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# CENTRAL ASIA AND TURKEY IN THE PERIOD OF GLOBALIZATION AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

#### Abstract

In today's new system of international relations, Central Asia, due to its geopolitical and geoeconomic features, is a region of strategic importance that has attracted the attention of the world's major powers. This is primarily due to the region's geopolitical and geoeconomic features, influenced by geographical, economic, national, historical, and cultural factors. Therefore, the region is of great strategic importance.

Secondly, Central Asia is a landlocked region that has no direct access to the seaë. It can only access the world's sea routes through neighbouring countries. Therefore, it is clear, without further ado, how important it is for the Central Asian states to establish ties with neighbouring countries.

Thirdly, the Central Asian region is a region rich in natural resources. Among the natural resources, there are oil, gas, non-ferrous metals, and other mineral resources. The countries of Central Asia have a relatively favourable situation in terms of crop development, including cotton, grains, vegetables, and other economic crops. Therefore, agriculture has a huge economic potential.

Fourth, the Central Asian region has its own unique national, religious, and cultural characteristics, with strong traditional ties to Turkic and Islamic cultures, as well as the combined influence of Western and Eastern civilisations.

The aim of the article is to reveal Turkey's close integration into Central Asia, development of economic relations and strengthening of political influence in the region. The relevance of the scientific article is primarily directly related to the current geopolitical situation in Turkey and the Central Asian region. From a geopolitical point of view, the current development of the Turkish state, its relations with the main geopolitical powers of the world are a strategically important issue, and its policy towards Central Asia is also of great relevance.

Key words: Central Asia, geopolitics, Türkiye, Russia, interests, diplomacy.

#### Introduction

Among the states that show pragmatic interest in Central Asia, Turkey is the state that is in a position to adapt its foreign and domestic policies to the new challenges of the changing world of the new century. In this regard, Turkey announced its new foreign policy and political concept regarding Central Asia. According to this concept, Ankara directly links its foreign policy strategy to the developments in the region. In our opinion, the emergence of Turkey's "Eurasian thrust" is directly related, first of all, to Turkey's new geopolitics.

Turkey, as a result of the open-door and reform policies it pursued after World War II, was able to raise its economy to the level of developed countries. Today, Turkey is a country that can influence world politics. Therefore, the importance of establishing and developing political and economic relations with Turkey for the countries of Central Asia is increasing.

Another need for a scientific assessment of the topic under consideration is the growth of Turkey's political and economic interests in Central Asia. And for the Central Asian states, studying Turkey's experience is also of practical importance. One of the main goals of Turkey's integration into Central Asia is to develop economic relations and strengthen its political influence in the region. After all, it is beyond the power of one state, even regional integration organisations, to overcome the current financial crisis. Over the 25 years since the declaration of their independence, the Central Asian states have been a leading partner in the development of political, economic and cultural ties with Turkey. Among them, the energy, construction, trade and processing sectors are particularly noteworthy. In addition, Central Asia is one of the markets for Turkish goods.

The main goal of the article is to conduct a systematic and comprehensive study of political and economic relations related to Turkey in the geopolitics of Central Asia.

The object of study of the article is the place of Turkey in the geopolitics of Central Asia.

During the work, a historical analysis was conducted of the political processes between Turkey and Central Asia and the features of decision-making in foreign policy, the formation of the foundations of democracy in regional politics, and the evolution of Turkey's foreign policy. From the perspective of a comprehensive analysis, the evolution of the transformation of Turkey's foreign policy in Central Asia, as well as Turkey's new role in the region, was considered.

The chronological framework of the problem considered in the article covers the period from the end of the 21st century to the beginning of the 22nd century. This period is characterized by the changing role of Turkey in international relations and the changing geopolitical configuration of Central Asia.

