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population growth, and economic development, the equitable distribution and sustainable utilization of shared water resources emerge as paramount concerns.

While efforts have been made to establish cooperative frameworks and agreements, operational challenges persist, particularly concerning the extraction of water from critical rivers such as the Irtysh and Ili. The potential consequences of unilateral actions, as demonstrated by China's plans for the Black Irtysh-Karamay Canal, underscore the urgency of effective collaboration in managing these waterways.

The negotiation process between Kazakhstan and China has yielded significant milestones, from the establishment of joint working groups to the signing of agreements on water allocation and protection. However, further improvements in the legal framework and institutional mechanisms are necessary to address evolving challenges and ensure the sustainable management of transboundary rivers.

Moving forward, both nations must deepen their cooperation through bilateral agreements focused on specific watercourses, drawing on past experiences and lessons learned. Priority should be given to initiatives aimed at conserving water resources, enhancing monitoring and information exchange, and promoting sustainable development within shared river basins.

By forging collaborative mechanisms and committing to dialogue, transparency, and mutual understanding, Kazakhstan and China can overcome the complexities of transboundary river management. Only through concerted efforts can they secure the future of their nations and ecosystems while fostering peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

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**KAZAKHSTAN-EAEU: INTEGRATION OR DISINTEGRATION?**

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The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) represents a pivotal entity, fashioned under international law through the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union, aimed at fostering regional economic amalgamation. Endowed with international legal status, the EAEU champions the seamless flow of goods, services, capital, and labor. It orchestrates a harmonized approach towards cultivating a unified economic policy across various sectors.

The inception of the EAEU was driven by a desire to achieve several critical objectives:

- To instigate a comprehensive modernization and cooperation among member states, thereby elevating their collective economic prowess.
- To establish an environment conducive to the sustainable growth of member economies, ultimately enriching the quality of life for their citizens.

Within the framework of the EAEU, several key mechanisms facilitate its objectives:

- An operational internal market for goods exists.
- The EAEU enforces the Unified Customs Tariff and additional harmonized measures governing foreign trade in goods, extending these regulations to third countries.
- A unified trade regime for goods in relation to third countries is maintained.
- Uniform customs procedures are executed.
- Goods traverse the member states' territories unfettered by customs declarations or governmental inspections (encompassing transportation, health, veterinary, and phytosanitary controls).

When dealing with non-member countries, the EAEU applies a consistent set of non-tariff regulatory measures. These include:

- Bans on the importation and/or exportation of certain goods.
- Quantitative limits on the import and export volumes.
- Exclusive rights granted for the import and/or export of specific commodities.
- Automated export and import licensing or oversight mechanisms.
- Permitting processes governing the trade of goods.

N. A. Nazarbayev first proposed the concept of the Eurasian Union during a lecture at Moscow State University on March 29, 1994. The 2007-2009 global financial crisis deeply affected all Eurasian economies, with the adverse effects manifesting through several avenues, including export price fluctuations and remittances from labor migrants, among others.

2009 saw the most dramatic plunge in GDP, accompanied by the devaluation of national currencies and substantial government efforts to mitigate the crisis's impact, which only marginally eased its effects. Traditional economic theories often suggest that crises lead to a retreat in integration efforts, with countries focusing inwardly and heightening customs protection for their markets. Yet, in the post-Soviet "integration core," the crisis instead prompted a quest for novel approaches! On December 19, 2009, in Almaty, a landmark Joint Statement was signed by Presidents A. G. Lukashenko, D. A. Medvedev, and N. A. Nazarbayev, leading to the establishment of the Customs Union and the implementation of a unified customs tariff on January 1, 2010. This move signaled a deepening of integration, which was further solidified on May 29, 2014, when the CU and CES leaders, at the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council, signed the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union, elevating the Eurasian economic initiative to a higher level of integration.

The Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union was enacted on January 1, 2015, followed by Armenia joining the integration group on January 2, and Kyrgyzstan signing the accession agreement in May, which became effective in August 2015.

