

UDC 327.8

IRSTI 11.25.07

<https://doi.org/10.48371/ISMO.2024.58.4.003>

## CONCEPTUAL AND IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF SOUTH KOREA'S POLICY IN CENTRAL ASIA

\*Kagazbaeva E.<sup>1</sup>, Sakenova A.<sup>2</sup>, Kazybekova U.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages, Almaty, Kazakhstan

<sup>2</sup> Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages, Almaty, Kazakhstan

<sup>3</sup> KIMEP University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

**Abstract.** The article examines the conceptual foundations of foreign policy strategies that underpin South Korea's cooperation with Central Asian countries. The political and economic significance of the Central Asian region is growing in the global arena. South Korea aims to establish its own distinct position in the region by utilizing foreign policy tools, including the 'Global Korea' strategy, providing official development assistance to Central Asian countries and implementing the 'New North Policy'. Nonetheless, the implementation of South Korea's foreign policy strategies concerning Central Asian countries is complicated by the dynamic nature of similar strategies employed by major regional players, including China, the United States, Japan, and Russia.

In both domestic and foreign science, the Central Asian region has not garnered the attention it deserves regarding the economic interests of the Republic of Korea. Analyzing South Korea's foreign policy strategies towards Central Asian countries reveals that, although these strategies have several positive aspects, there are also shortcomings in their implementation.

The authors conclude that South Korea has diversified its traditional relationships in recent years and made considerable efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with partners in Eurasia, aiming to leverage the resources available through the continental Eurasian partnership. The Republic of Korea perceives the Central Asian countries as a potential resource to countering China's influence in the Asian region, while also serving as a crucial counterbalance to Russia's position in the Eurasian continental policy.

**Key words:** foreign policy, Republic of Korea, Central Asia, strategy, region, political influence, international relations, geopolitics

### Introduction

Foreign policy can be defined as the integration of a series of principles, policies, decisions and a strategic course of action that a nation-state adopts to achieve and safeguard its national interests in the realm of international relations. The process of making foreign policy decisions in any nation-state is typically shaped by both its internal priorities and international concerns. Frequently, these elements align, leading to a cohesive foreign policy that outlines the state's interactions with other countries while protecting its own national interests. Given that various aspects are continually evolving, it is important for a country's foreign policy decisions to adapt accordingly in order to respond to these dynamic influences.

The geopolitical landscape shaped by the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the conclusion of the Cold War, along with Korea's increasing economic potential,

has led to a more dynamic and diverse approach to foreign policy in Seoul. In recent years, the increasing demands from energy-intensive economies, along with advancements and investments in logistics and infrastructure, have fostered closer connections among various regions of the Eurasian continent.

In this scientific article, the authors explore South Korea's foreign policy approaches regarding Central Asian countries. In its efforts to strengthen relationships with the region, Seoul has sought to cultivate a unique and non-threatening image, based on its limited political experience and geopolitical aspirations, as well as its intention to share its experience gained from its journey as a nation that has transitioned from being impoverished to a leading economy.

The significance of this study is shaped, on the one hand, by the growing importance of the Central Asian region in the global arena and, consequently, by the movement of global financial flows to this region. On the other hand, it is influenced by South Korea's desire to establish its own distinct position in the region through foreign policy tools, including the 'Global Korea' strategy, official development assistance to Central Asian countries and the 'New North Policy'. Nonetheless, these South Korea's foreign policy strategies concerning Central Asian countries are complicated by the dynamic nature of similar strategies employed by major regional players (China, the United States, Japan, Russia, etc.).

In the light of the overall rise of Asia, as Amitav Acharya wrote [1, p. 191], the Republic of Korea positions itself as a 'middle power' alongside other Asian leaders such as Japan, China, and India. Since the 2000s and continuing to the present, South Korea has been steadily strengthening its position as a 'middle power' both in the region and on the global stage. In line with D. Nolte's interpretation of the concept of 'middle power,' we would like to highlight that such a state possesses influence and aims to stabilize the situation in the region. It is capable of using recognition from outside the region to strengthen its authority locally and employs the tools of multilateral cooperation, and its participation in international organizations, etc. [2, p. 890]. We would like to enhance this assessment by incorporating M. Stephen's opinion, which suggests that the capabilities of an average state should be evaluated not only by its resources, military power, and economic potential, but also by its unique role in political interactions, mediation, and its willingness to form coalitions, and engage in multilateral cooperation, etc. [3, p. 39].

