

## **HISTORY OF COOPERATION BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND TURKEY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This article analyzes the formation of relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey, the causes of political conflicts and disagreements between the two countries, efforts to restore these relations based on new facts. Also in recent years, high-level state visits and official meetings of the leaders of the two countries in the trade, economic, scientific, technical, cultural and humanitarian spheres have been covered.*

**Keywords:** foreign policy, cooperation, integration, democracy, science, culture, independence, security.

## **O'ZBEKISTON VA TURKIYA DAVLATLARI HAMKORLIK TARIXI**

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Qarshi muhandislik iqtisodiyot instituti “O'zbekiston tarixi” kafedrasida dotsenti v.b., tarix fanlari bo'yicha falsafa doktori (PhD).

### **ANNOTATSIYA**

*Ushbu maqolada O'zbekiston va Turkiya munosabatlarining shakllanishi, ikki davlat o'rtasidagi siyosiy nizo va kelishmovchiliklarning kelib chiqish sabablari hamda ushbu munosabatlarni qayta tiklash bo'yicha harakatlari yangi dalillar asosida tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, so'nggi yillarda ikki davlat rahbarlarining savdo-iqtisodiy, ilmiy-texnikaviy va madaniy-gumanitar sohalardagi oliy darajadagi davlat tashriflari va rasmiy uchrashuvlari yoritib berilgan.*

**Tayanch so'zlar:** tashqi siyosat, hamkorlik, integratsiya, demokratiya, ilm-fan, madaniyat, mustaqillik, xavfsizlik.

## **ИСТОРИЯ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА УЗБЕКИСТАНА И ТУРЦИИ**

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### **АННОТАЦИЯ**

*В данной статье анализируется становление отношений между Узбекистаном и Турцией, причины политических конфликтов и разногласий между двумя странами, усилия по восстановлению этих отношений на основе*

*новых фактов. Также в последние годы освещались государственные визиты на высоком уровне и официальные встречи лидеров двух стран в торгово-экономической, научно-технической и культурно-гуманитарной сферах.*

***Ключевые слова:** внешняя политика, сотрудничество, интеграция, демократия, наука, культура, независимость, безопасность.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

In the first years of independence in Uzbekistan, organizational and legal foundations of the country's foreign policy were created, diplomatic relations with influential international organizations, various countries of the world were established, and a number of positive results were achieved. In particular, the establishment of relations of Uzbekistan with the Republic of Turkey served the interests of both countries. It should be noted that Turkey is a country with its own path of development in the world community, connected by the continents of Asia and Europe, located in an economically and geostrategically convenient location. In this regard, it is worthwhile to recognize that "Turkey, which is a close friend and economic partner for us, has recognized Uzbekistan as one of the first to recognize its independence"[1,p.390]. Indeed, at the same time, Turkey, as a country with great potential and worldwide respect, the Uzbek and Turkish peoples are very close to each other in terms of religion, language, history and culture.

In fact, in the last quarter of the 20th Century, Turkey was a state with a worthy place in the world community, which, along with the development of its management policy on the basis of democratic criteria in a new format, has established rapprochement with newly established Turkic peoples and states of its foreign policy activities. Turkey has skillfully applied its "Turkish model" in a market economy and developed its own path of development[2,p.14]. As a result of the economic reforms carried out, Turkey took a place among the developed countries of the world.

In 1991, Turkish President Turgut Ozal's diplomatic visit to the USSR covered not only Moscow, but also Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and other union republics[3,p.134]. These state-run visits have shown the growing interest of the Turkish government in relation to the new republics formed in the territory of the former Soviet Union. In 1991 year 8 December, the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) was founded and Turkey became the first country to recognize new independent republics[4,p.45]. This, in turn, has opened up opportunities for Central Asian countries to establish relations with European countries through Turkey.

First of all, he paid attention to the establishment of cooperation with the Turkic-speaking peoples, in particular, the Republic of Uzbekistan, whose language, religion

and culture are historically common. Turkey recognized the independence of Uzbekistan as one of the first and played an important role in establishing strong relations between the two countries and the two peoples. This, in turn, served to ensure the worthy participation of Turkey in economic integration processes with the countries of the Central Asian region, as well as to increase its political influence in the world community.

The development of cooperation between Uzbekistan and Turkey can be analyzed in three stages: Stage 1: 1991-1999, Stage 2: 2000-2016, Stage 3: 2017.