# Materials and methods of research

There are many Kazakh and foreign studies on geopolitical relations between Central Asia and Turkey. It is known that this issue is a subject of close attention of political scientists, historians and sociologists. It is caused by the new power of the Central Asian region and the interest of world scholars in the Turkic state. Among the works published so far, the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and the Central Asian states and the Central Asian geopolitics began to take place in the 90s of the XX century. Today, international relations between Turkey and the Central Asian states have become an instrument of wide political interest. Among them, Turkey's foreign policy strategy and the policy it pursues in Central Asia have become the basis for the works of many domestic and Russian researchers.

Works related to the foreign policy and economic relations of the Central Asian Republic of Turkey can be conditionally divided into several groups. Among them, it is worth highlighting the works of domestic Turkologists, Kazakhstani scientists, and Turkic scholars.

Turkish historiography. As for Turkish historiography, two perspectives are characteristic for researchers in historiography related to Turkey. The first is the Kemalist perspective, the second is the Islamist perspective. These issues are analysed in the works of Turkish scholars Y. Çelik [1] and N. Yavuz [2].

Among the Turkish researchers who have researched the topic, there are Yavuz, See also Ozen C [3], Vardan Ö. Ş [4], Chislett W. [5], etc.

Turkish researchers have provided general and individual descriptions of all areas of cooperation and relations between the Central Asian Republics and Turkey in the new period. Some works are devoted to relations during the USSR.

During the scientific work, interviews and opinions of the Presidents of the Republic of Turkey, who have led the country at different times, T. Ozal, S. Demirel, and the current President E.T. Erdogan were also widely used. Similarly, the political activities of the heads of state of the Central Asian states with Turkey, such as N.A. Nazarbayev, I.G. Karimov, and I. Rahmonov were also analyzed. It is known that they were at the forefront of establishing diplomatic relations and political and economic ties between Turkey and the Central Asian states.

Domestic historiography. Turkey's foreign policy strategy and positions concerning the Central Asian states have also been extensively studied by Russian scholars. Among the Russian researchers, Kunakov V.V. [6], Ulchenko N.I. [7], Savelyeva A.V. [8], Guryev A.A. [9], Gadzhiev A [10], etc. can be noted.

In addition, the author in his work analysed the views and policies of Russian statesmen and heads of state regarding Central Asia and Turkey. This helped to deeply reveal the content of the topic. As we know, relations between Russia and Turkey have undergone a major transformation since 1990. Bilateral relations are characterised by the dynamics of confrontation,

sanctions and the re-establishment of friendly relations.

Kazakhstani historiography. Various directions of Turkey's Central Asian policy are the main focus of Kazakhstani scholars. First of all, among the works on Kazakhstan and Turkey and Turkey's Central Asian foreign policy, it is worth mentioning the works of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, N.A. Nazarbayev and K.K. Tokayev. The works of the Kazakh heads of state cover Kazakh-Turkish relations, common interests, foreign policy doctrine, Central Asian integration and Turkey's place and role in it, cooperation between Turkic-speaking countries, bilateral and multilateral relations, cooperation in international relations and various problems of world politics.

In addition, Kazakhstani scientists analyze bilateral relations and economic ties between Turkey and the Central Asian states. Among domestic scientists, the well-known political scientist M.T. Laumulin analysed the geopolitics of Central Asia and its historiography in several of his works. His works analysed the opinions and conclusions of Western scientists regarding Central Asia. M.T. Laumulin expressed his opinion on the opinions of such well-known scientists as Western researchers G. Fuller, M. Olcott [11]. Among Kazakhstani authors, it is also worth noting the works of B. Fayzullah [12], M. Kelimbetov [13], M.B. Mukhamedov [14], and Ibragim D [15].

It is known that the problems of cooperation and relations between the Central Asian states and Turkey have also become the object of research of various Scientific Research Centers. For example, the analyses of this issue by the Centre for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the joint scientific research centers between Turkey and Russia have also contributed significantly. These analyses assess the achievements achieved in bilateral relations and the results of economic reforms, as well as the common aspects between the Central Asian states and Turkey.

In addition, the research also analysed the political strategic concepts adopted at different times in connection with Turkey's development, which helped to improve the methodological foundations of the work.

