

ISSN 2518-1467 (Online),  
ISSN 1991-3494 (Print)

ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫ  
ҰЛТТЫҚ ҒЫЛЫМ АКАДЕМИЯСЫНЫҢ

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## ВЕСТНИК

НАЦИОНАЛЬНОЙ АКАДЕМИИ НАУК  
РЕСПУБЛИКИ КАЗАХСТАН

## THE BULLETIN

OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

1944 ЖЫЛДАН ШЫҒА БАСТАҒАН  
ИЗДАЕТСЯ С 1944 ГОДА  
PUBLISHED SINCE 1944

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«Қазақстан Республикасы Ұлттық ғылым академиясының Хабаршысы».

**ISSN 2518-1467 (Online),**

**ISSN 1991-3494 (Print)**

Меншіктенуші: «Қазақстан Республикасының Ұлттық ғылым академиясы»РҚБ (Алматы қ.)

Қазақстан республикасының Мәдениет пен ақпарат министрлігінің Ақпарат және мұрағат комитетінде  
01.06.2006 ж. берілген №5551-Ж мерзімдік басылым тіркеуіне қойылу туралы куәлік

Мерзімділігі: жылына 6 рет.

Тиражы: 2000 дана.

Редакцияның мекенжайы: 050010, Алматы қ., Шевченко көш., 28, 219 бөл., 220, тел.: 272-13-19, 272-13-18,  
www: nauka-nanrk.kz, bulletin-science.kz

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Типографияның мекенжайы: «Аруна» ЖК, Алматы қ., Муратбаева көш., 75.

Г л а в н ы й р е д а к т о р  
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**«Вестник Национальной академии наук Республики Казахстан».**

**ISSN 2518-1467 (Online),**

**ISSN 1991-3494 (Print)**

Собственник: РОО «Национальная академия наук Республики Казахстан» (г. Алматы)

Свидетельство о постановке на учет периодического печатного издания в Комитете информации и архивов Министерства культуры и информации Республики Казахстан №5551-Ж, выданное 01.06.2006 г.

Периодичность: 6 раз в год

Тираж: 2000 экземпляров

Адрес редакции: 050010, г. Алматы, ул. Шевченко, 28, ком. 219, 220, тел. 272-13-19, 272-13-18.

www: nauka-nanrk.kz, bulletin-science.kz

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Адрес типографии: ИП «Аруна», г. Алматы, ул. Муратбаева, 75

E d i t o r i n c h i e f

doctor of chemistry, professor, academician of NAS RK

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**Bulletin of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan.**

**ISSN 2518-1467 (Online),**

**ISSN 1991-3494 (Print)**

Owner: RPA "National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan" (Almaty)

The certificate of registration of a periodic printed publication in the Committee of Information and Archives of the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan N 5551-Ж, issued 01.06.2006

Periodicity: 6 times a year

Circulation: 2000 copies

Editorial address: 28, Shevchenko str., of. 219, 220, Almaty, 050010, tel. 272-13-19, 272-13-18,  
<http://nauka-nanrk.kz/>, <http://bulletin-science.kz>

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Address of printing house: ST "Aruna", 75, Muratbayev str, Almaty

**G. Duisen, D. Aitzhanova**

Institute of Oriental Studies named after R. B. Suleymenov, Almaty, Kazakhstan.

E-mail: galyimzhan@inbox.ru, diait@inbox.ru

## **FORMATION OF UNIFIED AREA OF KAZAKHSTAN AND CENTRAL ASIA: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**Abstract.** The authors noted that Kazakhstan in its foreign policy proclaimed the principles of multi-vector, which means openness to cooperation in various fields, based on the interests of security and development of the state. The main tasks and directions determining the content and structure of the research are highlighted in the work. It was revealed that the ROK and CA countries occupy an important place in global geopolitical development both due to the importance of the region and the availability of natural and other types of resources. The main conclusions of the work include the need to create an interactive platform among the participating countries as one of the effective and successful forms of regional cooperation and interaction. The article is addressed to researchers, state bodies for assessing the level of the country's foreign policy and its security.

**Keywords:** foreign policy, multi-vector, security, Central Asia, dialogue platform, regions, globalization, cooperation, interaction.