### **Description of materials and methods**

The theoretical foundation of this study is grounded in the neorealism theory, which was developed in the works of Kenneth Waltz. The scientist examines the ways in which economic actors impact politics. A robust economy can enhance the power of the state, indicating that economic resources become an area of political interest. [4]. Therefore, acquiring economic resources and developing economic infrastructure is strategically important in today's international stage. In the context of this theory in the modern era, a trend is observed that relates to the pursuit of economic interests, the expansion of export and investment opportunities, and access to larger markets. The chosen theoretical approach provides the best understanding of South Korea's strategies for attaining economic benefits. The study explains the

reasons why Central Asia is a significant region from the neorealism perspective. This study employs an interdisciplinary approach, utilizing general scientific methods for understanding reality, in addition to historical, structural-functional and comparative methods.

## **Results**

In 2007, during President Roh Moo-Hyun's administration, the State Comprehensive Strategy for Promoting the Republic of Korea in Central Asia was adopted. In 2009, the 'New Asia Initiative' 'was adopted, aimed at both expanding Korea's role in the Central Asian region and representing a broader effort to establish South Korea as a global political and economic player'" [5, p. 72]. Since 2007, the Central Asia-Republic of Korea Cooperation Forum has been developing. The regional cooperation format involving all Central Asian states under 'C5 + 1' formula has become a significant achievement for South Korea in Central Asia. The establishment of this format of cooperation is not coincidental; researchers consider it a significant achievement in Korea's foreign policy.

Since 2008, the Republic of Korea's cooperation with the Central Asian states has been formalized within the framework of the 'Global Korea' concept introduced by then-President Lee Myung-Bak (2008-2013). Under this initiative, South Korea began to position itself as a medium-sized power [6], achieving significant progress in political and economic development in a relatively short period of time. Based on this experience, South Korea can now assert its role as bridge between the developed and developing worlds. In the context of Central Asia, this concept acquired new significance within the framework of the New Asia Initiative (NAI), which was established in 2009.

The 'Global Korea' strategy reevaluated Seoul's role both regionally and globally [7, p. 34]. The 'Global Korea' foreign policy strategy brought about changes in state policy and perceptions of national identity. These changes were captured in the new slogan 'advanced nation', which became central to the government's vision of national identity [8, p. 190]. The primary changes included the new goals and objectives of President Lee Myung-Bak's administration, which focused on economic growth (GDP growth up to 30000 USD per capita), changes in domestic policy (shifting from populism to liberal democracy), balancing private and public interests within society, fostering a global culture, and restructuring Korea's international relations [8, p.192]. Essentially, the concept of 'advanced nation' embodies the core of the neoliberal concept of collective effort within a society that prioritizes progress through innovation. In this regard, the concept of 'Global Korea', which represents a synthesis of the balance of globalization and nationalistic tendencies within Korean society, has become increasingly popular.

## **Discussion**

As part of the 'Global Korea' strategy, the Republic of Korea has aimed to strengthen its relationships, particularly with neighboring countries to the south and west in Asia. Seoul tried to establish itself as a 'bridge between developed and developing countries' to expand its international presence and strengthen its

leverage. To ensure Korea's image as an advanced nation, the Government sought to promote significant development not only in the economic sector but also across all aspects of the country's life, including diplomatic practices. Therefore, the globalization of Korea's foreign policy entails the necessity of 'catching up' with the diplomatic standards of an 'advanced nation'. A strong sense of identity became a clear template for shaping South Korea's diplomatic practices and the country's international role under the unified slogan of 'Global Korea'.

By engaging with the discourse on globalization, this concept has offered Korea a framework for understanding and negotiating its national identity and global standing. Korea's historical experience as a lagging nation served as the foundation for its ambition to become a leading nation. Thus, the discursive practice of Global Korea serves not only as a starting point for the foreign policy of the modern Republic of Korea but also a key factor of Korean national identity [9, p. 141].

