



ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫ
ТҰҢҒЫШ ПРЕЗИДЕНТІ - ЕЛБАСЫНЫҢ ҚОРЫ

«ҒЫЛЫМ ЖӘНЕ БІЛІМ – 2017»

студенттер мен жас ғалымдардың
XII Халықаралық ғылыми конференциясының
БАЯНДАМАЛАР ЖИНАҒЫ

СБОРНИК МАТЕРИАЛОВ
XII Международной научной конференции
студентов и молодых ученых
«НАУКА И ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ – 2017»

PROCEEDINGS
of the XII International Scientific Conference
for students and young scholars
«SCIENCE AND EDUCATION - 2017»



14th April 2017, Astana



**ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫ БІЛІМ ЖӘНЕ ҒЫЛЫМ МИНИСТРЛІГІ
Л.Н. ГУМИЛЕВ АТЫНДАҒЫ ЕУРАЗИЯ ҰЛТТЫҚ УНИВЕРСИТЕТІ**

**«Ғылым және білім - 2017»
студенттер мен жас ғалымдардың
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2017 жыл 14 сәуір

Астана

УДК 378

ББК 74.58

Ғ 96

Ғ 96

«Ғылым және білім – 2017» студенттер мен жас ғалымдардың XII Халықаралық ғылыми конференциясы = The XII International Scientific Conference for students and young scholars «Science and education - 2017» = XII Международная научная конференция студентов и молодых ученых «Наука и образование - 2017». – Астана: <http://www.enu.kz/ru/nauka/nauka-i-obrazovanie/>, 2017. – 7466 стр. (қазақша, орысша, ағылшынша).

ISBN 978-9965-31-827-6

Жинаққа студенттердің, магистранттардың, докторанттардың және жас ғалымдардың жаратылыстану-техникалық және гуманитарлық ғылымдардың өзекті мәселелері бойынша баяндамалары енгізілген.

The proceedings are the papers of students, undergraduates, doctoral students and young researchers on topical issues of natural and technical sciences and humanities.

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УДК 378

ББК 74.58

ISBN 978-9965-31-827-6

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ұлттық университеті, 2017

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UDC 327.8(5-191.2)

CENTRAL ASIA IN THE MODERN SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: GEOPOLITICAL AND GEO-ECONOMIC STATUS

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Until the great geographical discoveries, Central Asia was a key axis of the Eurasian continent, connecting through the Great Silk Road countries of the Far East with Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia. This control over land communications and mobility of the nomads of Central Asia made it possible to create a great empire in the ancient and medieval times, and largely determine the course of history in Eurasia.

Mutual penetration into the region of Central Asia and the clash of interests of the Russian and British colonial empires in the nineteenth century contemporaries called the “Great Game”. On the one hand possessing with this region made any empire as superpower, however on the other hand it also contrasted the rest of the world as enemies. As a result, Britain and Russia reached a compromise, and once a single geographical, historical and cultural area was divided into spheres of influence, and for almost a century lost its geopolitical importance.

The geopolitical situation of the early 21st century gave a new boost to studies of the regional structuralization principles for the geopolitical and geo-economic space of the entire Eurasian continent [1]. This revived the conceptions formulated by Halford Mackinder in the early 20th century and his opponent, Nicholas Spykman, somewhat later. They offered very original approaches to the regional geopolitical structuralization of the Eurasian continent and the identification of the functional value of its spatial segments. Mackinder interpreted the world historical processes based on the idea that the world was inherently divided into isolated areas each of which had a special function to perform. He asserted that the European civilization was the product of outside pressure. His account of Europe and European history, regarding it as the result of many centuries of struggle against invasions from Asia, proceeded from the same idea [2].

After the collapse of the Soviet Union before closed to outside influence region has once again become an arena for conflicts of interests of the great powers. Central Asia attracted the international community not only with its natural reserves, but with its key position in the heart of the Eurasian continent, which makes it possible to implement new transcontinental transport corridors along the routes of East - West, North - South by forming a new geopolitical reality of the XXI century [3, p. 6-8].

