

REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN UZBEKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

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ABSTRACT: The article emphasizes the orientation of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Central Asia in his foreign policy strategy, prioritizing the region for Uzbek diplomacy through concrete actions and results, as well as military-political security, trade, and economic cooperation in the region.

KEYWORDS: The concept of the state's foreign policy, pragmatic and thoughtful foreign policy, economic diplomacy, foreign policy strategy, action strategy, development strategy, "new era".

INTRODUCTION

Today, humanity faces many universal problems, and finding solutions to them remains extremely urgent. To solve such problems, it is required to combine forces and opportunities, to harmonize all efforts in this regard. This, in turn, means the need to find national and regional solutions to global problems that will shape our future.

Establishing advantageous trade and investment conditions was the primary objective of the Republic of Uzbekistan's deliberate and pragmatist foreign political-economic diplomacy in international cooperation. With its closest neighbors in the area, it started to increase trade-economic, scientific-technical, and banking cooperation by streamlining customs and transit procedures as well as financial and banking activities.

Theoretical Framework.

Uzbekistan is the most important country in the region, especially in terms of regional economic development. Although each country has its national interests, Uzbekistan's foreign policy initiatives to overcome long-standing water and border conflicts, and to build energy and transport-logistics networks, are accompanied by the consistent participation of its neighbors. is supported. Such cooperation is being implemented in a way that brings great benefits to all countries.

Among the nations of Central Asia, Uzbekistan has a unique geopolitical position. Fifty percent of the region's population lives there. The economic development paths of the surrounding nations are encouraging and somewhat tied to the economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. However, here is also where the majority of the region's major roadways are located, carrying on the legacy of the Great Silk Road.

METHODOLOGY

Changes in the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan initiated by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in 2016 are interpreted as a "new era" by the international community. Because, in the foreign policy strategy of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, special attention was paid to Central Asia, he made the region a priority task for Uzbek diplomacy in terms of specific actions and results and was highly evaluated by international experts. At the same time, the problems of cooperation in the fields of military-political security, trade-economic relations, and ecology are gaining priority. Furthermore, significant changes are currently being seen in Central Asia's political, economic, cultural, and humanitarian domains as a result of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's pragmatist foreign policy. Without a doubt, the following represents our president's entirely new strategy for the advancement of interstate relations in Central Asia: "communicate about any problem," "do not avoid the problem, but find its solution," and "the basis of security is indivisibility, and the basis of its effective provision is cooperation."

RESULTS

It is known that during the years of independence, our country established official diplomatic relations with 133 countries, 45 foreign embassies, 9 honorary consulates, and 11 international organizations operating in Tashkent. Currently, the Republic of Uzbekistan is a full member of the most influential and influential international organizations, and cooperates with major banking and financial institutions, non-governmental and non-governmental organizations. 88 accredited foreign representative offices, 24 intergovernmental, and 13 international non-governmental organizations operate in the republic.

In addition, the Republic of Uzbekistan has joined many important international conventions in recent years. For example, in 2019, Uzbekistan joined the Turkic Council, whose members are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey, to expand its foreign economic relations by joining multilateral international organizations or developing cooperation in Central Asia.

As the most advanced nation in terms of socioeconomic development and possessing immense intellectual, spiritual, and cultural potential, the Republic of Uzbekistan currently acts as a bridge between its surrounding nations.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's speech at the opening ceremony of the first Tashkent International Investment Forum: "Today, due to its geographical location, Uzbekistan is the core of the Central Asian region, which connects North and South, West and East through main transit corridors. is considered We are rapidly continuing our economic and social development based on the principle of "From the great past to the great future".

DISCUSSION

To create additional opportunities for our national exporters, specific measures are being taken to sign preferential and free trade agreements with India, Turkey, the Republic of Korea, and other countries. The items produced in Uzbekistan will be delivered to South Asia via the Trans-Afghan road, to the Asia-Pacific area via the Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan-China railway, and via a

transport corridor that crosses the South Caucasus to diversify the current transport pathways. Deliveries to European nations are being made using clear, doable measures.