Foreign policy affects various areas of development of states and regions of the world: security, socio-cultural, political aspects of their existence, has a solid cultural and civilizational basis, and is a powerful unifying factor for countries with different levels of economic and political potentials. By and large, we are talking about the realization of national interests and the strengthening of regional and global security, taking into account the main vectors for the development of foreign policy:

- priorities of modernization of foreign policy;
- development of diplomacy;
- strengthening regional and global security;
- Strengthening national defenses, etc.

The formation of a unified space in Central Asia (CA) is connected, first of all, with its transformation into one of the key regions of the world in the system of geopolitical coordinates of Eurasia. Central Asian states have significant potential for economic development (minerals, natural resources, cheap labor, etc.) and occupy an important political and strategic position between Europe and Asia.

In recent years, the center of gravity of the world economy has shifted to Central Asia, while Kazakhstan occupies a unique position of a convenient and safe transit route "Europe-Asia". The main factors that determine the new role of Central Asia are the following:

- the region is located in the center of the Eurasian continent;
- the balance of forces in the space of the Eurasian continent depends on the direction of the development of the situation in countries and the region;
- in the region a huge number of natural, primarily hydrocarbon, resources of world importance are concentrated;
- Central Asia is located at the junction of Euro-Asian transport corridors [1].

In CA, there are significant opportunities for integrated development and modernization of the region. At the same time in CA, the local, regional and global interests of various states converged. Central Asian interests are represented by the world (USA, Russia, China) and regional powers (Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, India).

Central Asian states are interested in strengthening relations with China; attracting Chinese investment capital in the development of national economies, transport communications; providing mutually

beneficial trade; strengthening the sphere of monetary circulation, as well as cultural and humanitarian rapprochement of the peoples of the region. In the foreign economic field, the development of bilateral and multilateral relations with China is of great importance to the system of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.

Modern foreign economic processes reflect changes in the global economy and politics, the role and influence of the countries of Asia, China (one of the drivers of the world economy). For the Republic of Kazakhstan (ROK) and the Central Asian countries, which are in search of a way out of raw dependence and modernizing economies, these issues are of current importance. Another group of issues is connected with the aggravation of the geopolitical situation in the world and regions.

In the Address of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the people of Kazakhstan of 10.01.18, it was noted that the world community is currently developing in the conditions of profound and cardinal changes: technological and social [2].

According to the experts of the World Bank, the global index of competitiveness is 50% provided by public administration institutions, and 50% falls on the institutions of civil society and business. In the rating of competitiveness 2017-2018. Kazakhstan took 57th place out of 137 countries, there is a decrease in comparison with last year (53rd position). In conditions of digitalization, the competitiveness of the national economy depends on an efficient process-oriented choice of optimal solutions and schemes for the implementation of economic entities. Information is transformed into knowledge as the main factor in the implementation of production and economic activities. It is about integrating the knowledge of individual agents (firms / regions / states) and transforming them into a specific system for solving / realizing current and strategic tasks.

For foreign experts on geopolitics, Kazakhstan and the countries of Central Asia are of interest from the point of view of studying their history and seeing their development for the future: borders, features of economies, ethnic and confessional issues, and also due to the importance of the region and the availability of natural resources, primarily energy.

In the search for financial, economic, innovative, technological, infrastructural, transit and other factors of regional integration, the changes in the world and / or regions that are occurring require a restart of programs and the renewal of the overall integration concept. We are talking about the development of new integration projects, primarily related to changes in the content of the political order and the institutional foundations of the states of the world community. In this regard, according to Russian experts, it is necessary to develop a network management model in Central Asian countries, taking into account the geostrategic initiative of the leading countries: the US, China, and Russia [3].

In order to implement the Strategic Plan and the Message of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, "New Opportunities for Development in the Context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution", it is necessary to develop new innovative programs related to ensuring stability and improving the efficiency of the national economy and its successful integration into international and regional groupings for the near and long term and alliances. This is a study of the theoretical and practical aspects of the multi-vector nature and security of the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the countries of Central Asia. The question is about the formation of architecture of qualitatively new models of production, business, trade, logistics, management. This will change the format of education, healthcare, public administration, communication between people, and, therefore, it is legitimate to talk about the need to develop a new paradigm for the development of the state, the economy and the entire Kazakh society. The management of the foreign policy sphere of the state / region determines the management of:

- factors of internal and external environment;
- Self-development of subjects;
- current and strategic activities of individual entities and the system as a whole;
- Knowledge of individual, team, network, etc.

