

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN CENTRAL ASIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Abstract: The paper investigates the relations between the Central Asian republics and the United States of America through the prism of regional and bilateral cooperation. The authors in this article analyzes the trends, challenges and threats of the modern world, the problems of global security and the phenomenon of globalization in the Central Asian region, when all five Central Asian states faced new tasks to determine their place in the international arena, to develop an independent strategic course of development in foreign and domestic policy. The article deals with the current trends in the development of a new paradigm of the theory of international relations, which are relevant in the study of dynamic, global and large-scale processes of change in a constantly changing world and in the Central Asian region. All these areas are relevant both for the US and for the neighboring states of Russia, China and they also need a stable and secure Central Asian region. From the point of view of economic involvement, the US is always looking for new ways to deepen its participation in the region, due to the geopolitical location, internal political structure, cultural and religious characteristics of Central Asia.

Key words: the USA, Central Asia, Foreign Policy, Strategy, Cooperation, Military, Investment, Regional Stability, Energy Security.

Basic provisions

The collapse of the Soviet Union led to the emergence of five independent states in the Central Asian countries with internal political, economic and social problems. Thereby, the borders between the former socialist republics became international. At the initial stage, US foreign policy related to the Central Asian region did not have clarity due to the suddenness and unpredictability of the collapse of the USSR.

It was difficult for most American analysts on foreign policy and international relations to recognize the five Central Asian republics with their independent politics and economy, because they used to perceive the Soviet Union as one big cohesive machine. When the entire world community continued to perceive the Central Asian countries as an integral part of the Soviet Union, the young states that had just gained independence were trying to find their place in the international arena and realize new geopolitical realities.

At the origins of relations between the United States and the CAR, the US State Department did not have a definite clearly structured plan for the Central Asian region,

proof of this is the political initiatives in the early 90s published in the Act of Silk Road 1, adopted by the US House of Representatives. This document did not include political and regional aspects, but only reflected the rapid economic and political transformation of the young independent States.

The events of September 11, 2001, which led to the war against terrorism and the subsequent US invasion of Afghanistan, was the impetus for a change in the course of US foreign policy towards the Central Asian region. The United States has established two military bases here: Karshi-Khanabad in Uzbekistan and at Manas Airport in Kyrgyzstan. The duration of the Afghan conflict and some emerging geopolitical alliances within the region, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the EAEU, have initiated new political debates both in the United States and in the governments of Central Asian countries.

Introduction

Thus, the new US strategy in Central Asia 2019-2025 played an important role in the further development of their relations in various spheres. Central Asia has always been attractive for its geostrategic position and trade crossroads for civilizations between Europe and Asia, thereby becoming an relevant region for research.

The main purpose of this scientific article is to determine the place and role of Central Asia in US foreign policy and the possible development of their cooperation in the name of strengthening sovereignty and economic prosperity.

Current trends in the development of a new paradigm of the theory of international relations are relevant in the study of dynamic, global and large scale processes of change in a constantly changing world. Political scientists and the US expert community believe that the time has come to show that the US serious about the Central Asian region, that the priority area of US cooperation with CAR is not only logistics support for the US military in Afghanistan, but also other important issues: security, energy, public administration and the economy.

The key interests of major global players, including China, Russia, Turkey and Iran are intertwined in this region. In the new administration of the White House, they believe that it is time to show a serious attitude of the United States to the Central Asian region. One of the main goals of the United States which it seeks to achieve with the new strategy, is to strengthen security in Central Asia, in increasing the scale of trade, including in energy resources.

All these areas are relevant both for the United States and for the neighboring states of Russia, China and they also need a stable and secure Central Asia region. Note that in terms of economic engagement, the United States is always looking for new ways to deepen its involvement in the region. At the same time, the United States is currently in a state of fierce confrontation and trade wars with China, Iran and Russia, which are both neighbors and strategic partners for the Central Asian states.

Central Asian- American relations are developing dynamically in the spirit of friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation. In this case, the President of Kazakhstan Tokayev in his speeches points out that the level of development of relations between Kazakhstan and the United States goes far beyond the economy,

geopolitics and we closely cooperate on many important foreign policy issues. According to the UN definition, in the age of informatization and globalism, the whole world has become like one village. Speaking about the essence of this process, of course, we are talking about plans for the future, about building good neighborly relations, building market and trade cooperation mechanisms, an innovative economy, creating a modern logistics infrastructure, developing public institutions of democracy, and developing human capital.

