

CENTRAL ASIA IS THE PRIORITY DIRECTION OF UZBEKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

Azizbek Karimov

Namangan State University

Master's student of history

ANNOTATION

The scientific article provides information about the special attention of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the neighboring countries in foreign policy and the work done in this regard.

Key words:

Central Asia, good neighborliness, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, mutual cooperation

After gaining independence in 1991, Uzbekistan began to implement its independent foreign policy as a full-fledged member of the world community. Over the past 30 years, Uzbek diplomacy has come a long way. Today, Uzbekistan has established diplomatic relations with 134 countries of the world and operates 35 embassies, 17 consulates and 3 permanent representative offices in foreign countries³¹. It can be said that since 2017, a completely new page has been opened in the diplomacy of our country, and the activity of our republic in the international arena has reached a new stage. The main reason for this is the policy of openness to the world, carried out by the President of our country, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and cooperation with our close neighbors, the countries of Central Asia, has been brought to a new level.

³¹ <https://www.uzbekistan.org.ua/uz/o-zbekiston-respublikasi-tashqi-siyosati.html>

Our head of state said, "It is our priority to comprehensively strengthen good-neighborly and friendly relations with all countries of the world, first of all, our close neighbors Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and other countries"³². In his speech at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, the head of state emphasized the priority tasks to be implemented in foreign policy. For more than a quarter of a century, a number of problems have arisen between the countries of Central Asia. These include the use of water and energy resources and transport communications, the delimitation of state borders and the crossing of border points. President Sh. Mirziyoyev said, "We will not compete with our neighbors, but we will continue to cooperate with them. I repeat, we will not compete with our neighbors, we will further develop mutually beneficial cooperation. The success of our neighbors is our success. We consider their peaceful and prosperous life as a guarantee of maintaining peace and stability in our entire region"³³.

The Republic of Uzbekistan conducts an open, mutually beneficial and constructive foreign policy based on its national interests. The modern political course of the republic is formed based on the rapidly changing situation in the world and in the region, as well as large-scale changes within the country. The main goal of the foreign political activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan is to strengthen the independence and sovereignty of the state, its place and role in the international arena, to create an environment of security, stability and friendly neighborhood around it, to actively promote the foreign economic interests of the republic. Particular attention is being paid to the issue of further strengthening our relations with the countries of the Central Asian region, which are the priorities of

³² Мирзиёев Ш. Буюк келажигимизни мард ва олижаноб халқимиз билан биргаликда қураимиз.- Т.: Ўзбекистон, 2017.- Б.8

³³ Мирзиёев Ш. Буюк келажигимизни мард ва олижаноб халқимиз билан биргаликда қураимиз.- Т.: Ўзбекистон, 2017.- Б.8

Uzbekistan's foreign policy, in the spirit of centuries-old friendship, good neighborly relations, strategic partnership and mutual trust.

It is known that one of the main tasks of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is to create an atmosphere of peace, stability and security around its territory. From this point of view, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev defined the development and strengthening of friendly, close-neighborly and mutually beneficial relations with our neighbors - the countries of Central Asia - as the main priority foreign policy direction. Among the common factors specific to the countries of the region, which encourage Central Asia to be considered as a priority direction in the foreign policy of Uzbekistan, the following can be distinguished: - the geographical location of the countries of the region and, in particular, the fact that Uzbekistan is located in the center of the region and borders with all of them; - similarity and closeness of national, cultural, religious and socio-economic values; - availability of general transport and energy communications; - mutual rational distribution of water resources in the region; - generalization of environmental, security and stability issues in the region.

Such improvement of trade and economic relations between the countries of Central Asia, in general, helped to increase the investment attractiveness of the region. In particular, between 2017 and 2020, more than 300 contracts, as well as contracts and agreements worth about 75 billion dollars, were signed between Uzbekistan and the countries of the region. Also, during 2017-2020, as a result of Uzbekistan's open, constructive, well-thought-out and pragmatic policy towards the countries of Central Asia, complex and confusing issues such as water use, delimitation and demarcation of state borders between Uzbekistan and neighboring countries, use of transport communications, crossing state borders a solution to the problems was found³⁴.

³⁴ <https://yuz.uz/uz/news/markaziy-osiyo-davlatlari-bilan-dostona-hamkorlik--ozbekiston-tashqi-siyosiy-faoliyatining-ustuvor-yonalishi>

Uzbekistan's policy in Central Asia is aimed at ensuring peace and stability in the region, solving important problems of regional security, including helping to solve the situation in Afghanistan. Uzbekistan will make every effort to strengthen regional trade and economic cooperation, develop the transport and transit infrastructure of the region, rational and comprehensive use of the water and energy resources of the transboundary rivers of Central Asia, ensure the ecological stability of the region, and complete the process of border delimitation and demarcation. - performs actions. Uzbekistan is interested in strengthening friendly and harmonious neighborly relations with the countries of the region, developing scientific-technical and cultural-humanitarian cooperation, strengthening relations between parliaments, border regions, public organizations and ordinary citizens.

Uzbekistan will continue to expand relations with Afghanistan and actively participate in international efforts aimed at resolving the situation in this country peacefully. The Uzbek side will continue to support the revival of Afghanistan's economy, the development of its transport, production, energy and social infrastructures. A stable and prosperous Afghanistan is a guarantee of regional security in Central Asia.

In addition to existing communication formats such as "Central Asia - USA", "Central Asia - European Union", "Central Asia - Republic of Korea", "Central Asia - Japan", in recent years "Central Asia - India", "Central Asia - China" and Added new formats like "Central Asia - Russian Federation". This situation, firstly, shows that the completely new environment created as a result of positive changes in the region has increased the attention of the world's leading countries to Central Asia, and secondly, it is a sign that foreign countries are paying attention to the development of unified regional multilateral relations with the countries of the region, not only within the framework of bilateral cooperation³⁵.

³⁵ <https://yuz.uz/uz/news/markaziy-osiyo-davlatlari-bilan-dostona-hamkorlik--ozbekiston-tashqi-siyosiy-faoliyatining-ustuvor-yonalishi>

To sum up, cooperation between our country and neighboring republics has been developing in all aspects in recent years. Our country is putting forward new initiatives to maintain peace with the Central Asian countries and to bring the relations between the countries to a new level and to further develop them. This, in turn, is the reason for increasing the role of our country in the region.

List of used literature:

1. Mirziyoyev Sh. Erkin va farovon, demokratik O‘zbekiston davlatini birgalikda barpo etamiz. – T.: “O‘zbekiston”, 2016. – 59 b.
2. Mirziyoyev Sh. Tanqidiy tahlil, qat’iy tartib-intizom va shaxsiy javobgarlik – har bir rahbar faoliyatining kundalik qoidasi bo‘lishi kerak. –T.: “O‘zbekiston”, 2017.-107 b.
3. Mirziyoyev Sh. Milliy taraqqiyot yo‘limizni qat’iyat bilan davom ettirib, yangi bosqichga ko‘taramiz. –T.: “O‘zbekiston”, 2017. – 592 b.
4. Мирзиёев Ш. Буюк келажакимизни мард ва олижаноб халқимиз билан биргаликда курамиз.- Т.: Ўзбекистон,2017.- Б.8

Websites:

1. <https://yuz.uz>
2. <https://www.uzbekistan.org.ua>