The first stage In 1991-1999, the two countries established cooperation in various fields and signed mutually beneficial agreements and treaties. However, due to the fact that some commercial companies of Turkey did not fulfill the terms of the contract, as well as the involvement of Uzbek-Turkish lyceums in religious and political terrorist organizations in Uzbekistan, the relations and political relations of the two countries were slowed down due to the object and sub-factors. The second stage In 2000-2016, Uzbek-Turkish relations took many forms. For example, although official visits have been made by Turkish government officials in recent years, they have met mainly at international conferences. In these years, there will be a retreat in the cold and political relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey in the diplomatic relations. Although trade, transit, and other economic relations have been preserved, they show that relations in other areas have declined and are not systemic. The third stage can be based on the fact that as a result of regular meetings and state visits between the two leaders in 2016 and later years, all spheres between the countries of Uzbekistan and Turkey have reached a new stage of strategic cooperation.

Official meetings and state visits of the heads of state of Uzbekistan and Turkey began in late 1991. On December 16-19, this year, the head of the Republic of Uzbekistan I. During the official visit of Karimov to Turkey, the signing of such documents as "agreement on the basis and objectives of the relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Turkey", "agreement on economic and trade cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Turkey", "protocol to the treaty"[5] became an important step in cooperation.

On April 28, 1992, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey S. Demirel's visit to Uzbekistan was an important event in the development of relations between the two countries, and the embassy of the Republic of Turkey was opened in Tashkent[6]. The embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Ankara has started its activity since January 1993[7]. The opening of embassies of the two countries played an important role in the acceleration of political, economic and cultural ties.

On June 29 – July 1, 1992, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.Karimov visited Turkey[8]. As Well As I.Karimov paid an official visit to Turkey both in June 1994 year and in November 1997 year. In particular, in October 1998, he took part in the celebrations dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the state independence of the Republic of Turkey[9]. After that, it became a tradition to hold large celebrations, festivities and national holidays in cooperation between the two countries.

President Of Turkey S.Demirel paid an official visit to Uzbekistan on May 7, 1996[10]. In October of this year, the president of Turkey S.Demirel also took part in the IV meeting of the heads of Turkic-speaking countries held in Uzbekistan and events dedicated to the 660th anniversary of Amir Temur[11].

In general, the legal basis of relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Turkey was established by the agreement "on eternal friendship and Cooperation", concluded in 1996, as well as more than 70 documents signed in the fields of trade-economic, scientific-technical, combating terrorism and illegal trade in drugs, Health, transport, Tourism and culture[12]. The agreements reached by the governments of the two countries, the agreements concluded and the agreements played an important role in the development of all spheres of cooperation between the states.

The frequent visit of the Turkish head of state to Uzbekistan in the following years has played an important role in further development of cooperation between the countries in all spheres. In 1999 year 15 March, the president of Turkey S.Demirel came to Uzbekistan on an official visit[13]. During the visit, he visited the Great hadisshunos Imam Al-Bukhari complex in Samarkand and got acquainted with the creative work carried out in 1998 on the occasion of the 1225th anniversary of the imam and donated from 5,000 US dollars to the Imam al-Bukhari and Bohouddin Naqshbandi complexes. The presidents of Uzbekistan and Turkey also attended the opening ceremony of the SamKochavto joint venture in Samarkand[14]. The start-up of this plant served the economic development of Uzbekistan, as well as the position of this region among the countries producing single Buses and trucks.

Although the second stage of cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Turkey came with an official visit of the heads of State and government of Turkey to Uzbekistan in 2000-2016, the two heads of State met mainly at international conferences. In particular, in September 2000, the head of Uzbekistan I.Karimov and President of Turkey A.Sezer's meeting within the framework of the "Millennium Summit" of the United Nations organization laid the groundwork for the official visit of the Turkish President to Uzbekistan on October 16-17 of this year[15].

At these meetings, the governments of Uzbekistan and Turkey signed an agreement on the basics and objectives of the state-run relations, the protocols on the exchange of consular missions, an agreement on cooperation in the economic and trade sphere, an agreement on mutual cooperation in the field of Education, Science, Culture, an agreement on cooperation in the field of transport and communications.

In 2003 Year 19 December Turkish Prime Minister R.The visit of Erdogan to Uzbekistan was of great importance for further cooperation. In particular, the government has agreed to an agreement on cooperation in the field of combating international terrorism and the abolition of visas for representatives of the diplomatic corps. Also, agreements on promotion and protection of investments in trade and economic cooperation, avoidance of double taxation were signed.