Description of materials and methods

The geopolitics of all Central Asian states primarily includes the protection of their national interests and integration. The national interests of the Central Asian republics can be defined as determined by the needs of survival, security and development of the country, as well as the values of historical and cultural heritage. If we consider the relations between the United and CAR they have always developed in an even key-energy, economy, investment, Afghanistan, educational and cultural exchanges, etc. and over the past 29 years there have been no failures or clashes in relations.

The United States has long-term interests in Central Asia and hopes to further strengthen relations between our countries. In 2018, the inflow of investments from the United States into the economy of Central Asian countries increased by 45% and today there are more than 700 American companies among their partners. Ideally, according to analysts and political scientists of the United States, Kazakhstan is a model country for all Islamic states in all respects, especially in terms of secularism, tolerance and peacefulness.

It is important to note that the main aspects of cooperation between the United States and Central Asian country over 30 years of diplomatic relations go far beyond the primary cooperation in the economic and military strategic sphere:

Results

- In the first years after independence, Kazakhstan was interesting to the United States and NATO, with its nuclear potential, which was inherited from the Soviet Union and surpassed China, France and the United Kingdom. For several years, there was an official dialogue between NurSultan and Washington on the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction. After the signing of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Kazakhstan was fully accepted by the world community, which adhered to the position "for a world without nuclear weapons and global security".

- The second impulse towards them was the unstable situation in Afghanistan and the strengthening of radical Islamic terrorism. Due to its geopolitical location and proximity to the hotbed, CAR has made a certain contribution to the restoration of peace in Afghanistan and the fight against international terrorism together with the Pentagon, which has influenced future cooperation in the military-strategic sphere.

- An important aspect of cooperation of USA and Central Asia is the Caspian region and its hydrocarbon wealth. The United States has declared the Caspian Sea a zone of its national interests, and in conjunction with Kazakhstan, they are achieving

some of their geostrategic plans. Within the framework of the Caspian basin, they are developing cooperation in the military-political, economic and energy spheres. At the moment, the American companies "Chevron", "Texaco" are among the largest investors in the oil and gas sector of Kazakhstan.

- In the era of globalization, there is increasing competition among world powers for leadership around the world. Central Asia, due to its attractive geographical location, which is a crossroads between the West and the East, has attracted the attention of the three world powers Russia, China and the United States. The competition for regional superiority continues to this day, each of the parties is trying to consolidate its position in this region. China is an economic giant, and pursues in particular the material aspects of cooperation and is a major buyer of energy resources in this region. Russia is a historical power that will never want to lose Central Asia from its zone of control. The United States, the world's first economy and hegemon, also has its own interests in this region, plus, having shaky relations with Russia and China, it is entirely trying to displace and overshadow their role in the region.

Discussions

The United States justifies its desire for multifaceted regional cooperation in all possible areas based on mutual interest. However, the main strategic interest of the United States is the creation of a stable and prosperous Central Asia, which can freely accept political, economic and security interests with various partners on its own terms as well as the development of partnerships with international markets, strengthening democratic institutions, the rule of law and respect for human rights. To achieve its goals, such as maintaining peace and security, democratic reforms and economic growth, as well as humanitarian needs, the United States has already invested more than \$9 billion in direct aid in the region. At the same time, over \$50 billion has been financed by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Asian Development Bank in the form of loans, loans and technical assistance. In addition, the US private sector has invested more than \$31 billion in commercial enterprises in the region, creating thousands of jobs and building human potential. The United States has invested more than 70 projects throughout Central Asia aimed at protecting and preserving unique cultural antiquities, traditions and archaeological sites.

The updated U.S. Strategy for Central Asia 2019-2025: Developing Sovereignty and Economic Prosperity states that "a stable and secure Central Asia directly contributes to U.S. efforts to combat terrorism, support regional stability, ensure energy security and strengthen economic prosperity in the region and beyond"¹

The Strategy identifies 6 key goals:

- support and strengthening of the sovereignty and independence of the Central Asian countries, as well as the entire region as a whole;

¹ United States Strategy for Central Asia 2019-2025 Advancing Sovereignty and Economic Prosperity // URL: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/FINAL-CEN-Strategy-Glossy-2-10-2020-508.pdf> (date of access: 15.02.2020).