This increases the likelihood of forging positive ties via proactive collaboration with all of Central Asia. As a result, there are numerous opportunities to contribute significantly to efforts to maintain harmony and compromise in our nation's foreign policy as well as to collaboration in this strategically significant region, which is becoming increasingly significant on the political and economic map of the world today because of its actual and potential raw materials.

As a practical result of a well-thought-out, mutually beneficial and pragmatic foreign policy, there was the opening of new markets for export and import that were not fully used before. Great progress is being made in trade with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. According to the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, from 2017 to 2019, the trade volume between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan increased from \$2.05 billion to \$3.367 billion, with Kyrgyzstan from \$253.7 million. 829 million dollars, with Tajikistan increased from 237.9 million dollars to 497 million dollars. Kazakhstan took the third place, and Kyrgyzstan took the 7th place among the ten leading foreign trade partners of Uzbekistan. The result of the new model of development and foreign policy was a serious boost to political and business activity in Central Asia and the launch of a radically new format, such as consultative meetings of the leaders of the region. The meetings of the presidents of the five Central Asian countries in Astana and Tashkent in 2018-2019 provided additional incentives for the development of trade and economic relations and helped to eliminate obstacles in the movement of goods, services, and capital. It also made it possible to start an important dialogue on creating a stable regional environment.

Developing ties and collaboration with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan is one of the main focuses of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. The foundation for future peace between the peoples of these nations is their shared history, culture, language, religion, and ancestry. A new perspective on the origins, history, distinctive way of life, and cordial neighborly connections of the peoples of the Central Asian nations was necessary due to the socio-political processes in the new historical context. Furthermore, according to President Sh. Mirziyoyev, "Uzbekistan is a country with great opportunities and resources." However, the greatest treasure we possess is harmony and peace amongst people of different ethnicities and religions, as well as peace and stability.

The development strategy of New Uzbekistan consistently implements the concept of the state foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of interethnic relations, ensuring its growth in order to preserve such priceless wealth and direct all the forces and opportunities of our state and society to further strengthen the atmosphere of friendship and harmony with the neighboring countries in our country. We are living in a complicated time in the world, where globalization is gaining momentum in all directions, and rapid changes are taking place. Today, threats such as climate change, environmental problems, radicalism, extremism and terrorism, human trafficking, and drug trafficking are urgent tasks that need to be solved in our country.

On November 6, 2021, in Tashkent, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in his speech on the priorities for the next five years at the inauguration ceremony:

we developed and during the election process we passed it through a kind of public discussion. In this important conceptual document, in order to ensure the integrity and continuity of our reforms, the principle "From the strategy of actions to the strategy of development" was put on the agenda as the main idea and main criterion," said the President.

The responsibilities of maintaining national security and peace as well as fostering international collaboration are included in the seventh direction of this new Uzbekistan development strategy. Furthermore, it was stated that our armed forces would have much more power and that their morale, physical preparedness, and battle readiness would all be enhanced.

Pragmatic and thoughtful foreign policy and economic diplomacy will be continued in international cooperation. First of all, mutually beneficial and multilateral relations with neighboring countries and partners in all regions of the world will be further expanded.

He once again confirmed the commitment of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the further activation of good neighborly relations in the seventh priority direction of the development strategy of New Uzbekistan. In the part of this document dedicated to foreign policy, it is stated that "creating a good neighborliness, security, and stability belt around Uzbekistan" will be one of the priority directions of foreign policy. The country's government understands that to develop its economy, it must work with its neighbors to "solve long-term border and water problems, restore energy cooperation and transport infrastructure, and liberalize economic and cultural ties."

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the ties between the nations of the Central Asian area have undergone a fundamentally new development as a consequence of the efforts made by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh. Mirziyoyev, to maintain peace and security inside the nation and to foster international cooperation. helps to make more.

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