It is worth noting the works of Western political scientists and statesmen related to the Central Asian region. At all times, there are works of statesmen who have a place in world politics, such as Z. Brzezinski, G. Kissinger, etc., related to Central Asian geopolitics and the Turkish factor there.

The theoretical and methodological basis of the article is the scientific conclusions of domestic and foreign scientists. The research work used methods of collecting, analyzing and evaluating historical events and various interstate documents. In addition, widely used historicalcomparative and systematisation methods were also used in the research work. These methods allow us to systematically determine the role and place of Turkey in the geopolitics of Central Asia.

In the theory of international relations, in order to systematise research work on a scientific basis and present its results, thereby achieving the main goals in the form of narration, analysis and prediction, scientists have studied various methods. Western researchers have made their contribution to decision-making and its implementation in foreign policy. They have proposed power elite, pluralistic, organisational-structural, rational, bureaucratic-political models of research, and have developed many methodologies for the study and analysis of foreign policy and international relations.

The scientific article uses game theory as a method for assessing political phenomena. 40 years ago, mathematician John von Neumann and economist Oscar Morgenstern tried to find effective ways to solve economic problems, and in doing so, they developed the classical game theory, which is presented in their joint work "Game Theory and the Order of the Economy". It is based on the theory of possibilities, which allows for the analysis and prediction of the types of subjects operating on the principles of rationalism. Gradually, game theory has become a tool

for other fields of science. In the field of international relations, it is considered in terms of structure and process, and is a comparative method for studying political phenomena such as interstate negotiations.

The author, analysing the sources, historiography and theoretical and methodological basis of the research work, concludes that the theoretical, conceptual and methodological foundations of the research problem on the strategic vector of Turkey's Central Asian foreign policy are based on a complex historical-comparative and strategic partnership. Turkey's cooperation with the Central Asian states is determined by the current geopolitical situation in the region.

## Results and its discussion

1. Globalization and regional integration In determining the geopolitical, geoeconomic and geostrategic position of Turkey in the new geopolitics of Central Asia, it is first necessary to focus on the theoretical and methodological foundations of the general globalisation process and regional development issues.

In today's science, many researchers understand globalisation as a part of modernisation. The revival of this process is associated with the spread of Western influence and its culture throughout the world. New industrial information technologies have become a new basis for the unequal fragmentation of the world, the connections between different regions.

In the current era of globalisation, the gap between rich and poor countries is growing. Since globalization is a reference indicator for many countries today, in many cases it has become a special system of value orientation. The basis of this system is predominantly the axiological systems of Western countries. For example, in the political system - democracy, civil society, horizontal communication, market systems of production, private property institutions, competition, labor and income, the essence of the cultural system, individualism, and pragmatism. Therefore, today's problem is not just the creation of another system of international relations, but the formation of a common, new world order.

A new trend in the system of international relations that arose as a result of the integration process in Central Asia, the internationalisation of social life and the need to strengthen the national and state security of the integrating states. The relevance of this topic can also be noted in ensuring or creating conditions for the development of stability and security in each state participating in the integration process in Central Asia.

The peculiarity of the Central Asian integration process lies in the similarity of the history, culture, socio-political, and economic foundations of Russia and the newly independent state. The complexity of the ethno-territorial system in this region may become a hotbed of some international or regional conflicts, and the depth of the integration process, along with other necessary methods, may play a decisive role in resolving these issues.

One of the specific features of the integration process in Central Asia is the lack of access to sea-transport communication routes for all states in the region. The presence of some powers in these regions creates the possibility of imbalance, which in turn can hurt national security, and integration processes in all cases require a response to the above and the interdependence, that is, correlation, of the geostrategic interests of the participating groups.

Russian President V.V. Putin has shown that integration cooperation for the CIS countries is not only an economic necessity, but also a stimulus for improvement, stability, and, if necessary, a stimulus for the future.

