



# TO THE QUESTION OF INTEGRATION DIPLOMACY ON THE SILK ROAD

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## ABSTRACT

*The article considers the trends in the development of diplomatic processes and trade and economic relations in the countries of Central Asia in the context of the Great Silk Road. Besides, the importance of the Great Silk Road in establishing and maintaining diplomatic relations between the centers of political life, the major states of Europe and Asia was invaluable was investigated.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Great Silk Road, diplomatic relations, communication, trade, embassy, civilization, trade.*

## INTRODUCTION

The Great Silk Road, which in ancient times connected the East with the West and, to a certain extent, the North with the South, by trade, economic, cultural, humanitarian, as well as political and diplomatic ties, has several thousand years of history. At different stages of its existence, the content and significance, directions and scope of contacts have changed however, one thing has remained unchanged: the Great Silk Road has played the role of a connecting bridge between countries and civilizations for such a long time.

## METHODS

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, speaking at a round table of leaders within the framework of the international forum “One Belt, One Road” in Beijing, expressed confidence that the “One Belt, One Road” project would help create a “belt of peace and prosperity, prosperity and progress” on the continent.

The head of Uzbekistan recalled what an important role the Great Silk Road once played in relations between different regions. “I believe that our common priority should be the creation of integrated industrial technology parks, scientific and innovation clusters and free economic zones along the Silk Road Economic Belt. To this end, we propose to jointly develop effective mechanisms for promoting such projects” [1] the President noted.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The importance of the Great Silk Road in establishing and maintaining diplomatic relations between the centers of political life, the major states of Europe and Asia was

invaluable. For centuries, an intensive, multi-level and multi-vector process of inter-civilizational communication has been going on.

Numerous historical sources testify to the high activity and level of official contacts, the exchange of diplomatic missions, in particular, between Byzantium and China - powers that played an important role in the international life of that era. The Silk Road opened up unique opportunities for the development of diplomacy, in which economic interests in most cases were linked with political ones. It is natural that the first ambassadors were merchants. They had a “pass card”, the status of inviolability on the territory of even warring states. Therefore, they were entrusted with the most difficult tasks, they not only transmitted information “by word of mouth”, but also carried out secret assignments [5, PP 235-260.]. This was convenient for the rulers who sent merchants on an important mission, since the merchants acted as neutral members of the communities engaged in their immediate business - trade, not related to interstate relations.

A feature of the exchange of goods on the Great Silk Road was also the so-called “diplomatic trade”, when under the guise of gifts or offering gifts during the exchange of diplomatic missions, actually veiled trade was carried out. So, during the reign of the Chinese emperor Cheng Di, an embassy arrived at his court with gifts from the state of Jibin (modern Kashmir). The emperor intended to send a response embassy, but his dignitary Du Qin informed the sovereign in a letter that “among those who brought gifts, there are no members of the royal family or nobility. These are all merchants or people of low birth. Their intention is to



exchange goods and trade under the guise of sending gifts” [4, PP. 142–143].

The history of diplomacy of the countries located on the Silk Road is an organic part of the world-historical process of interaction between peoples and cultures it contains a huge international legal experience. It is interesting not only from the point of view of study. Having its roots in the past, ancient diplomacy partially penetrates into our lives, in varying degrees, has an impact on modern international processes.

We find examples of ancient diplomacy in the sources that tell about the states that existed on the territory of modern Iran. One of them is the Median kingdom, which reached its power under King Cyaxares (625-585 BC), who was a famous conqueror and subjugated many states, including Parthia. But the Parthians raised a liberation uprising and called for the help of the Saks. The war, which lasted several years, ended with a peace treaty, according to which Parthia, with the formal subordination of Media, retained its former possessions. As the historian E. Rtveladze [2, p. 104] states in his book “The Great Silk Road”, this treaty was the first real international treaty in the history of Central Asian diplomacy, which helped two states to get out of the conflict.