But due to various factors and reasons, some obstacles in political cooperation between the two countries are overlooked. Weak relations between the two countries date back to 2008-2013. Although trade, transit, and other economic relations remained stable, diplomatic and political ties had stalled. This was caused by the following factors:

1) Existence of problems in currency conversion in Uzbekistan. Problems with the payment of salaries of employees of Uzbek-Turkish joint ventures and teachers of Uzbek-Turkish lyceums, obtaining visas, air tickets, medical services;

2) The suspected involvement of some Turkish companies in international religious and political terrorist organizations, in particular, in connection with the "Fethullahists", their attempts to bring prohibited literature to Uzbekistan, have had its negative impact on the relations between the states. For example, the closure of Uzbek-Turkish lyceums established by the company " Silm" can be cited as the reason for such cases.

3) A number of Uzbek-Turkish joint ventures established in Uzbekistan, Turkish businessmen did not comply with the terms of the contract. For example, the closure of the "Turquoise"[16] shopping malls in Tashkent in 2008 and the obsolescence and poor quality of technical equipment imported from Turkey to joint ventures.

It is a new generation terrorist organization that emerged in Turkey in the first half of the 20th century and is based on secrecy and extortion, mainly in Turkey and other countries, with the aim of reorganizing the country by settling in the system of internal governance. Leader Fethullah Gulen. He opened private schools in the 1970s and tried to influence the minds of young people with his ideas. It is closed today.)

Due to the meetings of the heads of the two countries in the framework of international events, an important role was played by the restoration of relations

between the two countries. February 7, 2014 in Sochi, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov met with Turkish President Recep Erdogan within the framework of the opening ceremony of the XXII Winter Olympic Games<sup>17</sup>. During the negotiations, the leaders of the two countries Islam Karimov and Recep Erdogan agreed to hold meetings at the level of heads of state once a year.

When traveling to each foreign country, the head of Uzbekistan, negotiating with the heads of government, drew the main attention to "equality, mutual benefits". According to experts, during the meeting in Sochi, Islam Karimov was able to once again convey this principle to the head of the Turkish government. It can be said that after a long period of stagnation, the Turkish government initiated the revival of Turkish-Uzbek relations and the restoration of relations.

On May 20-21, 2014, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu met with the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Komilov within the framework of the fourth summit of the council on cooperation and confidence building measures in Asia, which was organized in Shanghai, China, and in July this year in Tashkent<sup>18</sup>. The issues of further development of bilateral relations were discussed at the meetings.

There are a number of issues in the establishment of diplomatic relations between the countries.

First, the struggle of the Turkish government against its ideological rival, the Fethullah religious and political organization, and its leaders has shown that the measures taken by the Uzbek government a few years ago proved to be correct in practice. In particular, the closure of educational institutions under his auspices has effectively removed the "invisible barrier" between Uzbekistan and Turkey.

Second, the cooling of Uzbek-Turkish relations has forced the two countries, especially Turkey, to abandon funding. Uzbekistan has been looking for alternatives to access to seaports, and has been developing transit routes. In particular, the revitalization of relations with Latvia and the measures taken to enter the Persian Gulf were tantamount to the loss of great economic opportunities for Turkey. Therefore, although Ahmet Davutoglu's statement that "Turkey's ports are also Uzbekistan's ports" sounded good to every Uzbek, it was in fact a request for Turkey to pay attention to its own ports<sup>19</sup>.

Thirdly, the fact that Uzbek citizens often visit Turkish cities such as Istanbul, Bodrum and Antalya for tourism shows that strengthening economic cooperation with Uzbekistan is of great benefit to Turkey.

Fourth, China plans to implement various transportation projects to enter Western European markets. According to the Beijing Times, the Chinese

government developed three railway networks in 2014[20]. One of these networks starts in Urumqi in western China and reaches Germany via Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Turkey. Therefore, Ahmet Davutoglu noted that large-scale transport projects are planned, in particular, the Chinese railway project "Beijing - Istanbul" will benefit Uzbekistan and allow Uzbekistan to access Turkish ports.

During this period, he focused on economic and political dialogue in the development of Uzbek-Turkish cooperation. There was a slight retreat in matters of cultural cooperation.

