



## **OPPORTUNITIES OF CENTRAL ASIAN STATES IN THE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL GEOPOLITICAL RELATIONS**

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<b>Received:</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2022 <b>Accepted:</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 <b>Published:</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	This article describes the natural-geographical, socio-economic, logistical capabilities of the Central Asian states. Studies on the concept of Central Asia, its territory and territory are analyzed. The natural and geographical environment, socio-economic development and logistics opportunities of the countries in the region are considered. In the analysis of the processes in the region, the methods of analysis and synthesis, historical and logical, comparative comparison, generalization were used.
<b>Keywords:</b> Central Asia, Central Asia, the Great Silk Road, geography, logistics, national interest, geographical environment, geopolitical factor, demography.	

Uzbekistan is located in the heart of Central Asia, at the crossroads of West and East. Since the collapse of the former Soviet Union, Central Asian states have emerged as full members of international law. Due to its huge area, fertile lands, natural resources, labor force, transport and logistics, huge undeveloped domestic market, it has been the subject of a number of studies.

Our country's wide-ranging cooperation with its near and far neighbors depends on the stability of the region. The fifth direction of the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 is to ensure security, interethnic harmony and religious tolerance, to pursue a well-thought-out, mutually beneficial and practical foreign policy. Much attention is paid to strengthening the independence and sovereignty of our country, the formation of an environment of security, stability and good neighborliness around Uzbekistan, strengthening the international prestige of our country [1].

As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev noted, "Uzbekistan is directly interested in the transformation of this region into a zone of stability, sustainable development and good neighborliness. A peaceful, economically developed Central Asia is the most important goal and the main task we are striving for. Uzbekistan is a strong supporter of dialogue, practical cooperation and strengthening good neighborliness. We stand ready to work with Central Asian countries on all issues, without exception, on the basis of reasonable compromise." [2]

- Literature review. Our people have long been located at the Great Silk Road, which connects West and East. Our region is famous for its nature, climate, fertile lands and mineral resources. That is why the socio-

political sciences have been the subject of important research both in the distant past and today.

The term "Central Asia" was widely used in geographical sources in the former Soviet Union. It does not include Kazakhstan. Thus, the terms Central Asia and Kazakhstan were used as a separate concept. The division of the Soviet state into a number of economic regions may have led to the use of these terms.

The Central Asian region is recognized by UNESCO as Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Western China, Tibet, Inner Mongolia, Punjab, Kashmir, North India occupies the territories of North Pakistan, Northeast Iran. There is also sometimes an ethnic approach to defining Central Asia. It refers mainly to the Turkic, Mongol and Tibetan lands.

By the 1990s, American political scientist Michael Mandelbaum had begun to interpret the meaning of the term in a completely different way. According to him, Central Asia includes the former Soviet republics (including Kazakhstan), Western China (Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region), Afghanistan, the Indo-Pakistani border region and Mongolia. Of course, the peoples of this region have always had economic and cultural ties at different times, sometimes in different empires. Clearly, there are a number of historical, cultural, and economic reasons for this view. On the other hand, the purpose of such coverage of Central Asian territories may be interpreted in order to destroy Russia's historical claim to Central Asia.

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.**

On the eve of the new millennium, the Central Asian states have gained their independence and become full subjects of international law and international relations. These countries have embarked on the path of



independent political development and renewal of socio-economic relations. They are trying to strengthen their position among other countries in the world due to their level of socio-economic development and potential. These states had the task of overcoming the tragic consequences of a failed historical experiment as soon as possible. They were faced with the difficult task of building a truly civil society with a free market economy, democracy, and reliable protection of human rights and freedoms.

When talking about the solution of such tasks, first of all, it is important to analyze the stage of socio-political development of these countries and the current socio-political situation in them.

Central Asia's territory, location, geostrategic, natural and physical capabilities are important points of modern international politics. As a full-fledged subject of international law since the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the countries of the region have been actively involved in various integration processes in the international arena. The traditional term "Kazakhstan and Central Asia" has been abandoned.

Central Asia's territory, location, geostrategic, natural and physical capabilities are important points of modern international politics. As a full-fledged subject of international law since the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the countries of the region have been actively involved in various integration processes in the international arena. Central Asia is also important as a link between China, India, Russia and the Middle East, with its developed population, labor force, territory, natural resources, transport logistics and advanced science and technology. It covers an area of 4.5 million square kilometers, including Afghanistan, and has a population of more than 80 million.

If we analyze the socio-economic, geographical and physical indicators of the countries in the region, we can see the following picture.