This involves studying the systemic links, ensuring effective political, economic and national security of the country / countries, determining the configuration of their multi-vector policies, identifying risks associated with changes in the geopolitical situation at the global and regional levels. In this regard, the main directions of multi-vector and security can be presented in figure 1.

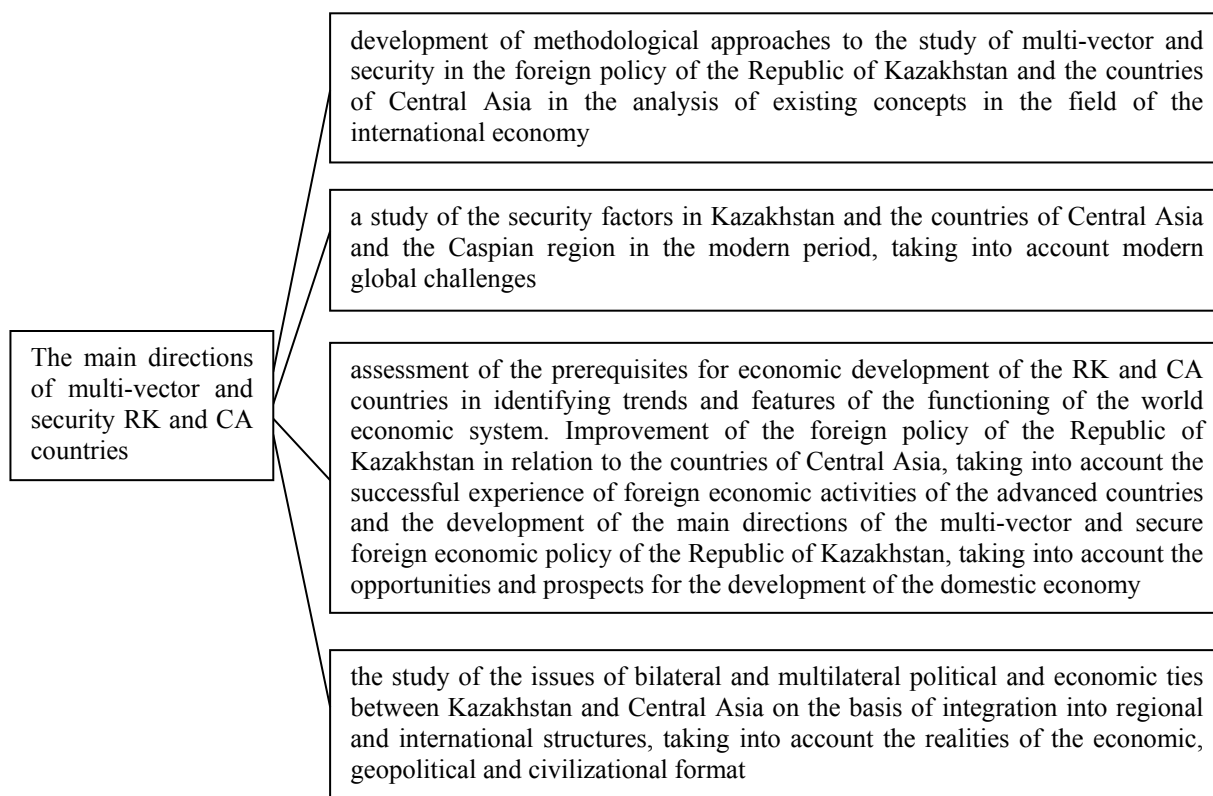


Figure 1 – The main directions of multi-vector and foreign policy security in Kazakhstan and the countries of Central Asia

The formation of a new regional / international / world-wide formation now and in the perspective takes place in the form of an actively developing digital industry, and the digitalization of the evolution of society affects virtually all aspects and possible trends of the world community development. As information and communication technologies (ICTs) are gradually becoming one of the main instruments of social and economic development, their improvement in the foreign policy and economic spheres of the participating countries is legitimate in the following main areas:

