



UZBEKISTAN IN PROMOTING A CULTURE OF TOLERANT RELATIONS BETWEEN SCO MEMBER COUNTRIES

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ANNOTATION

The purpose of the study is to study the foreign policy activities of the Republic of Uzbekistan to improve the mechanism of multilateral interaction with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. In this regard, it is necessary to solve the following research tasks: - to conduct a political analysis of theoretical approaches to the study of the processes of regionalization and integration; identify the specifics of the region of education in Central Asia and its influence on the formation of the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan; consider the formats and potential for the development of international cooperation and reveal the political role and influence of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the development of the SCO; to determine, on the basis of Uzbekistan's initiatives, ways to improve multilateral cooperation within the framework of the SCO; develop specific proposals and formulate recommendations of the Republic of Uzbekistan aimed at increasing the efficiency of the SCO.

KEYWORDS: *SCO, cooperation, security, cultural and civilizational aspects of strengthening, development, tolerance in relations between member states.*

1. INTRODUCTION

In the context of globalization processes in the modern world, there is an increase in the threats of extremism, terrorism, separatism, and socio-political and economic instability is growing. The events taking place in the Central Asian region are inextricably linked with geopolitical realities that form new directions in the global political process. The growing trend of regionalization of the world space is becoming a catalyst for integration processes. For the young independent states of Central Asia, the most important tasks were: the formation of the foundations for ensuring stability and development security, the creation of a favorable economic and political climate, and the development of international cooperation. The relevance of the research topic lies in line with the foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The complex and diverse regional integration processes in Central Asia are of a contradictory nature, which are based on the difficulties associated with the adaptation of states to new geopolitical realities in the conditions of integration building. Based on the geopolitical situation in the region, there was a need to form integration structures that would represent the main regional players and in various formats serve as a mechanism for multilateral consultations and agreements in ensuring regional security and stability. The integration processes taking place within the framework of the SCO are becoming an increasingly significant factor in strengthening security and stability in the Central Asian region, actively helping to increase the economic and political potential of the member states in the region. In this aspect, the experience of integration processes within the framework of the SCO is unique, in which, along with opposing the "three evils" - extremism, terrorism, separatism, cooperation is increasing and measures are being taken to ensure the political, economic and cultural security of the participating countries.

A positive feature of the activities of the SCO is that it is based on the principles of equality of all member states, mutual respect for views, opinions and approaches, multiculturalism and traditions, called the Shanghai spirit. The SCO strives to build a democratic, fair architecture of international relations based on multilateral, cooperative approaches and equally taking into account the interests and opinions of all participants.



The relevance of this dissertation research is due to the need to study the role of the Republic of Uzbekistan in maintaining stability and security in Central Asia on the example of its participation in the integration activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Many works of Uzbek, Russian, Uzbek and foreign political scientists and economists are devoted to studies of the processes of regionalization, integration and institutionalization in Central Asia.

Theoretical approaches to the problems of regionalization and integration are revealed in the works of O.D. Abramova, A.D. Bogaturov, I.V. Volkov, Yu.N. Gavrilov, G.G. Goldina, M.Sh. Gubaidullina, V.N. Deutscha K., Iskandarova A., Knyazeva A., Kushkumbaeva S.K., Laumulipa M.T., Lindberga L., Medvedev N.P., Migranyan A., Mitrani D., Mikhailenko A.N., Mikhailova V.A., Monnet J., Proskurina S.A., Rakhmatullina G.G., Khaasa E., Ternova L.O., Shishkova Yu.V., and others. Of particular importance in the study of regional security in Central Asia within the framework of integration projects, they have studies of Allison R., Ashimbaev M., Buyanov BC, Galyamova V., Kokarev K.A., Koltyukov AA, Moskalenko V.N., Smulsky CB, Sultanov B.K., Syzdykov M., Syroezhkina K.L., Tusupbayeva G., Khaiyunya V., Shaimergenova T., Yavchunovskaya PA and others.

Despite the available publications and studies, the foreign policy activities of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the context of the priorities of its participation in regional organizations, including the SCO, remain insufficiently studied and are largely debatable, so the study of this problem is of great importance.

3. THE METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

The working hypothesis of the study is that the Republic of Uzbekistan, having a significant geopolitical potential and actively influencing the development of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a unique integration political and economic institution that is able to function effectively in the context of globalization processes, creates new opportunities in joint activities with this institution. to interact with many unresolved contradictions and disagreements, as well as to counter new challenges and threats in Central Asia and thereby ensure security and stability in the region.

4. MATERIALS AND RESULTS

Currently, there are several geopolitical directions in which Central Asia can “move”. At the same time, at present, the “vectors” of the impact of various geopolitical forces on the region are largely balanced.

Geopolitical trends in Central Asia testify to the growing interest of large countries in the situation in the region, due to the increase in the supply of energy resources from Central Asia to the world market, and on the other hand, the problems of international security. Pakistan, India and a whole group of countries that are actually and potentially involved in transport routes from Central Asia to foreign markets, as well as interested in new markets, have been added to the active players in the region, namely Russia, the USA, China, Turkey, Iran. Issues of regional stability and security in Central Asia, related, among other things, to non-traditional challenges and threats, have become one of the key issues in the basis of signing various interstate agreements and creating international organizations. Since the period of independence, the countries of Central Asia have been included in various bilateral and multilateral regional structures. At the same time, the diversity and wide range of international organizations in the CIS, and Central Asia, in particular, testifies both to the different functional orientation of the latter, and the fuzziness of their integration platforms. Thus. Central Asia has become a cross geopolitical and civilizational zone. In fact, global competition has become a reflection, a projection of these relations at the regional level.

