

INTERRELATION OF INTERESTS OF CHINA AND UZBEKISTAN IN CENTRAL ASIA

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***Annotation.** The article looks at the concept of directions for the interrelation of interests of China and Uzbekistan in Central Asia and the ways to improve its role in the market economy, which makes research topic relevant.*

The scientific article gives scientific definitions to such categories as "International relationship" and its types by various scholars and authors. In addition, the article groups the directions for the development of international relation and the interrelation of interests of countries, summarizes and comprehensively, analyzes the theoretical and scientific approaches to improving their effectiveness.

Having done an extensive analysis of the research materials, the author makes a conclusion about the urgency strengthening measures the directions for the development of international tourism in order to avoid further economic recession.

***Keywords:** International relationship, interests, interrelation, leading countries, democratic institutions, bilateral relations, international organizations, progressive development, ensure stability.*

Central Asia has always been a territory of geopolitical rivalry between leading countries. Today Central Asia is a region not only with great development potential, but also challenges on the way its implementation. Huge reserves of mineral resources, demographic opportunities, transit potential is combined with fragile democratic institutions, poorly diversified and a poorly funded economy.

Bilateral relations between Uzbekistan and China are developing rapidly not only as strategic partners, but also within the framework of the "One Belt One Road" initiative and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as well as other international

organizations. China has been consistently cooperating with Uzbekistan in the framework of the One Belt One Road initiative's Central Asian Silk Road Economic Belt project.

Cooperation between Uzbekistan and China, based on the principles of friendship, mutual respect and trust, as well as having the character of a strategic partnership, is becoming closer every year and is filled with new practical content. These relations serve national interests, socio-economic development and the growth of the authority of the two countries in the world arena. At present, China is Uzbekistan's leading trade partner as the largest source of exports and imports for the country. China is also increasing development loans in Uzbekistan. China sees Uzbekistan as critical part of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Tashkent and Beijing actively interact both on a bilateral basis and within the framework of international organizations (UN, SCO, CICA, etc.), provide mutual political support in the international arena, constructively cooperate on strengthening global and regional security, socio-economic development. Uzbekistan supports and takes an active part in the implementation of the Chinese project "One Belt, One Road", as well as in the work of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. China has a long border with the newly independent states. China's policy in the 90s was mainly aimed at forming friendly relations with new countries, ensuring a reliable rear, which determined further China's policy in the region.

Initially, China was faced with the task of resolving border issues with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Russia. Establishing good neighborly relations with all participants border settlement created the basis for the formation of the Shanghai Five, institutionalized later in the SCO in 2001. China is interested in a friendly and stable Central Asian region; this will ensure China's national security and the fulfillment of geopolitical and geo-economic plans. China was able to reach a compromise on the border issue with its western neighbors and deepen cooperation in the field security. China is interested in a friendly and stable Central Asian region; this will ensure it's national security and the fulfillment of geopolitical and geo-economic plans. China was able to reach a compromise on the border issue with its western neighbors and deepen cooperation in the field security.

With regard to economic cooperation, at the moment China is the main economic partner for the Central Asian countries. Impressive economic growth, trade expansion, huge demographic potential and significant expansion of foreign direct investment led to strengthening of the economic and political influence of China in the CAR. The increase in China's economic influence in Uzbekistan creates both new

prospects and new challenges. Thus, among the population, mistrust and synophobia are growing, caused by both economic expansion of China, and historical prejudices. To overcome these problems, China is actively uses soft power technology. It intensified interaction in the field of external communication, education and science. But difficulties in promoting China's soft power allow say that China's soft power does not meet the requirements of economic and social interactions between countries.

Thus, over the entire period of Uzbekistan's independence, the PRC has become the most important partner for all countries, without which it is impossible to imagine the progressive development of the region. Uzbekistan and China are mutually interested in each other's resources. The gradual expansion of the interests of China and Uzbekistan was less dependent on external factor and was focused on the internal interests of China. From the point of view of security, today the main interest of Russia is to ensure stability and prevent radicalization of the countries of the region, to strengthen the political systems of the countries.