2. Turkey's geopolitical interests in Central Asia

A well-known principle in international relations is that the balance of power changes over time, with global changes, the weakening of superpowers and the strengthening of middle-class states, puts the issue of regional competition on the agenda.

The collapse of the USSR and the declaration of independence by the Central Asian states are of great historical significance. First, the Central Asian states were able to conduct their own independent domestic and foreign policies. They were able to develop independently and decide the fate of their people. However, the issue of gaining independence, as well as maintaining and strengthening it, is much more complex.

Today, Turkey is a country that is developing at a new pace, where new technologies prevail, and trade and agriculture are being developed. At the same time, the tourism industry and transport communications are quite developed. The service sector in Turkey accounts for 52 percent of the gross domestic product.

Although private ownership is established in the country, the state plays a leading role in state-owned enterprises, the banking system, transport, and communications.

In the world ranking, Turkey is among the moderately developed countries and its GDP is 27th. According to the latest data, 34 per cent of the employed are in agriculture, 19 per cent in industry, and 47 per cent in the service sector. In the sectoral structure of GDP, the service sector forms 66 per cent. Industry accounts for 21 per cent, and agriculture 13 percent.

Turkey is a country that regularly receives funds from the International Monetary Fund. The main directions of Turkey's stabilisation program are to reduce state spending by providing a very flexible and easy control structure for public finances. As a result of the financial stabilization policy, the Turkish lira is considered a weighted currency.

Turkey is one of the countries that is very concerned about its industrial development. Among them, the processing industry takes the leading place. Its share is 80 percent. The share of the manufacturing industry is 5 percent. The rest goes to energy, gas and water supply. Since Turkey is a country with a shortage of energy resources and scarce resources, its cooperation with the Central Asian states in this direction takes a leading place in foreign policy.

In general, as we noted above, the priorities of Turkey's foreign policy are the United States, the European Union, and the Middle East.

If we look closely at Turkey's general foreign policy, its main directions are determined by the traditional partnership with the United States and its desire to become a member of the European Union. Of course, at the same time, Turkey, in an attempt to balance its regional foreign policy, is trying to strengthen ties with the countries of Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Russian Federation, Israel, and Muslim countries. There is also a doubt whether Turkey is trying to expand the national interests of a country like the United States in its policy towards the countries of Central Asia.

It seems that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of which it is a member, is interested in strengthening its position in the region, and its intention to take control of the supply of energy sources to the world market. In general, no state can avoid such an opportunity. However, it can be said that Turkey's foreign policy towards the Central Asian countries is being built on the interests of the parties in the economic and foreign economic partnership.

The independence of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan forced Turkey to introduce new dimensions into its foreign policy.

The combination of historical and cultural identity and a common language has undoubtedly had a significant impact on the rapid development of bilateral relations and cooperation in many areas.

Turkey's main policy towards the Central Asian countries has been to support the new development and democratic development of the countries in the region, which have now gained their political and economic independence. The first bilateral official visits in the new political context have also identified priority areas.

Between 1991 and 2005, Turkey provided loans to countries in the region totaling \$1,275 billion, of which more than \$700 million was disbursed. These loans were intended to transform the region into an attractive investment space for Turkish businesspeople. Turkey's trade turnover with the countries in the region reached \$1.9 billion in 2005, while Turkish companies' total capital investment exceeded \$4.5 billion. At the same time, the total value of projects implemented by Turkish contractors in the region is \$12 billion.

At the same time, Turkey is a country that provides a guarantee of economic stability in the Central Asian states. In this regard, since the 1990s, Turkey, having begun to implement its new direction towards the Central Asian region within the Eurasian space, has put forward the following priorities to develop its relations with the Republics of the region: economic cooperation and cooperation in the development of natural resources; political dialogue aimed at deepening mutual trust and understanding with the Turkic world as a whole; democratization and stability of society in each Republic individually, and monitoring the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons within the framework of NATO.