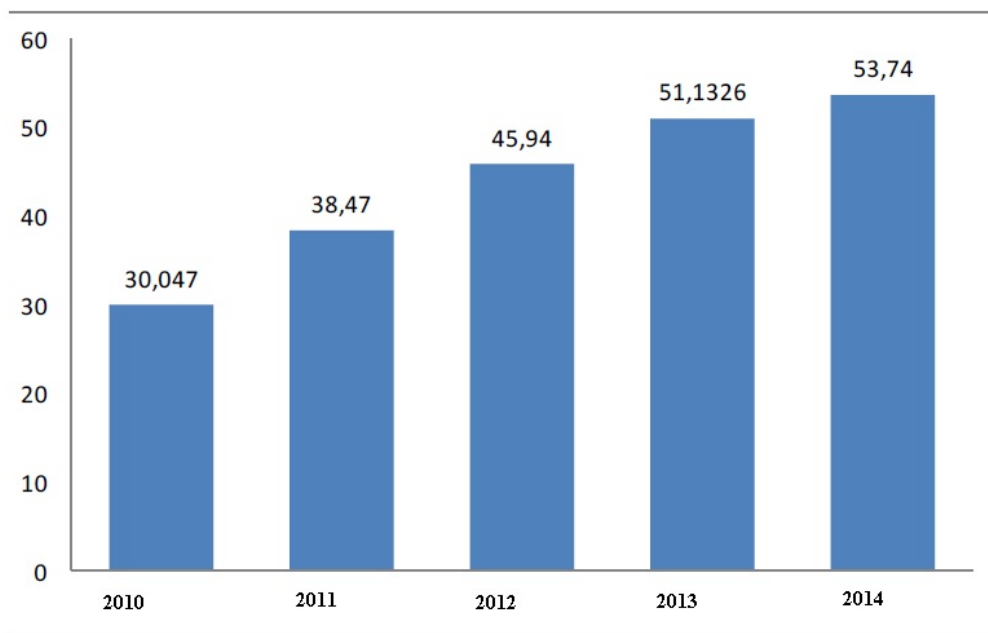
- creation of new markets for products and services;
- stimulation of development and modernization of national economies of the region;
- change in the structure of the export-import policy of the member countries;
- industrialization of backward and depressed regions in the countries of the region;
- improvement of the state policy of the member countries in the spheres of internal and external migration;
- Strengthening the exchange rates of national currencies in the region;
- increase of competitiveness and efficiency of national economies of the countries of the region;
- improvement of the foreign policy of the participating countries in ensuring national security and preventing possible conflict threats and acts of confrontation.

The implementation of these directions is the basis for the multi-vector and security of the foreign policy of Kazakhstan and the states of the Central Asian region, which is important for ensuring mutually beneficial cooperation and assistance in regional integration. This is one of the ways to global economic growth in post-crisis conditions as a driver of national economies, as well as global equalization of models of globalization and regionalization.

We are talking about the formation of a new model of regional integration and an innovative model of regional cooperation. In order to achieve national security of the countries, it is necessary to define strategic goals and objectives that must take into account the priority of preserving state and national interests, the sovereignty of states and a steady increase in the living standards of the population of the participating countries.



The region of Central Asia is very attractive for foreign countries, whose interests are concentrated in the spheres of oil, natural gas, non-ferrous metals, infrastructure construction, agriculture, light industry. So, in the long term, China's trade and economic cooperation with Central Asian countries tends to grow. Five countries of Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are bordered on the west by the PRC, have land routes of communication with each other. China borders with three countries of Central Asia. During this period (in figure 2) there is a shift in trade and economic cooperation between China and the countries of Central Asia.



Source: Zou Jin Jian Interaction of the states of Central Asia and China in the context of the "Economic belt of the silk road" // Izvestiya KazUmOiMY im. Abylai Khan. series "International Relations and Regional Studies". 2015. N 4(22). P. 74-83.

Figure 2 – Trend of trade development between China and 5 Central Asian countries, billion US dollars

According to experts, as a result of cooperation with Chinese companies in *Uzbekistan*, projects have been implemented, including the construction of four strings of the Central Asia Peoples Republic of China gas pipeline, the Dehkanabad Potash Fertilizer Plant, the Kungrad Soda Plant, the creation of a modern digital communications network, construction and modernization dozens of enterprises for the production of road-building machinery, mobile phones, the production of building and finishing materials, leather products, equipping educational institutions and other projects. The Chinese leadership suggested laying the 4th thread of the Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline through the territory of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in the direction of China.

*Tajikistan* intends to expand cooperation with China in the areas of trade, energy, agriculture and transport, create favorable conditions for the construction of a gas pipeline between China and Central Asia, and actively participate in the construction of the "economic belt of the Silk Road." It is important for Tajikistan in Central Asia to maintain a strategic basis - mutual interest in strengthening cooperation in the areas of security and trade and economic cooperation. The main problems hampering the growth in the supply of products include difficulties with the transportation of goods across the borders of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, the presence of numerous customs barriers, high transport tariffs, which leads to a significant rise in price. Affected by the lack of a well-functioning system of financial security for transactions and contracts, as well as problems of an investment nature.