Let us examine the content of the 'Development Assistance Policy', which provided the framework for the Republic of Korea's cooperation with the Central Asian countries. Official Development Assistance (ODA) is a key tool for providing assistance to developing countries by offering financing resources or technical development assistance to improve the economic well-being and overall development of recipient countries. The primary components of ODA policy include the provision of loans or grants by members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), which operates under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Over twenty OECD member states are members of the Development Assistance Committee, including the European Union, USA, the Republic of South Korea, and Japan. In 2010, South Korea became an official member of the OECD DAC.

Therefore, the South Korean government under Moon Jae-In (2017-2022) designated ODA policy as an important foreign policy mechanism and employed this strategy to promote its national interests [10].

Despite having a relatively brief history of providing development assistance in Central Asia, South Korea has already recognized it as a key aspect of its foreign policy strategy [11].

The subsequent policy guiding South Korea's cooperation with Central Asian countries is the 'New North Policy,' which was introduced by President Park Geun-Hye in October 2013. Also known as the Eurasia Initiative, this policy has been further developed under President Moon Jae-In since 2017. The initiative aims to strengthen the Republic of Korea's foreign policy towards the continental Eurasian states. The 'New Northern Policy', along with the 'New Southern Policy', is a component of the Republic of Korea's foreign policy platform designated to establish a "New Economic Map of the Korean Peninsula". A key objective of this initiative is "the idea of connecting the Republic of Korea with the continent through the DPRK" [12, p. 360].

Undoubtedly, the significance of the New Northern Policy is primarily determined by the national interests of the Republic of Korea. On one hand, the policy seeks to reduce the Republic of Korea's reliance on maritime routes that traverse the South China Sea, the Strait of Malacca, and the area off the Horn of

Africa. These routes are increasingly becoming a source of tension among the powers in the Asia-Pacific region, where the growing economic and military presence of the People's Republic of China raises concerns for other regional countries. In this regard, it is clear that Seoul is attempting to diversify its trade and economic pathways by connecting South Korea with the continental region of Eurasia. The diversification of trade partners is an urgent task not only for the Republic of Korea but also for the Central Asian states, driving them towards practical cooperation [13, p. 82].

On the other hand, the opportunity to acquire new sources for economic growth through Eurasian integration associations will, in the long term, facilitate dialogue with Russia regarding the resolution of the 'Korean Issue' and enable participation in discussions about the future of the Eurasian region. In this regard, the Republic of Korea must address the challenges posed by existing contradictions among key global actors, specifically by balancing between its own national interests and the strategies of other regional actors.

The New Northern Policy outlines three regions or three economic corridors: 1) Western Region: the western part of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus; 2) Central Region: five Central Asian states and Mongolia; 3) Eastern Region: Siberia and the Russian Far East, three northeastern provinces of China [14].

Each region envisages cooperation in the most crucial areas from Seoul's perspective:

- *Central region* – development of resources and infrastructure.

Support for projects of interest to Korean corporations, including oil refining and petrochemicals, roads and airports, and combined heat and power plants.

- *Western Region*: Russia - focus on industrial progress through manufacturing sector and high-tech industries; Ukraine - high technology in ICT and aerospace; Belarus - services and manufacturing.

- *Eastern Region* - increased demand for development related to the new eastern policy and the economic corridor connecting Mongolia-China-Russia. Development and promotion of projects associated with the China-Mongolia-Russia economic corridor initiative; increased utilization of the Trans-China Railway and Trans-Mongolian Railway, reunification of the Republic of Korea and North Korea railways [15].

The Republic of Korea is quite focused on developing infrastructure routes to connect the island with Eurasia and on exploiting subsoil resources to gain access to valuable materials, as outlined in the framework of the New Economic Policy.

The year 2020 has been designated as the year of 'Northern Economic Cooperation', in which the achievement of practical results serves as the most reliable measure for evaluating the effectiveness of the policy. It is too early to determine the outcomes of the New North Policy, as the process of directing Seoul's course towards Eurasia is undergoing institutional changes. The New North Policy represents a 'new' approach in the Republic of Korea's foreign policy towards a number of Central Asian states and even Russia.