Turkey in its foreign policy identifies the following features in modern international relations: *First*, the strengthening of close relations within the world community and economic globalisation. *Second*, due to the international situation, Turkey aims to provide technical and financial assistance to the countries of Central Asia on the path to a market economy and democracy. *Third*, it is directly related to "global issues", since all global issues are united by one feature; *Fourth*, the issue of the national factor in the modern world community, that is, the awakening of consciousness about its own identity as a particular nation.

Taking these characteristics as a basis, Turkey currently takes into account the peaceful life of its citizens and the prosperity of its country when conducting its foreign policy. Turkish Presidents S. Demirel, T. Ozal and the current President T.E. Erdogan have made a great contribution to following this direction.

### Conclusion

Summing up the issue of Turkey's role in the geopolitics of Central Asia, it is not difficult to see that the role of the Turkish state in Central Asia is increasing year by year. The Central Asian states have passed the first and most important stage of developing international relations with such a large and experienced state as Turkey: very important bilateral and multilateral agreements and treaties have been signed, and a contractual and legal basis for the development of political, economic, military-technical and cultural ties has been laid.

Therefore, the future of cooperation between Central Asia and Turkey depends on many factors. The complex measures for implementing projects that determine the basis for the development of Central Asia create the need to unite all efforts and increase the effectiveness of the contractual and legal framework.

In general, Central Asia today is a large regional association with common political and economic interests, including Turkey, the United States, Russia, the FTA, and China. Turkey's political and economic influence in Central Asia is overwhelming. After all, Turkey is a major trading partner of the Central Asian states. Not to mention the large-scale projects of mutual strategic importance, the growing demand for the Turkish market and tourism in this region also form the basis of positive attitudes towards them. However, the presence of factors that hinder the development of mutual trade and economic cooperation (Turkish Islamism, separatism and international terrorism, etc.) does not allow the full use of all economic potential.

Nevertheless, it can be said that the development of trade and economic cooperation between the Central Asian states and Turkey has great prospects, since it is directly related not only to the many existing priorities for the development of cooperation in this area, but also to the common historical opportunity for the development of cooperation facing the parties and the strict requirements of today.

Therefore, Turkey's foreign policy regarding Central Asian geopolitics can be grouped into the following areas:

- 1. Turkey and the AU states will respect and consider the choices they make in accordance with their national interests:
- 2. Maintaining peace and stability is not only in the interests of the countries of the region, but also contributes to the peaceful development of the international situation;
  - 3. Regional stability and security can only be ensured through joint efforts of these Central

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Asian states and Turkey through mutual support and cooperation.

4. Turkey is ready to further strengthen cooperation with the countries of Central Asia on a bilateral basis and within the framework of international organisations/SCO/to contribute to the security, stability and development of the region;

Today, relations between Turkey and the Central Asian states have reached a new level.

The growing ties between Turkey and the Central Asian states are not going unnoticed by countries such as Russia and the United States . in the region with countries Soviet historical fate forward attractive Russia also , society development Western sample his/her economic, military participation through transatlantic cooperation from it further development coming to the USA Turkey's Center Asia with countries to relations big with confidence , second from the side big suspiciously looks .

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# ЖАҺАНДАНУ ЖӘНЕ АЙМАҚТЫҚ ИНТЕГРАЦИЯЛАНУ КЕЗЕҢІНДЕГІ ОРТАЛЫҚ АЗИЯ МЕН ТҮРКИЯ

#### Андатпа

Бүгінгі жаңа халықаралық қатынастар жүйесінде Орталық Азия өзінің геосаяси және геоэкономикалық ерекшеліктеріне қарай әлемнің алпауыт мемлекеттерінің назарын аударған стратегиялық маңызы бар аймақ болып отыр. Бұл ең алдымен аймақтың географиялық, экономикалық, ұлттық, тарихи, мәдени факторлар қызметіне қарай геосаяси және геоэкономикалық жағынан өзіндік ерекшеліктеріне байланысты болып отыр. Сондықтанда аймақтың стратегиялық маңызы зор.