An important place in bilateral relations is given to trade, economic and investment cooperation. Today, China is the leading trade, economic and investment partner of Uzbekistan, is a participant in programs implemented in our country for the structural transformation and modernization of the economy. According to the State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan, at the end of 2019, the volume of mutual trade turnover exceeded \$ 7.6 billion, and in the first quarter of 2020 it amounted to \$ 1.4 billion. There are 1,652 enterprises in Uzbekistan with the participation of Chinese investments, of which more than 120 enterprises with 100% Chinese capital. Over the past 10 years, the total volume of attracted Chinese investments and loans has exceeded \$ 8 billion.¹

The most significant for Tashkent is the growing investment assistance of Beijing in the implementation of promising projects in the spheres of industry, transport, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, agriculture and water management, as well as the creation of joint high-tech industrial parks in the Uzbek territory with the participation of Chinese companies. A successful and illustrative example in this direction was the creation in 2014 of the Peng Sheng industrial park in the Jizzakh FIZ with the investment of the Chinese company Wenzhou Jinsheng Trading in the amount of \$ 90 million.²

¹ Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 2020

² Statistics of the Chinese company Wenzhou Jinsheng Trading. 2016

Uzbekistan is interested in further strengthening and expanding economic cooperation with China, especially in the non-resource and technological sectors, attracting Chinese investments in the manufacturing sectors of the country's economy. The priority for the country is the implementation of new projects in the chemical, coal, construction, electrical, agricultural and pharmaceutical industries. At the same time, due to restrictive quarantine measures, the supply chain of goods has been disrupted, the export and import procedure has been complicated, and the implementation of joint projects has been suspended.

Amid the pandemic, the influx of Chinese tourists has significantly decreased. At the end of the first quarter of this year, only 3,700 people arrived from China (0.3% of the total number of tourists arriving), while in 2019 this figure was 61.9 thousand people. The governments of the two countries are making every effort to minimize the negative consequences of the pandemic, prevent a sharp decline in the volume of bilateral trade, optimize the structure of Sino-Uzbek trade and resume the implementation of planned joint projects.³

The COVID-19 pandemic has also negatively affected the implementation of some projects of the BRI initiative. However, despite this, countries continued to work on the implementation of previously approved projects. Thus, the creation of a new negotiating platform "Central Asia - China" was initiated to promote projects within the framework of the OBOR. This platform will allow for promptly conducting a joint audit of the status of project implementation in the Central Asian states and making the necessary adjustments: revising funding, commissioning dates and priorities in project implementation. This should positively affect the quality and profitability of new projects, as well as improve the financial situation of those that are already being implemented.

The Chinese side also voiced its readiness to create a "green corridor" for simplified freight traffic and movement of business and technical personnel with interested Central Asian states. In addition, it was noted that an increase in the number of supplies to the Chinese market of high-quality, environmentally friendly and organic agricultural products from Central Asian countries was noted. In this regard, the further implementation of projects within the framework of the OBOR will allow the participating countries in the coming years to increase the volume of trade, build new production and supply chains, and diversify the routes of cargo transportation. For Uzbekistan, the priority areas of cooperation with China within the framework of the OBOR are: firstly, the implementation of transport and

³ the influx of Chinese tourists.2020

communication projects capable of providing a stable and shortest exit of Uzbekistan to world markets; secondly, the implementation of investment projects designed to promote the innovative development of the national economy, technological modernization of production facilities and increase the country's export potential.

In general, cooperation between Uzbekistan and China in the post-pandemic period opens up new opportunities. First of all, this cooperation should be aimed at increasing the volume of mutual trade, implementing joint innovative projects, forming a diversified transportation system, restoring tourism, and promoting humanitarian programs. Another priority is the development of trade and economic cooperation. In January-August 2019, the volume of bilateral trade increased by more than 10%, while Uzbekistan's exports, for example, grew by 17% and imports by 6%. The volume of attracted Russian investments in the economy of Uzbekistan reached 9 billion US dollars.⁴

The issue of regional security in Central Asia in general and Uzbekistan in particular is of national interest for Russia due to the region's geographic proximity to the key industrial centers of Russia. The United States and European states view Central Asia primarily through the prism of their relations with China and Russia.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic, which is spreading around the world and affecting all sectors, also affects many areas of cooperation between China and Uzbekistan, the countries are implementing many projects to prevent this and further strengthen ties.

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