The segment of the modern Silk Road, passing through the RK, is the safest and convenient, supplemented by a more efficient and productive mode of transport: pipeline - for the realization of crude oil and gas [4].

In recent years, the legal framework for the systemic mutually beneficial economic and political cooperation in the Central Asian CIS area has been designed [5], in particular, in the energy sphere, spheres of sustainable development and high technologies.

Uzbekistan's relations with Central Asian countries are subject to political and economic risks. Tashkent's position on issues of regional security and economic integration (Uzbekistan withdrew from the EurAsEC and the CSTO) makes the Uzbek leadership a fairly complex partner. For example, Uzbekistan is blocking a number of CSTO and SCO initiatives in the Afghan direction, suggesting an alternative settlement model under the "6 + 3" formula (including neighboring Afghanistan, including Turkmenistan and Pakistan, as well as NATO and the United States, but excluding which have common borders with CSTO members: Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan). This approach does not support the Russian Federation and the Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan). Tashkent retains its membership in the SCO.

The formation of priorities for the foreign policy of the state was influenced by such factors as intra-continental, i.e. lack of direct access to the sea. The unfavorable geographical location of Kazakhstan as a landlocked country adversely affects its economic development [6].

Thus, the basis of the foreign policy of RK should remain the principle of multi-vector, which involves active cooperation with European countries, USA, China, Russia, countries of the Middle East, as well as the development of a "collective" of cooperation in international organizations: UN, CICA, OSCE, SCO, CIS, OIC, and others.

As is known, *Kazakhstan* is among the world leaders in the export of ferroalloys, copper, lead, zinc, mineral fertilizers, and also holds leading positions in the world in the export of flour and wheat. Kazakhstan can become a global center of food security. The total area of agricultural land in the Republic of Kazakhstan is 90 million hectares, of which 25 million belong to arable land and 61 million to pastures. Potentially China's investment project in *Kazakhstan* is cooperation in the field of raw materials for nuclear power plants. The Republic of Kazakhstan occupies the second place in the world on explored uranium reserves. Due to intensive development of nuclear power, China will become the largest consumer of Kazakhstani uranium.

Traditionally, the concentration of Chinese investments in the energy sector of Central Asia is high. China plans to promote vertical integration projects in the oil and gas sector, to increase cooperation in the field of renewable energy sources, as well as actively participate in strategic sectors of Central Asian countries.

Regarding Kyrgyzstan, it should be noted that the country needs structural economic restructuring, changing the format of regional integration provided security is provided [7]. Kyrgyzstan is a member of the CSTO, the SCO, EurAsEC. Russia is interested in the development of the energy base in the republic: the construction of new hydropower stations and reservoirs.

The development of transport communications has a double meaning for Central Asia with its vast but sparsely populated territories [8]. In CA countries, the goods are mainly transported by rail. At present, Kazakhstan uses only 6% of its transit possibilities. All 5 countries in the region have a weak index of logistics efficiency.

Creation of a wide network of innovative multimodal hubs covering overland trade routes (by road and rail to air and wholesale fiber) will exit the Central Asian region to ports and will cause the reverse bind to the national economy. This led to the development of pipelines (gas pipelines from Turkmenistan and oil from Kazakhstan to China and so on. D.), Power lines, structural, technological, regional and inter-regional infrastructure-logistics projects, innovation and digital circuits of management, etc. Ie, to increase the competitiveness of our country, it is necessary to implement the following components of the industry 4.0:

- modernization of the national economy;
- Innovative policy and innovative management;
- political and institutional modernization;
- digital technologies;
- modernization of public consciousness.

The process of modernization of the economy determines the modernization of the national socio-political consciousness, the formation of an integration platform that connects the horizons of the past,

present and future well-being and ensuring the security of Kazakhstan and the countries of Central Asia. It is all the things without which is difficult to talk about the implementation of government programs: Third Modernization of Kazakhstan - A new model of economic growth, the National Program "Rouhani zhanǵyru" Program "Digital Kazakhstan" and, as a result, digitization and computerization of the economy of the whole country. According to experts, the average annual rate of digitization in Kazakhstan is 23%. According to the "Third modernization of Kazakhstan: global competitiveness" on 01/31/17, the "... according to forecasts of the leading world experts in 2020 25% of the world economy will be digital, and implementation of technology of digitization of the economy, allowing the state, business and society to interact effectively, becoming more large-scale and dynamic process. According to the level of digital activity, the RK refers to the "catching up" countries, in the BCG E-intensity rating in 2016, it took 51 positions out of 73 ... ". As it follows from this, Kazakhstan may lag behind. Indicators of readiness of domestic entities to implement elements of Industry 4.0 for the present period are presented in table 1.