The third stage of the cooperation relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Turkey covers 2016 and the following years, the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.Mirziyoyev and the president of Turkey R.Regular meetings between Erdogan brought their relations to a new level. Indeed, "there were periods of insecurity and coldness between us, but we united and melted this ice, and this coldness will never return," said Mirziyoyev[21].

In particular, the two leaders met during Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Samarkand in November 2016 and the "One Place, One Way" conference in Beijing in May 2017, as well as the first summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Science and Technology in Kazakhstan in September [ 22].

During the meetings, it was noted that Uzbekistan and Turkey have untapped opportunities in trade and economic, investment, tourism, agricultural processing, textiles, transport and many other areas, and measures have been taken to expand cooperation in this area.

President Of The Republic Of Turkey R.Within the framework of the visit of Erdogan to Samarkand on November 17-18, 2016, the first president of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.Karimov visited his grave. After that, acting President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Samarkand City Sh.Mirziyoyev and the President of Turkey R. Erdogan negotiations were held between[23,p.4]. As a result of the negotiations, it was also agreed on the progress of trade and economic cooperation between the countries.

Within the framework of the visit of the delegation of the government of Uzbekistan to Turkey in February-March 2017, 1 billion US dollars contracts were signed in various sectors of the economy. In may of the same year, at the fourth meeting of the government commission on trade and economic cooperation in Tashkent, the analysis of the current state of cooperation and future plans were considered, 2 billion US dollars contracts were signed[24].

Many government meetings and agreements held this year were signed by the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.Mirziyoyev's state visit to Turkey on

October 25-26, 2017 was of great importance, and this visit showed that the relations between the two countries have passed to a new level. During the visit, agreements on construction of large energy facilities and road infrastructure, production of textile products, electrical equipment, building materials, establishment of modern logistics centers in the food and agro-industrial network for more than 30 projects worth 3.5 billion US dollars were signed at the business forum organized among Uzbek-Turkish businessmen[25]. More than a dozen project agreements have been signed. Based on this, the visit of the President of Turkey to Uzbekistan opens new opportunities for the development and enhancement of effective cooperation and is a logical continuation of constructive and open dialogue between the leaders of the two countries and the two peoples[26,p.21].

In general, in 2017, mutual visits at different levels between our countries have reached a new level. In particular, the delegations headed by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, the minister of Foreign Affairs, the minister of National Defense visited Uzbekistan, the delegations headed by the Prime Minister of our country, the minister of Defense visited Turkey.

President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Erdogan arrived in Uzbekistan with a state visit on April 29 – may 1, 2018[27] During the meetings, the heads of state discussed the current state of relations between the two countries, prospects for their further development, the achievement of clear agreements on the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the trade-economic, cultural-humanitarian spheres. It was agreed to hold regular meetings of the Joint Commission of the Uzbek-Turkish government on trade and economic cooperation.

The speech of the President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the members of parliament on April 30, 2018 praised the development of relations between the Oliy Majlis and the Grand National Assembly on the basis of mutual exchange of experience and information and the policy pursued in Uzbekistan. The high-ranking guest spoke about the glorious past of the Uzbek people, the invaluable contribution of our great ancestors to human civilization.[28,p.486]

On April 30, 2018, Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Recep Tayyip Erdogan took part in the Uzbekistan-Turkey Business Forum organized at the Uzexpocenter. At the business forum, agreements were reached on the implementation of more than 50 new investment joint projects worth a total of \$ 3 billion[29]. It was also noted that the volume of trade turnover between the states in recent years amounted to 1.2 billion US dollars in 2016, in 2017 this figure amounted to 1.5 billion US dollars, and in the near future there are all opportunities for the expansion of this indicator to 5 billion US dollars.



Uzbekistan is one of the main partners of Turkey in Central Asia. Huge market of Uzbekistan, increasingly liberalizing economy, favorable investment climate, historical cities, tourist destinations, sacred religious shrines are of great interest in Turkey. This means that the strengthening of cooperation is beneficial to both sides, which indicates that the prospects for mutual relations are high.

September 3, 2018 was held at the summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking states in Chulponota, Kyrgyzstan[30]. The Cooperation Council of Turkic speaking states was established in 2009 and the secretariat of the organization is located in Istanbul. The first marathon was attended by the president of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the conference of this Council of Uzbekistan. The volume of trade between Uzbekistan and the Turkic Council countries has increased by 40% over the past year, further expansion of trade, economic and investment cooperation, creation of integrated transport networks, full use of tourism development opportunities, comprehensive strengthening of cultural and humanitarian ties. expressed his views on. Therefore, the accession of Uzbekistan to the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States on October 15, 2019 serves to further strengthen cooperation with the member states of this structure in political, economic, cultural, scientific and other fields [31].