## **Conclusion**

As a result, the Republic of Korea has become highly aware of the issue of reliance on resource partners and is prepared to cooperate with a large number of partners to diversify its traditional relationships. Beginning in 2020, South Korea has significantly strengthened its position in multilateral partnerships, including regional forums, as exemplified by the Central Asia -Republic of Korea Forum; it is also making significant efforts to develop bilateral relations with Eurasian partners; it is strengthening and significantly modernizing its Official Development Assistance tools, strategically recognizing this tool as a valuable resource for fostering international relations and increasing its global influence. By strengthening its position in East Asia, Korea aims to leverage the resources of the continental Eurasian partnership, hereby diminishing the conventional ‘island’ perception of the state. Within the framework of this partnership, a significant emphasis is placed on the countries of Central Asia. Korea regards these partners as a potential resource to countering China's influence in the Asian region and sees them as a crucial counterbalance to Russia's role in Eurasian continental politics. Since 2017, Korea has intentionally strengthened its approaches in implementing the New North and South Policy, taken a comprehensive approach to understanding its foreign policy objectives in the world, in the East Asian region, and resolving the ‘Korean Issue’.

In summarizing the key conceptual foundations of South Korea's foreign policy strategies, we find that the Republic of Korea’s most significant economic cooperation with Central Asian countries is conducted through three main strategies: the ‘Global Korea’ strategy, the ODA policy, and the ‘New North Policy’.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Acharya A. Asia Rising: Who Is Leading? World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., 2008. - 191 p.
- [2] Detlef N. How to Compare Regional Powers: Analytical Concepts and Research Topics // Review of International Studies. – 2010. -No. 36. - P. 881–901.
- [3] Stephen M. The Concept and Role of Middle Powers during Global Rebalancing //Seton Hall Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations. – 2013. - No. 14 (2). - P. 37–53.
- [4] Овчарова Т.Н., Литвинчук В.И. Политология: Курс лекций. Н. Новгород: Изд. Дом СГУ, 2010. С. 232. – URL: <https://all-politologija.ru/knigi/politologiya-kurs-lekcij-ovcharova-litvinchuk/realizm-i-neorealizm>
- [5] Fumagalli M. South Korea’s Engagement in Central Asia from the End of the Cold War to the “New Asia Initiative” // The Journal of Northeast Asian History. - Vol. 9. - No. 2. – 2012. - P. 69–97.
- [6] Hwang B. A New Horizon in South Korea-Central Asia Relations: The ROK Joins the “Great Game” // Korea Compass. Korea Economic Institute. December 2012. URL: [http://www.keia.org/sites/default/files/publications/kei\\_koreacompass\\_template\\_balbinahwa\\_ng.pdf](http://www.keia.org/sites/default/files/publications/kei_koreacompass_template_balbinahwa_ng.pdf)
- [7] Cooper W. The EU-South Korea Free Trade Agreement and Its Implications for the United States // Becker A.K. (ed.). South Korea: international relations, trade and policies. - N.Y.: Nova Science Publishers, 2011. - P. 27–54.
- [8] Kim J. The Discursive Structure of Developmentalism in Korea: A Comparison of Geundaehwa, Segyehwa, and Seonjinhwa Discourses' // Jongtae Kim // Economy and Society. - 2012. - No.103. - P. 166-195.

[9] Шорманбаева Д.Г., Сейдинова М.А., Жиенбаев М.Б. Глобализация и корейская национальная идентичность // Международный научно-исследовательский журнал. - №12 (66). – С. 140-142.

[10] 왕길환. ODA를 외교 대표브랜드로 활용할 듯 [Термин ОПР будет использоваться в качестве дипломатического представительского бренда] // 연합뉴스. <https://www.yna.co.kr/view/AKR20170510076400371> [на кор.].

[11] 이준기. 확산되는 과기한류... 러브콜 잇따른다 [Распространение корейской волны] // 디지털타스. [http://www.dt.co.kr/contents.html?article\\_no=2019030402103331731001](http://www.dt.co.kr/contents.html?article_no=2019030402103331731001) [на кор.].

[12] Ом Гу Хо. Стратегия Новой северной политики и ее ограничительные факторы // Вестник Санкт-Петербургского университета. Международные отношения. – 2020. – Т. 13. – Вып. 3. – С. 354–373.