Екіншіден, Орталық Азия теңізге тікелей шыға алмайтын құрлық ортасындағы аймақ. Әлемнің теңіз жолдарына тек көрші мемлекеттер арқылы шыға алады. Сондықтанда Орталық Азия мемлекеттері үшін, көрші елдермен байланыс орнатудың мәні қаншалықты екендігі айтпасада түсінікті.

Үшіншіден Орталық Азия аймағы табиғи ресурстарға өте бай аймақ болып отыр. Табиғи

ресурстардың ішінде, мұнай, газ, түсті металдар, және басқада пайдалы қазбалар көздері бар. Орталық Азия елдерінде ауыл шаруашылық дақылдарға мақта, астық, көкөніс және т.б. экономикалық дақылдарды дамытудағы жағдайы айтарлықтай жақсы. Сондықтанда ауыл шаруашылығы зор экономикалық әлеуетке ие.

Төртіншіден, ұлттық, діни, мәдени жағынан алғанда Орталық Азия аймағы өзіне тән ерекшеліктерге ие, түркі және ислам мәдениеттерімен дәстүрлі байланысы зор, оған қоса батыс пен шығыс өркениеттерінің қосылған ықпалы да бар.

Мақаланың мақсаты Түркияның Орталық Азияға тығыз ықпалдасуын ашу, экономикалық қатынастарды дамыту және өңірдегі саяси ықпалды күшейту болып табылады. Ғылыми мақаланың өзектілігі ең алдымен Түркия мен Орталық Азия аймағының қазіргі геосаяси жағдайымен тікелей байланысты. Геосаясат тұрғысынан алғанда - Түркия мемлекетінің қазіргі дамуы, әлемнің негізгі геосаяси күштерімен қарым-қатынасы стратегиялық маңызды мәселе және оның Орталық Азия байланысты ұстанып отырған саясаты да үлкен өзектілікке ие.

Негізгі сөздер: Орталық Азия, геосаясат, Түркия, Ресей, мүдделер, дипломатия

# ЦЕНТРАЛЬНАЯ АЗИЯ И ТУРЦИЯ В ПЕРИОД ГЛОБАЛИЗАЦИИ И РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЙ ИНТЕГРАЦИИ

#### Аннотация

В сегодняшней новой системе международных отношений Центральная Азия по своим геополитическим и геоэкономическим особенностям является стратегически важным регионом, привлекшим внимание сверхдержав мира. В первую очередь это связано с геополитическими и геоэкономическими особенностями региона в зависимости от деятельности географических, экономических, национальных, исторических, культурных факторов. Поэтому регион имеет большое стратегическое значение.

Во-вторых, Центральная Азия - это регион в наземной среде, который не имеет прямого выхода к морю. Выйти на морские пути мира можно только через соседние государства. Поэтому для центральноазиатских государств, не говоря уже о том, насколько важен контакт с соседними странами.

В-третьих, Центрально-Азиатский регион очень богат природными ресурсами. Среди природных ресурсов, нефть, газ, цветные металлы, и другие источники полезных ископаемых. В странах Центральной Азии сельскохозяйственные культуры имеют значительно лучшие условия для развития хлопковых, зерновых, овощных и др. экономических культур. Поэтому сельское хозяйство имеет огромную экономическую династию.

В-четвертых, с национальной, религиозной, культурной точки зрения Центрально-Азиатский регион имеет свои особенности, имеет традиционные связи с тюркской и Исламской культурами, а также имеет присоединенное влияние западной и восточной цивилизаций.

Цель статьи является раскрытие тесной интеграции Турции в Центральную Азию, развитие экономических отношений и усиление политического влияния в регионе.

Актуальность научной статьи напрямую связана, прежде всего, с современной геополитической ситуацией в Турции и Центрально-Азиатском регионе. С точки зрения геополитики - современное развитие турецкого государства, его отношения с основными геополитическими силами мира являются стратегически важным вопросом, и его политика, которую поддерживает Центральная Азия, также имеет большое значение.

Ключевые слова: Центральная Азия, геополитика, Турция, Россия, интересы, дипломатия.

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