Due to the similarity of the political positions of the two countries in the regional and international issues, Turkey and Uzbekistan have also effectively cooperated within the framework of international structures such as the UN, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

For example, on November 10-12, 2017, in Samarkand, in cooperation with the United Nations, an international conference on the theme "Central Asia: a single history and a common future, cooperation on Sustainable Development and development" was held in Central Asia to ensure security and stability in the region[32]. The Turkish side expressed support for the efforts of Uzbekistan and other fraternal countries to intensify high-level political dialogue, strengthen mutual understanding, trust, good neighborliness and closer regional cooperation in Central Asia in order to make Central Asia a stable, economically developed and prosperous region.

In addition, the Turkish side supported the initiatives of Uzbekistan to develop the resolution "enlightenment and religious tolerance", which was put forward at the 72 session of the UN General Assembly, the Convention on the rights of young people, as well as the second summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on science and technology in Uzbekistan in 2020.

President Of The Republic Of Turkey R.Erdogan acknowledged their readiness for close cooperation within the framework of the "Asia heart – Istanbul Process" and implementation of the Tashkent Declaration adopted at the International Conference on Afghanistan on the theme "Peace Process, cooperation in the field of security and Regional Partnership" held in Uzbekistan on 26-27 March of this year during the state visit to Uzbekistan in April 2018.

In particular, today, mutual cooperation plays an important role in the fight against international terrorism and religious extremism. Speaking at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly on September 19, 2017, the head of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev acknowledged that the world is now facing a threat of terrorism, that the way of using force against them is not justified, in most cases it is limited to fighting against their consequences, and not to the reasons that are causing the threats.

In addition, the cooperation between Uzbekistan and Turkey included issues of mutual exchange of experience, assistance, terrorism, religious extremism, as well as the fight against transnational crime and drug trafficking.

The initiative on the establishment of the International Research Center named after Imam Bukhari in the city of Samarkand in the field of strengthening Islamic religion and values, as well as in order to widely spread the educational aspects of Islam in Uzbekistan, was highly appreciated by Turkish President Recep Erdogan.

Relations between the two countries are highly valued in the world media. In the annual rating by the publishing house "Turcomoney" in Turkey, the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.Mirziyoyev was recognized as a "foreign statesman of the year". This was announced at a ceremony in Istanbul attended by the Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly Binali Yildirim, the Mayor of Istanbul Mevlut Uysal, representatives of the country's parliament, the public and the business community[33].

In general, Uzbekistan has demonstrated its readiness for practical and constructive dialogue, openness to discuss any issue. Recognition of the independence of Uzbekistan as one of the first by Turkey served as an important factor in the further cooperation of the countries. During the period of independence, it became clear that the diplomatic relations between the two countries should be divided into three stages. At each stage, the cooperation between the states took different forms, and it was found that it has its own objective and subjective factors.

## **CONCLUSION**

At various meetings of the heads of state of Uzbekistan and Turkey, issues on the most pressing issues of state and public life were discussed, agreements and treaties were signed and put into practice on the basis of specific strategic goals. In particular, Uzbek-Turkish cooperation has played an important role in ensuring political and economic stability in Central Asia.

Based on the study of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey, the following conclusions can be made:

As one of the first developed countries in the world to recognize the independence of Uzbekistan, Turkey has established a practical and constructive dialogue.

In establishing relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey, strong emphasis was placed on the formation of the legal framework for cooperation. During the interstate official meetings, state visits and high-level political dialogues of the Presidents of the two countries, agreements were signed in all spheres and on the basis of these documents the legal framework of the sphere was formed.

Cooperation between Uzbekistan and Turkey has developed in different ways during the years of independence. Thanks to the political activism of the Presidents of Uzbekistan and Turkey Sh. Mirziyoyev and R. Erdogan, relations between the two countries have reached a new strategic level. Uzbekistan, based on the principles of peace, stability, equality, mutual respect and non-use of force in foreign political relations, has been a supporter and initiator of the establishment and development of multilateral agreements in foreign relations. The full compliance of Uzbekistan and Turkey's foreign policy approaches and views on international relations served as an important basis for further development of the country's cooperation.

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