[13] Буланакова М. А. Евразийский вектор внешней политики Республики Корея: фактор Центральной Азии // Евразийская интеграция: экономика, право, политика. - 2020. - № 4. - С. 70 – 87.

[14] Акматалиева А. Центральная Азия и Южная Корея: в поисках возможностей для сотрудничества. <https://cabar.asia/ru/tsentralnaya-aziya-i-yuzhnaya-koreya-v-poiskah-vozmozhnostej-dlya-narashhivaniya-sotrudnichestva>

[15] Presidential Committee on Northern Economic Cooperation. [https://www.bukbang.go.kr/bukbang\\_en/vision\\_policy/strategy/](https://www.bukbang.go.kr/bukbang_en/vision_policy/strategy/)

## REFERENCES

[1] Acharya A. Asia Rising: Who Is Leading? World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., 2008, 191 p.

[2] Detlef N. How to Compare Regional Powers: Analytical Concepts and Research Topics // Review of International Studies, 2010, No. 36, P. 881–901.

[3] Stephen M. The Concept and Role of Middle Powers during Global Rebalancing // Seton Hall Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations, 2013, No. 14 (2), P. 37–53.

[4] Ovcharova T.N., Litvinchuk V.I. Politologija: Kurs lekcij [Political science. A course of lectures]. N. Novgorod: Izd. Dom SGU, 2010, 232 p. URL: <https://all-politologija.ru/knigi/politologiya-kurs-lekcij-ovcharova-litvinchuk/realizm-i-neorealizm> [in Russ.].

[5] Fumagalli M. South Korea's Engagement in Central Asia from the End of the Cold War to the "New Asia Initiative", The Journal of Northeast Asian History, Vol. 9, No. 2, 2012, p. 69–97.

[6] Hwang B. A New Horizon in South Korea-Central Asia Relations: The ROK Joins the "Great Game", Korea Compass. Korea Economic Institute. December, 2012. [http://www.keia.org/sites/default/files/publications/kei\\_koreacompass\\_template\\_balbinahwa\\_ng.pdf](http://www.keia.org/sites/default/files/publications/kei_koreacompass_template_balbinahwa_ng.pdf)

[7] Cooper W. The EU-South Korea Free Trade Agreement and Its Implications for the United States/ Becker A.K. (ed.). South Korea: international relations, trade and policies, N.Y.: Nova Science Publishers, 2011, p. 27–54.

[8] Kim J. The Discursive Structure of Developmentalism in Korea: A Comparison of Geundaehwa, Segyehwa, and Seonjinhwa Discourses'. Jongtae Kim, Economy and Society, 2012, No.103, P. 166-195.

[9] Shormanbaeva D.G., Sejdinova M.A., Zhienbaev M.B. Globalizacija i korejskaja nacional'naja identichnost [Globalization and Korean national identity]. Mezhdunarodnyj nauchno-issledovatel'skij zhurnal, No. 12 (66), p. 140-142 [in Russ.].

[10] 왕길환. ODA를 외교 대표브랜드로 활용할 듯 [The term OPR will be used in the name of the Diplomatic Representative brand] // 연합뉴스 «Jonhap n'jusy». <https://www.yna.co.kr/view/AKR20170510076400371> [in Korean].



[11] 이준기. 확산되는 과거한류... 러브콜 잇따른다 [The spread of the Korean wave] [디지털타스 «Ddidzhital thasy»]. [http://www.dt.co.kr/contents.html?article\\_no=2019030402103331731001](http://www.dt.co.kr/contents.html?article_no=2019030402103331731001) [in Korean].

[12] Om Gu Ho. Strategija Novoj severnoj politiki i ee ogranichitel'nye faktory [The strategy of the New Northern Policy and its restrictive factors]. Vestnik Sankt-Peterburgskogo universiteta. Mezhdunarodnye otnoshenija, 2020, T. 13, Vyp. 3, p P. 354–373 [in Russ.].

[13] Bulanakova M. A. Evrazijskij vektor vneshnej politiki Respubliki Koreja: faktor Central'noj Azii [The Eurasian vector of the Republic of Korea's Foreign Policy: the factor of Central Asia]. Evrazijskaja integracija: jekonomika, pravo, politika, 2020, № 4, p. 70 – 87 [in Russ.].

