collective security treaty arrangements with Russia. The general common ground allows for regional cooperation among states, as demonstrated by the ongoing Almaty

Process, which is led by the UNHCR, and which seeks to coordinate efforts to manage mixed migration from Afghanistan. In addition, the Istanbul Process has focused on confidence-building measures between Afghanistan and its neighbors. The participation of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan in these processes is a welcome development for regional cooperation and coordination in Central Asia [15, p. 27].

Authorities are obsessed with security in the region. While there are security risks threatening stability in Central Asia, governments should refrain from sacrificing economic prosperity for the sake of maintaining stability, by pursuing, for instance, external shocks resistant to isolationist

policies. Stability, largely dependent on security measures, will pay off in the short term. Such stability, however, cannot be maintained in the long-run, unless it is backed by socio-economic development.

Though certain reforms are needed to promote socio-economic development, an entirely different approach from the government side is necessary. Authorities continuously promote new reforms in all areas of development, as if quantity led to more effectiveness of the initiatives [16, p.99-100]. Yet, the low capacity of the state institutions to enforce existing laws and weak social capital remain major obstacles along the way to achieving positive outcomes.

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### **Ауғанстан мен Орталық Азия қарым-қатынастарының кейбір мәселелері**

**Аңдатпа.** Орталық Азия аймағының геосаяси маңызы халықаралық сахнада күннен-күнге артып келеді. Ауғанстанның ұлы державалар үшін тұрақты стратегиялық маңыздылығы, және олардың Орталық Азия мен Ауғанстанға басып кіруі Орталық Азияның Ауғанстанға қатысты сыртқы саясатына қаты әсерін тигізді. Орталық Азия және аймаққа қатысты мемлекеттерді жеке-жеке қарастыру өзекті. Ал аймақ туралы айтқанда бірінші кезекте Ауғанстанмен қарым-қатынаст мәселесі қарастырылады. Бұл мақалада Ауғанстанға қатысты Орталық Азияның мүдделері мен іс-әрекеттеріне терең тарихи талдау берілген. Бұл зерттеудің басты мақсаты - Орталық Азия мен Ауғанстан арасындағы елдердің өзара қарым-қатынастың барлық кезеңінің ғылыми еңбектердегі зерттелу деңгейіне сараптама жасау болып табылады. Ауғанстан мен Орталық Азияның тарихи қатынастары және қазіргі уақыттағы байланыстардың қиыншылықтары мен кедергілері қарастырылған. Сонымен қатар, Орталық Азияның Ауғанстан үшін қандай маңызға ие екендігі көрсетіледі. Зерттеуде Орталық Азия елдерінің Ауғанстанмен, Орталық Азия елдерінің үкіметтерімен қарым-қатынасы, Ауғанстанда Орталық Азияның өз аймағында көшбасшылық позицияға қол жеткізуге деген ұмтылысының ажырамас бөлігі ретінде саяси және экономикалық саясатты дәйекті түрде жүргізілгені қарастырылған. Мақалада Орталық Азия елдері мен Ауғанстан арасындағы қатынастардың ұзақ мерзімді тарихи контексті ұсынылған.

**Түйін сөздер:** әлем, Орталық Азия, Ауғанстан, Қазақстан, Өзбекстан, Түрікменстан, Қырғызстан, Тәжікстан, АҚШ, КСРО, ұлттық мүдделер, тәуекелдер.