Table 1 – Readiness of the RK subjects for the implementation of the Industry 4.0

The subjects of the real sector of the economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Industry 2.0	Industry 3.0	Industry 4.0
Manufacturing enterprises	80%	3%	no data
Enterprises of the mining industry	60%	21%	no data
Source: data of the RK MID.			

Table 2 shows the main macroeconomic data of 5 countries. There is a stable increase in population, especially in Tajikistan. The pace of economic growth in countries is significantly different.

Table 2 – Main macroeconomic indicators for the region of Central Asia [9]

	Population, mln.	GDP, bln. \$	Per capita income (\$ PPP)	Demographic growth (2000-2015)	Economic growth (2013-2016)	Orientation type *
<b>KAZ</b>	17,7	173	24260	+19 %	+20 %	Exporter of energy resources
<b>KYR</b>	6	6,5	3300	+21 %	+21 %	Exporter of labor force
<b>TJK</b>	8,5	7,8	3320	+ 36%	+25 %	Exporter of labor force
<b>TURKM</b>	5,4	36	15760	+ 20%	+33 %	Exporter of energy resources
<b>UZB</b>	31	66	6110	+ 20%	+30 %	Hybrid
Source: World Bank Database 2016, IMF World Economic Outlook Database, 2017.						

In addition to Kyrgyzstan, there are general low regional export figures for manufacturing products. For Kazakhstan, the collapse in oil prices by 10% had a negative effect in the amount (2.2% of GDP), all other things being equal. I.e. the change in the rent of minerals is manifested (for Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan - oil, gas, Kyrgyzstan - gold, zinc, Tajikistan - lead).

The main goal of economic integration is to simplify and intensify exchanges, to stimulate the creation and effectiveness of new areas of activity and to promote economic growth.

China is currently one of the most progressive states in the world. According to the World Bank, China is the 4th world economic development center along with the US, Japan and Germany. To double its GDP, the United States took 47 years, Japan - 33 years, South. Korea - 10 years.

The countries of Central Asia and Kazakhstan continue to maintain traditional ties with Russia. China is gradually building its position in Central Asia. Within the framework of the general course on creating a security belt, China in recent years has formed the basis for constructive relations with virtually all Central Asian states [10].

Proceeding from the foregoing, it seems relevant to develop an additional tool for a global dialogue based on the info-communicative platform for the participating countries. This is not an alternative, but an instrument for organizing effective dialogue and interaction in the region, which is necessary for information, stable communication, exchange of views and, ultimately, fruitful cooperation.

Today, there is a new geopolitical situation in the Central Asian region. In this context, the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, aimed at multilateralism and -vectorism, can become one of the key mechanisms for solving many problems, primarily in the field of international and regional security. This provides for an assessment of the possibilities for developing a multi-vector and safe policy of Kazakhstan in relation to the countries of Central Asia, studying issues and relationships between Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries in the historical, economic, political, cultural and civilizational aspects in order to understand the potential of cooperation and overcome existing problems in their traditional relations and develop methodological approaches to ensuring multi-vector and security in the conduct of foreign policy of Kazakhstan and the countries of Central Asia.

In the face of the global challenges of our time, it is necessary to rethink the established stereotypes in the sphere of foreign policy interests and create integration associations and unions. It is about resetting the programs of regional interethnic cooperation and interaction to implement the principles of multi-vector and security of foreign policy of the participating countries: the ROK and the countries of Central Asia. This determines the study of systemic links, ensuring effective political, economic and national security of partner countries, determining the configuration of their multi-vector policy, identifying risks associated with changes in the geopolitical situation at the global and regional levels.

The ideas of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev made it possible to organically form a proposal on the establishment of a regional structure on security and confidence-building measures in Asia and to build a CICA mechanism, which today unites 26 states of the region. In this regard, priority is given to increasing mutual trust between countries, it is trust measures that are the main framework of the regional security architecture in the region and occupy a special place in the creation of a new model of cooperation in Central Asia, the study of regularities at the regional and country levels.