When analyzing the principles for the formation of foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan, attention is drawn to the fact that they are focused on creating favorable foreign policy conditions for accelerated economic, social and political modernization of our country. At the same time, the foreign policy course of Uzbekistan is based on the principles of multi-vector, balance and pragmatism. The most important principle is that Uzbekistan adheres to the strategy of a multi-vector foreign policy. The Republic of Uzbekistan cooperates with regional and international integration associations.



Being a large multinational and multi-confessional state, located in the very center of Eurasia at the junction of various civilizations. The Republic of Uzbekistan is vitally interested in creating in its surroundings a zone of good neighborliness, security and stability, based on the universally recognized principles of international law, and in particular such as the sovereign equality of states and their territorial integrity, non-use of force or threat of force in international relations, non-interference in internal affairs states, as well as the peaceful resolution of international disputes and conflicts.

The creation of the SCO and the activities of this organization are, without any exaggeration, of great importance for the Republic of Uzbekistan, which is due to the following major factors. First, the legal nature of the SCO, which in its activities is firmly committed to the universally recognized principles of international law. Secondly, by the nature of the goals pursued by the SCO, namely: 1) maintaining both global and regional security through joint actions based on equal partnership, and 2) establishing close economic, social and cultural cooperation between its member states in order to promote comprehensive and balanced economic growth and a steady improvement in the living conditions of the peoples of the member states (despite the fact that the SCO Charter also defines the goal of the organization as promoting the provision of human rights and fundamental freedoms, this goal can only be achieved in accordance with the national legislation of the member states. In addition during the existence of the organization, no documents on human rights and freedoms were adopted. It is also interesting to note that, unlike, for example, the OSCE, SCO observers assess the elections in Uzbekistan as fully consistent with democratic standards).

Therefore, there is every reason to assert that the activities of the SCO are fully consistent with the vital interests of Uzbekistan, since it is obvious that achieving stability within the country and ensuring economic growth determines the provision of both global and regional security, as well as the development of trade and economic relations with neighboring states. As a result, the Uzbek state is one of the active participants in the SCO (and in many areas of cooperation even its driving force) and in every possible way contributes to the full achievement of its goals. Thus, it can be stated that the SCO format gives the Republic of Uzbekistan the opportunity, on an equal footing, to discuss with its immediate neighbors (including the great powers China and Russia) issues regarding the maintenance of global and regional security, as well as the development of economic, social and cultural cooperation and to take solutions that meet the interests of all parties. The active role of Uzbekistan in the SCO is based on the initiation of its own projects and proposals for the functioning of this organization, and on the desire for effective cooperation in all areas of interstate relations with all member countries. At the same time, the geopolitical position of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the region and the ongoing foreign policy of President N.A. Nazarbayev, aimed at integration development, enables Uzbekistan to become a dominant regional center capable of performing a regulatory function and pursuing a balanced policy in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as a link between China and Russia. Summing up the study in the first chapter, the author formulates the conclusion that the geopolitical processes in the Central Asian region determine the formation of regions and the formation of integration projects, one of which is the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The foreign policy course of the Republic of Uzbekistan is formed under the influence of geopolitical factors. Uzbekistan, as a state with great potential for further growth and strengthening its position in the international community and interested in friendly relations between all countries of the region, should continue to promote the development of the SCO, while Uzbekistan can act as an integrative regulator of regional cooperation, taking on functions of a link between major players in the Central Asian region.

5. DISCUSSION

Scientific understanding of the process of regional formation in Central Asia is debatable. A number of researchers deny the existence of region-forming features, while others tend to see the regional framework wider. At the same time, the presence of such a discussion is a reaction to the challenges that appeared in the post-Soviet period for the countries of Central Asia, and the search for an unconventional response to them. In many ways, modern geopolitics in Central Asia is based on criteria developed back in the Soviet period. Methodologically, most researchers, both in the post-Soviet space and beyond, adhere to the parameters set by Western researchers. In the global matrix of regions, with its different criteria, geographical, ethno-confessional, geo-economic, etc., Central Asia is positioned as a region, sometimes as a sub-region (within the CIS or "New Eurasia", as some American researchers define it).



6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Republic of Uzbekistan considers cooperation in the Shanghai Organization as one of the priority areas of foreign policy and considers the Organization an effective instrument of regional cooperation and stands for further strengthening the universality of the SCO. Uzbekistan in the near future can play for the SCO countries the role of a kind of regulator to suppress negative trends in the political sphere (extremism, terrorism, separatism, drug trafficking, arms smuggling), as well as the role of a kind of springboard to combat these phenomena. In the near future, Uzbekistan can also claim the role of an economic integration center due to such factors as a favorable geopolitical position, integration initiatives in the field of the economy, ambition and the desire for dominance. The ideas of economic integration and the formation of a single economic space, actively promoted by the Uzbek leadership, will become the starting point that will contribute to the formation of an attractive image of Uzbekistan as the economic center of the region. For the Republic of Uzbekistan, which has significant reserves of energy resources, in the framework of the fight against new threats and challenges, ensuring energy security is of particular importance. In this regard, it is the SCO that can act as an effective mechanism capable of solving urgent problems in this area. The Asian Energy Strategy and the idea of creating an Energy Club promoted by Uzbekistan in the future may become one of the important areas of activity of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Contributing to the development of the SCO, Uzbekistan actively supports the idea of "constructive multipolarity", which implies a peaceful existence and close interaction of powerful integration structures, while the SCO is seen as a successful model of peaceful and economically mutually beneficial interaction between two different poles of world politics - Eurasia and China - and the formation of the SCO as the Eurasian-Chinese alliance in the context of the development of multilateral cooperation at the global and regional levels.

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