[14] Akmatalieva A. Central'naja Azija i Juzhnaja Koreja: v poiskah vozmozhnostej dlja narashhivaniya sotrudnichestva [Central Asia and South Korea: looking for opportunities to increase cooperation]. <https://cabar.asia/ru/tsentralnaya-aziya-i-yuzhnaya-koreya-v-poiskah-vozmozhnostej-dlya-narashhivaniya-sotrudnichestva> [in Russ.].

[15] Presidential Committee on Northern Economic Cooperation. [https://www.bukbang.go.kr/bukbang\\_en/vision\\_policy/strategy/](https://www.bukbang.go.kr/bukbang_en/vision_policy/strategy/)

## ОҢТҮСТІК КОРЕЯНЫҢ ОРТАЛЫҚ АЗИЯДАҒЫ САЯСАТЫНЫҢ КОНЦЕПТУАЛДЫ ЖӘНЕ ИДЕОЛОГИЯЛЫҚ НЕГІЗДЕРІ

\*Қағазбаева Е.М.<sup>1</sup>, Сакенова А.М.<sup>2</sup>, Қазыбекова Ұ.<sup>3</sup>

\*<sup>1</sup>Абылай хан атындағы Қазақ халықаралық қатынастар және әлем тілдері университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан

<sup>2</sup> Абылай хан атындағы Қазақ халықаралық қатынастар және әлем тілдері университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан

<sup>3</sup> PhD доктор, қауымдастырылған профессор, КИМЭП университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан

**Аңдатпа.** Мақалада Оңтүстік Кореяның Орталық Азия елдерімен ынтымақтастығына негіз болатын сыртқы саяси стратегиялардың тұжырымдамалық негіздері қарастырылады. Орталық Азия аймағының саяси және экономикалық маңызы жаһандық аренада артып келеді. Оңтүстік Корея сыртқы саяси құралдарды, соның ішінде «Жаһандық Корея» стратегиясын пайдалану, Орталық Азия елдеріне дамуға ресми көмек көрсету және «Жаңа Солтүстік саясатын» жүзеге асыру арқылы аймақта өзіндік ерекше ұстанымын орнатуды мақсат етеді. Осыған қарамастан, Оңтүстік Кореяның Орталық Азия елдеріне қатысты сыртқы саяси стратегияларын іске асыру Қытай, АҚШ, Жапония және Ресейді қоса алғанда, ірі аймақтық ойыншылар қолданатын ұқсас стратегиялардың серпінді сипатымен қиындауда.

Отандық ғылымда да, шетелдік ғылымда да Орталық Азия аймағы Корея Республикасының экономикалық мүдделеріне лайықты назар аударған жоқ. Оңтүстік Кореяның Орталық Азия елдеріне қатысты сыртқы саяси стратегияларын сараптай келе, бұл стратегиялардың бірнеше оң жақтары болғанымен, оларды жүзеге асыруда кемшіліктер де бар екенін көрсетеді.

Авторлар Оңтүстік Корея соңғы жылдары дәстүрлі қарым-қатынастарын әртараптандырды және континенттік еуразиялық серіктестік арқылы қол жетімді ресурстарды пайдалануды мақсат етіп, Еуразиядағы серіктестермен екіжақты қарым-қатынастарды нығайтуға айтарлықтай күш салды деп қорытындылады. Корея Республикасы Орталық Азия елдерін Қытайдың Азия аймағындағы ықпалына қарсы тұрудың әлеуетті ресурсы ретінде қабылдайды, сонымен бірге еуразиялық континенттік саясаттағы Ресейдің позициясына шешуші тепе-теңдік ретінде қызмет етеді.