A new period in the development of diplomacy on the Silk Road corresponds to the era of Hellenism, and then the dominion of the Roman Empire. For thousands of years, Central Asia has been a kind of trade hub, a crossroads of caravan routes, a place where foreign trade flourished. Therefore, interstate conflicts arose, among other things, because of the need to conquer new markets. Possession of them made it possible to dictate conditions, gave not only economic, but also political power.

More than twenty centuries ago, contacts were very lively between two powerful empires - Roman and Kushan, which included the territories of present-day Uzbekistan, southern Tajikistan, Afghanistan, northern India and northern Pakistan. During the excavations, scientists discovered a lot of Roman-made goods here. Fragments of ancient Bactrian manuscripts found in the settlement of Kampyrtepa (near Termez), which are made in black ink on papyrus made in Roman Egypt, are evidence of international Kushan ties.

Ancient authors report about the Bactrians who were in the Roman Mediterranean during the reign of various emperors - from Augustus to Aurelian. In a number of cases, it was also about diplomatic contacts, for example, about the reception by the emperor Hadrian (117-138) of the embassy of the “Bactrian kings” or the arrival of ambassadors from the “Indians, Bactrians and Hyrcanians” to Antony Pius (138-161). It is interesting that ancient authors called these Kushan embassies “Bactrian”.

The earliest officially known Kushan embassy visited Rome in 99 AD. There are images of the Kushans on the famous column of Emperor Trajan (98-117), who invited them as guests of honor to participate in the triumph over the victory over the Dahi tribe.

In the V - early VIII centuries between Samarkand and Bukhara, according to a Chinese chronicler, the city of Kushaniya flourished. The Chinese historian was struck by

one of the buildings located near him. He noted: “Probably, there was no such city, where in the same building there would be images of the sovereigns of Rome, Persia, Central Asia, China and India” [3, pp. 214-216].

The Khorezmians were well acquainted with the road to Byzantium, where they often found themselves as part of Turkic diplomatic missions. The ancient historian Theophanes of Byzantium reported on the stay of the Turkic embassy at the court of Emperor Justinian (565-78). During this period, Byzantine silk fabrics were delivered to Sogd, according to the samples of which some Sogdian silks were woven, which, in turn, were exported to the West. One of the confirmations of such bilateral contacts is a Byzantine dish found in the Kungur region. It has an inscription in Sogdian script: “the sovereign of Bukhara...”, carved at the end of the 6th - beginning of the 7th centuries.

Chinese ambassadors regularly visited Central Asia. At least 5-6, and in some years more than 10 caravans, usually called “embassies”, were sent annually. Indeed, they often performed not only trade tasks, but also diplomatic missions. Large embassies consisted of several hundred people, and “small” - no less than 100. They returned to their homeland, as a rule, accompanied by reciprocal embassies.

Davan (Ferghana) was the first country in Central Asia with which China established diplomatic relations. At first, they were very tense, and military conflicts became a consequence of this. After the end of the Sino-Davan war, China's diplomatic activity began to develop rapidly, as evidenced by the ancient Chinese chronicle (beginning of the 1st century AD). Already at the end of the II century BC diplomatic relations are established with the Parthian kingdom.

The diplomatic activity of the Han Dynasty in Central Asia led to the recognition by some of the states of vassal dependence on China. However, in some cases it was only nominal. The “History of the Elder House of Han” says that the Chinese ambassadors “without cash could not get food for themselves or cattle for riding and this is the reason for the remoteness of China”. However, in the III-IV centuries AD China's diplomatic relations with the countries of Central Asia fell into decay. The main reason was the instability of the military-political situation in both regions. Only in the 5th century did diplomatic contacts resume.

## CONCLUSION

The interconnections of the peoples who lived along the great transcontinental road have been strengthened for centuries. Neither vast deserts nor high mountains were an obstacle for them. The political map of the world changed, powerful empires disappeared new ones arose on their basis. The rulers increasingly turned to diplomatic methods to resolve various interstate conflicts, using and developing the experience of their predecessors. Diplomacy as an activity began to play a privileged role. The geography of the Great Silk Road has no limits or restrictions. Its expansion at the expense of those countries that intend to develop cooperation with the countries included in the Great Silk Road region is



naturally and objectively conditioned by the entire course of historical development.

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