The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) aims to streamline economic cooperation among its members. Here's a simpler look at its objectives and organizational framework:

Objectives of the EAEU:

- Establishing a unified economic area to enable the free flow of goods, services, money, and people.
- Synchronizing economic rules and policies among the member states, including both tariff and non-tariff measures and broader economic strategies.
- Boosting the competitiveness and collaborative efforts of the economic sectors on a global scale.
- Enhancing infrastructure in transportation, energy, and information technology to bolster integration and collaborative efforts.

EAEU's Structure:

- Supreme Eurasian Economic Council: This top-level body includes leaders from each member state, steering the overarching direction.
- Intergovernmental Council: Comprising government representatives, this council handles the executive tasks.
- Eurasian Economic Commission: A regulatory entity tasked with the day-to-day management of the union's integration efforts. It's made up of a Council and a Board that include ministers from all member countries.
- Court of the Eurasian Economic Union: This institution ensures that EAEU laws are followed, resolves disputes, and interprets the union's legal framework.
- Overall, the EAEU's setup is designed to deepen economic ties between the countries involved through the establishment of common markets and coordinated policies.

The EAEU stands as a major geopolitical and economic entity, with a collective GDP surpassing \$1.5 trillion. Its goals include fostering regional economic unity and improving its stance in the global market. However, the benefits seen within the Union are uneven, largely due to the political and economic sway held by some nations, especially Russia.

Russia's predominant economic position within the EAEU is clear, as it contributes a major share of the Union's GDP and trade activities. This superiority prompts concerns regarding the fair distribution of advantages and the possibility of economic pressure. For Kazakhstan, the standard for the distribution of duties is set at 6.955%, for Armenia – 1.220%; Belarus – 4.860%; Kyrgyzstan – 1,900%; Russia – 85.065%.

The original concept behind establishing the EAEU was solid - broadening the market for Kazakhstan's products and eliminating trade hurdles to boost the domestic economy. However, a plethora of non-trade barriers has hollowed out the notion of a unified market, rendering it non-existent. For instance, Kazakh products, particularly those in agriculture, often face discriminatory practices. This situation prompts reconsideration of Kazakhstan's continued participation in the EAEU.

Another reasons why Kazakhstan's involvement in the EAEU might not be advantageous:

- Market Shifts: As a nation exporting primarily raw materials, joining the EAEU has shifted Kazakhstan's economic focus towards Russia and Belarus, who now mainly receive its exports. This shift means Kazakhstan's sales markets have been redistributed.
- Economic Disparities: The economies of Russia and Belarus, known for their production and exportation of various products, benefit from cheaper energy and raw materials. This results in a significant competitive edge for their products compared to those from Kazakhstan.
- Decision-making Restrictions: In the EAEU, trade, economic, and foreign policy decisions are made collectively by the Eurasian Economic Commission's board, requiring unanimous consent. Consequently, Kazakhstan loses its ability to make independent decisions in critical areas such as economy, trade, and foreign policy.

- **Limited Market Scope:** With only five member countries, the EAEU presents a relatively small combined market. This limitation restricts Kazakhstan's export possibilities and increases its reliance on the Russian market.

Regardless of the timing, Kazakhstan's involvement with the EAEU is bound to primarily engage with political issues, pushing economic concerns into the shadows. This is particularly due to fears of Russian aggression in the current political climate. As a result, Kazakhstan's economic growth, especially in the development of goods and services, will likely suffer due to insufficient focus and investment.

Another problem of disintegration would be the problem of replacing Russian imports. In order to replace Russian goods, for example, with Chinese ones, which are the second most imported into Kazakhstan, it will take a lot of time. This could lead to another inflation and higher prices for necessary products.

Here we come to the conclusion that there is no clear answer to the continuation of integration or the beginning of disintegration. But, we can definitely say that with a more equitable distribution of duties, commitment and compliance with all treaties and agreements, as well as with a change in the too dominant role of Russia, the EAEU will become a more profitable union, in particular for Kazakhstan, and will also have development prospects and will be attractive for cooperation for other countries.

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## ПОДСЕКЦИЯ 5.3 ИСТОРИЯ И КУЛЬТУРЫ СТРАН ВОСТОКА: МЕЖЦИВИЛИЗАЦИОННЫЕ КОНТАКТЫ

ӘОЖ 556

### САУД АРАБИЯСЫ ЖӘНЕ СУ ПРОБЛЕМАЛАРЫ

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