- fighting against terrorist threats in Central Asia;
- Supporting stability in Afghanistan;
- to build reliable relations between Central Asia and Afghanistan;
- reform the rule of law and respect for human rights
- invest in the economic development of Central Asia

Conclusion

In the early years of independence, the United States managed to help five new Central Asian countries become independent and sovereign States. At this crucial stage, America has fulfilled its promises. In turn, the Central Asian countries acted as important partners for the United States when it was necessary. Central Asian and American relations today have a complex substantive basis, which is dynamically developing and diversifying. Every day, the interests of the United States in foreign policy towards the Central Asian region are growing rapidly. This is facilitated by natural resources, the stable political situation in the Central Asian countries, economic growth, and, of course, the strategic location of Kazakhstan between China and Russia. According to forecasts, the balance of power on the Asian stage for the coming decades will be determined by the rivalry in the "US-China – Russia" triangle. Russia and China are the two largest powers of Eurasia, which for many centuries have bordered each other and Kazakhstan, which are destined by history and geography to be good neighbors, reliable friends and responsible partners.

The United States now intends to strengthen its political, cultural and humanitarian presence in the region further. It is a well-known fact that the United States skillfully and profitably uses the so-called "soft power", as well as the attractive power of its mass culture for young people, cinema, science, education and sports. All of the above factors create a real basis for the US to cultivate the idea of its own "exclusivity", that it has the right to maintain its leadership and dominance in the transforming world order of the XXI century, as well as to dictate and impose its own rules of international life, world trade and politics on all other states and organizations.

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АҚШ-ТЫҢ ОРТАЛЫҚ АЗИЯДАҒЫ СЫРТҚЫ САЯСАТЫ: ҚИЫНДЫҚТАР МЕН МҮМКІНДІКТЕР

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Андатпа. Бұл мақала Орталық Азия республикалары мен Америка Құрама Штаттары арасындағы қарым-қатынастарды аймақтық және екіжақты ынтымақтастық призмасы арқылы зерттейді. Авторлар осы мақалада қазіргі әлемнің тенденцияларына, сын-қатерлеріне және қауіп-қатерлеріне, жаһандық қауіпсіздік мәселелеріне және Орталық Азия аймағындағы жаһандану феноменіне талдау жасайды, бұл кезде Орталық Азияның барлық бес мемлекеті халықаралық аренадағы орнын анықтау үшін жаңа міндеттер тұрған кезде, сыртқы және ішкі саясаттағы дамудың дербес стратегиялық бағытын дайындайды. Мақалада халықаралық қатынастар теориясының жаңа парадигмасының дамуының қазіргі тенденциялары қарастырылады, олар үнемі өзгеріп отыратын әлемде және Орталық Азия аймағындағы динамикалық, жаһандық және ауқымды өзгерістер процестерін зерттеуде өзекті болып табылады. Бұл аймақтардың барлығы АҚШ үшін де, көршілес Ресей, Қытай мемлекеттері үшін де өзекті және оларға тұрақты және қауіпсіз Орталық Азия аймағы қажет. Экономикалық араласу тұрғысынан АҚШ Орталық Азияның геосаяси орналасуына, ішкі саяси құрылымына, мәдени және діни ерекшеліктеріне байланысты аймақтағы қатысуын тереңдетудің жаңа жолдарын үнемі іздейді.

Тірек сөздер: АҚШ, Орталық Азия, Сыртқы саясат, стратегия, ынтымақтастық, әскери, инвестиция, аймақтық тұрақтылық, энергетикалық қауіпсіздік.

ВНЕШНЯЯ ПОЛИТИКА США В ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ: ВЫЗОВЫ И ВОЗМОЖНОСТИ

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Аннотация. В статье исследуются отношения между республиками Центральной Азии и Соединенными Штатами Америки через призму регионального и двустороннего

сотрудничества. Авторы в данной статье анализируют тенденции, вызовы и угрозы современного мира, проблемы глобальной безопасности и явление глобализации в Центральноазиатском регионе, когда перед всеми пятью центральноазиатскими государствами встали новые задачи по определению своего места на международной арене, выработать самостоятельный стратегический курс развития внешней и внутренней политики. В статье рассматриваются современные тенденции развития новой парадигмы теории международных отношений, актуальные при изучении динамичных, глобальных и масштабных процессов изменений в постоянно меняющемся мире и в Центральноазиатском регионе. Все эти направления актуальны как для США, так и для соседних государств России, Китая и им тоже нужен стабильный и безопасный центральноазиатский регион. С точки зрения экономической вовлеченности США всегда ищут новые пути для углубления своего участия в регионе, что обусловлено геополитическим положением, внутривластным политическим положением, культурными и религиозными особенностями Центральной Азии.

Ключевые слова: США, Центральная Азия, внешняя политика, стратегия, сотрудничество, военные, инвестиции, региональная стабильность, энергетическая безопасность.