**Тірек сөздер:** сыртқы саясат, Корея Республикасы, Орталық Азия, стратегия, аймақ, саяси ықпал, халықаралық қатынастар, геосаясат

## **КОНЦЕПТУАЛЬНО-ИДЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ ОСНОВЫ ПОЛИТИКИ ЮЖНОЙ КОРЕИ В ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ**

\*Кагазбаева Е.М.<sup>1</sup>, Сакенова А.М.<sup>2</sup>, Казыбекова У.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Казахский университет международных отношений и мировых языков имени Абылай хана, Алматы, Казахстан

<sup>2</sup> Казахский университет международных отношений и мировых языков имени Абылай хана, Алматы, Казахстан

<sup>3</sup> Университет КИМЭП, Алматы, Казахстан

**Аннотация.** В статье рассмотрены концептуальные основы внешнеполитических стратегий, в рамках которых развивается сотрудничество Южной Кореи со странами Центральной Азии. На мировой арене политическая и экономическая значимость региона Центральной Азии повышается. Южная Корея стремится занять собственную нишу в регионе посредством внешнеполитических инструментов, как стратегия «Global Korea», официальная помощь развитию в странах Центральной Азии и «Новой северной политикой». Однако реализация внешнеполитических стратегий Южной Кореи по отношению к странам Центральной Азии осложняются высокой динамичностью проведения аналогичных стратегий крупнейшими региональными игроками, такими как Китай, США, Япония, Россия.

В отечественной и зарубежной науке региону Центральной Азии не оказывалось должного внимания в контексте экономических интересов Республики Корея. На основе осмысления внешнеполитических стратегий Южной Кореи по отношению к странам Центральной Азии установлено, что несмотря на весь позитивный аспект проведения стратегий, существуют недостатки в их реализации.

Авторы приходят к выводу, что за последние годы Южная Корея диверсифицировало традиционные связи и предпринимает существенные усилия по развитию двухсторонних отношений с евразийскими партнерами, стремится использовать ресурсы континентального евразийского партнерства. Центрально-азиатские государства Республика Корея рассматривает как возможный ресурс сдерживания влияния КНР в азиатском регионе, а также как важный баланс позиции России в Евразийской континентальной политике.

**Ключевые слова:** внешняя политика, Республика Корея, Центральная Азия, стратегия, регион, политическое влияние, международные отношения, геополитика

### ***Information about authors:***

*Kagazbaeva E. - Candidate of Political Sciences, professor, Kazakh Ablai khan University of International Relations and World Languages, Almaty, Kazakhstan, e-mail: [kagazbaeva.e@gmail.com](mailto:kagazbaeva.e@gmail.com)*

*Sakenova A. - PhD Student, Kazakh Ablai khan University of International Relations and World Languages, Almaty, Kazakhstan, e-mail: [a.m.sakenova@gmail.com](mailto:a.m.sakenova@gmail.com)*

*Kazybekova U. – PhD, associate professor, KIMEP University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, e-mail: [u.kazybekova@kimep.kz](mailto:u.kazybekova@kimep.kz)*

### ***Авторлар туралы мәлімет:***

*Қағазбаева Е.М. – саяси ғылымдарының кандидаты, профессор, Абылай хан атындағы Қазақ халықаралық қатынастар және әлем тілдері университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан, e-mail: [kagazbaeva.e@gmail.com](mailto:kagazbaeva.e@gmail.com)*

Сакенова А.М. - PhD докторант, Абылай хан атындағы Қазақ халықаралық қатынастар және әлем тілдері университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан, e-mail: [a.m.sakenova@gmail.com](mailto:a.m.sakenova@gmail.com)

Қазыбекова Ұ. - PhD доктор, қауымдастырылған профессор, КИМЭП университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан, e-mail: [u.kazybekova@kimep.kz](mailto:u.kazybekova@kimep.kz)

**Сведения об авторах:**

Кагазбаева Е.М. - кандидат политических наук, профессор, Казахский университет международных отношений и мировых языков имени Абылай хана, Алматы, Казахстан, e-mail: [kaqazbaeva.e@gmail.com](mailto:kaqazbaeva.e@gmail.com)

Сакенова А.М. - PhD докторант, Казахский университет международных отношений и мировых языков имени Абылай хана, Алматы, Казахстан, e-mail: [a.m.sakenova@gmail.com](mailto:a.m.sakenova@gmail.com)

Казыбекова У. - доктор PhD, ассоциированный профессор, Университет КИМЭП, Алматы, Казахстан, e-mail: [u.kazybekova@kimep.kz](mailto:u.kazybekova@kimep.kz)

*Received: December 7, 2024*