Kazakhstan is located in the heart of the Eurasian continent. With an area of 2.724 million square kilometers, it is the ninth largest city in the world. Kazakhstan is rich in natural resources. It has the world's largest reserves of gold, silver, chromium, pig iron and tungsten. Copper deposits and rare metals are abundant in the central part of the country. There are coal reserves in the north. The Mangyshlak region is rich in oil and gas reserves. The country's climate is continental. About 6,000 species of plants, more than 500 species of birds, about 180 species of wild animals and more than a hundred species of fish live in the vast plains. Forests cover 5.5% of the total area.

Uzbekistan is located in the heart of Central Asia and connects the countries of Central Asia. It is

bordered by Kazakhstan to the north, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to the east, Afghanistan to the south, and Turkmenistan to the west. Uzbekistan is rich in natural resources. There are about a hundred types of minerals. It has the world's largest reserves of gold, silver, chromium, pig iron, tungsten and uranium. Uzbekistan accounts for 74% of Central Asia's gas condensate, 40% of its natural gas reserves and 55% of its coal reserves. It has the sixth largest uranium reserves in the world. Most of the total area is desert. The climate and fertile soil are ideal for farming.

Tajikistan is located in the southeast of Central Asia. The mountains cover 90% of the country's land area. It has a variety of natural minerals. Svinets, molybdenum, tungsten, copper, gold, silver, uranium, iron ores have been identified. There are also a number of minerals used in industry and construction. It should be noted that at present the country is very rich in hydropower resources. Most of the electricity generated in the country is provided by hydropower plants. The climate is subtropical and fluctuates sharply in some seasons. The country has a well-developed light industry, textile, food and construction materials industries. Non-ferrous metals, including aluminum, and the metallurgical industry were also seized. The bulk of exports are aluminum, gold and textiles. Imports are 3.2 times higher than exports [6].

Kyrgyzstan is located in the northeast of Central Asia. It borders Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and China. There are deposits of various crystals, marble, shale, gold, molybdenum, iron ore. Due to the large number of mountainous areas, hydropower resources play an important role. The development of the industry remains extremely rapid. Especially transport logistics is very backward. In 2018, exports were estimated at \$ 1.765 billion (US) and imports at \$ 4.907 billion.

Turkmenistan is located in southwestern Central Asia. It is bordered by Iran and Afghanistan to the south, Kazakhstan to the north, and Uzbekistan to the northeast. The western border of the country is washed by the Caspian Sea. More than 80 percent of the country's territory is covered by the Karakum Desert. Mountain ranges are rare. But these deserts are extremely rich in natural resources. It is rich in oil, gas, gold and sulfur.

While industrial production accounts for 34% of GDP, agriculture accounts for 10%. Privatization is only available in the social services sector. Industry, transport, communications and energy still remain in the public sector. The country is the world's fourth largest exporter of fuel and energy products. Therefore, the oil and gas refining industry is highly developed. Transport logistics is not well developed. In 2010, a



pipeline with Iran was launched. There are many problems with the completion of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline. Of course, stability is important in Afghanistan.

- The fact that the countries of the Central Asian region have attracted the attention of the world's leading countries can be explained by the following factors:

- Central Asian states are located in an important geostrategic part of the continent. The most important transport logistics lines pass through this area. India connects China, and the East in general, with the West;

- The region has a number of natural resources. The region has large reserves of precious metals and energy resources, especially oil and gas reserves in the Caspian Sea;

- The population of the countries in the region has a large domestic market, the economy of which is not yet fully occupied;

- As a result of further development of production and communication networks of these countries, neighboring countries will have better opportunities for trade with countries;

- The region can absorb large amounts of investment, especially in the mining and export sectors;

- Leading countries will also be able to meet a number of their interests by building production infrastructure based on the efficient use of the region's potential and its labor force.

- Conclusions and Recommendations. The approaches of the countries with interests in the region to Central Asia and the integration process taking place there are based on certain principles. Among them, the principle of "geopolitical regionalism" stands out. This principle allows us to consider the Central Asian region as a single geopolitical space, a region with common political and economic interests. The following suggestions and conclusions can be made on the analysis of geopolitical processes in the Central Asian region:

First, large-scale international cooperation is the best guarantee for the sustainable development of Uzbekistan. Such cooperation does not allow any state to have a monopoly advantage in the region. As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev noted, "Uzbekistan continues its relations with international organizations such as the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Commonwealth of Independent States at a new stage. Our cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and

Development has been restored, and a partnership has been established with the European Investment Bank. Cooperation with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is becoming more effective [2].

Secondly, raising the level of good-neighborly relations between the countries of the region to a new level is a worthy response to external influences. The world's leading nations need to be given the opportunity to work in the region, not for supremacy, but for mutual benefit.

Thirdly, when it comes to the integration of our country into the world community, first of all, it is important that it actively participates in the activities of international organizations. With its participation in the work of reputable international organizations, Uzbekistan will have the opportunity to draw the attention of the world community to the critical issues of security, peace and harmony in the Central Asian region.

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