The interdisciplinary and multi-vector format of the relations between the ROK and the CA countries will expand the possibilities for securing strategic decisions in the context of activation, integration and the formation of an open foreign policy of countries while minimizing risks in international cooperation. In this regard, it is necessary to create an intercountry dialogue platform on the formation of a multi-vector and secure foreign policy for solving current and strategic tasks of a regional scale. Ultimately, it is expected to create economic regulators, important and necessary to solve current and long-term problems of cooperation and cooperation between Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries.

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Г. М. Дүйсен, Д. А. Айтжанова

РГКП «Институт востоковедения им. Р. Б. Сулейменова» КН МОН РК, Казахстан

### ФОРМИРОВАНИЕ ЕДИНОГО ПРОСТРАНСТВА КАЗАХСТАНА И ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ: ПРОБЛЕМЫ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ

**Аннотация.** Авторами отмечено, что Казахстан в своей внешней политике провозгласил принципы многовекторности, что означает открытость к сотрудничеству в самых различных сферах, исходя из интересов безопасности и развития государства. В работе выделены основные задачи и направления определяющие содержание и структуру исследования. Выявлено, что РК и страны ЦА занимают важное место в глобальном геополитическом развитии как в силу значимости региона, так и наличия природных и др. видов ресурсов. К основным выводам работы относится необходимость создания диалоговой платформы между странами-участницами как одной из эффективных и успешных форм регионального сотрудничества и взаимодействия. Статья адресована научным работникам, государственным органам для оценки уровня внешней политики страны и ее безопасности.

**Ключевые слова:** внешняя политика, многовекторность, безопасность, Центральная Азия, диалоговая площадка, регионы, глобализация, сотрудничество, взаимодействие.

Г. М. Дүйсен, Д. Ә. Айтжанова

ҚР БҒМ ҒК «Р. Б. Сүлейменов атындағы Шығыстану институты», Қазақстан

### ҚАЗАҚСТАН ЖӘНЕ ОРТАЛЫҚ АЗИЯНЫҢ БІРЫҢҒАЙ КЕҢІСТІГІН ҚҰРУ: МӘСЕЛЕЛЕРІ МЕН БОЛАШАҒЫ

**Аннотация.** Авторлар Қазақстанның сыртқы саясатында көпвекторлық қағидаларын жариялап, ашық, әр түрлі салаларда ынтымақтастыққа дайын, қауіпсіздік мүдделері мен мемлекеттік дамуды ұстанатын ел ретінде көрсетіп отыр. Жұмыста зерттеудің негізгі міндеттері мен бағыттары нақтыланған. Қазақстан және Орталық Азия елдері жаһандық геосаяси дамуда маңызды орын алатын, аймақтың ерекшелігі мен табиғи ресурстардың молшылығы бар аумақ ретінде айқындалды. Мақаланың негізгі қорытындыларына қатысушы елдер арасында сұхбат алаңын қалыптастыру қажеттілігі болып отыр. Ол аймақтық ынтымақтастық пен өз ара әрекеттестігінің тиімді және табысты формасы болып табылады. Мақала елдің сыртқы саясаты және қауіпсіздігінің деңгейін бағалау үшін ғылыми қызметкерлерге, мемлекеттік органдарға арналады.

**Түйін сөздер:** сыртқы саясат, көпвекторлық, қауіпсіздік, Орталық Азия, сұхбат алаңы, аймақтар, жаһандану, ынтымақтастық, өз ара әрекеттестік.

#### Information about authors:

Duisen G. – Doctor of Economics, Institute of Oriental Studies named after R. B. Suleymenov, Almaty, Kazakhstan; galyimzhan@inbox.ru; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4352-0482>

Aitzhanova D. – PhD., Institute of Oriental Studies named after R. B. Suleymenov, Almaty, Kazakhstan; diait@inbox.ru; <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5373-1075>

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**ISSN 2518-1467 (Online), ISSN 1991-3494 (Print)**

<http://www.bulletin-science.kz/index.php/ru/>

Редакторы *М. С. Ахметова, Т. М. Апендиев, Д. С. Аленов*  
Верстка на компьютере *Д. Н. Калкабековой*

Подписано в печать 29.11.2018.  
Формат 60x881/8. Бумага офсетная. Печать – ризограф.  
16,5 п.л. Тираж 500. Заказ 6.