Since the beginning of the 1990s Central Asia region started more actively integrate into the international political and economic processes. The new states - former Soviet republics:

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, received sovereignty, set to select the most appropriate model of socio-economic and political way of development. This is the region of the internal river flow, extending from China and India to the Middle East. In Soviet times, the concept of “Central Asia” referred to the area around Mongolia with separation from it the concept of “Middle Asia” (without Kazakhstan). Taking into account the terminology of contemporary international relations “Central Asia” is endoethnonym that emerged after the collapse of the USSR. However, there are exists alternative definitions, as “Greater Central Asia”, where according to the US initiative countries as Afghanistan, and even a part of Pakistan also included to the region. There are many other cultural and historical, geoeconomic and geopolitical names due to the region. Their fight is symbolic and ideological dimension of the “New Great Game”, where the participants - the great powers - struggle for regional influence [4].

The difficulty of entering of the post-Soviet Central Asia in the international community is that the new republics had to act not only in a particular temporal-dimensional framework but also in the new geopolitical realities. Each states of the region required in a short time frame determine the most correct approaches for constructing a market-oriented economy, forms and contents of international cooperation, including the integration of countries in the region [5, p. 29-35].

As the subjects of international relations post-Soviet Central Asian states initially seek a more independent role in the regional policy, each of them has its own concept of foreign policy, acting in accordance with their interests and strategies of the political and socio-economic development.

CA – according to its geopolitical and geo-economic features is the subject of world politics and its countries are subject to considerable external influence from leading world powers [6, p.78-90].

Geopolitical area of Central Asia is weakly institutionalized. Nevertheless, the countries located in the same geographical region, have established traditional relations in the course of historical development. The territory of the region is home to indigenous peoples -. Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Tajiks, Turkmens, Uzbeks, etc. They are united by common history, socio-cultural communication, spiritual (confessional) and linguistic proximity, the unity of energy and water systems, and national economic systems.

The economic potential of Central Asian countries is very high due to the fact that the region is rich in natural resources, has a relatively developed economic and scientific-technical potential. The share of the Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union accounted for the bulk of the reserves of non-ferrous and rare metals, including more than half of the gold, much of the natural gas, petroleum, coal, chemical raw materials, ferrous metals, gold, lead and zinc, more than 1/4 of hydropower resources. Favorable climatic conditions of certain regions of Central Asia, the available lands and irrigated land are a potential prospect for the development of agriculture [7, p. 39-44].

On the summit of Central Asian countries in Almaty 28 February 1997 the idea of the Central Asian nuclear-free zone has been expressed. This idea had a “demonstration effect” for those in close geographic proximity to Central Asian countries, such countries as India and Pakistan, seeking to become new members of the “nuclear club”, as for Iran and Iraq, with experience in the field of nuclear technology [8, p.108-110].

The other side of economic interests, defining new geopolitical role of Central Asia - its energy resources, and, above all, oil in Kazakhstan and natural gas in Turkmenistan. This is followed by ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy. In connection with the increase in domestic energy prices and their approximation to world prices, the share of fuel and energy sector has grown considerably. Oil and gas in the region are the cause of a long process of delimitation of the Caspian seabed between the states of the region, became the object of attention of geostrategic partners of Central Asian states and the international community. In the current stage the proven fuel resources (without Iran's share) estimated at 85 billion barrels (11.6 billion tons.) of oil, while potential is about 100 billion barrels (13.6 billion tons) more. These rates of proven reserves of Caspian oil estimated lower in accordance with US experts (2.5-5 bln. tons), but the potential reserves are assessed higher. It occupies increasingly important place in the strategies of the leading world

powers, especially the United States, who sees it as the second largest storehouse of energy in the world after the Persian Gulf [9, p. 65-67].

Assessing the geopolitical role of Central Asia at the present stage of development, it is important to consider several major aspects and factors:

First is – geo-economic aspect, which means that the value of the region in the system of the world economy and global economic cooperation, especially in the geo energy is determined by:

- world-wide reserves of hydrocarbon. At the same time oil and gas for the near future, remains the main “raw energy” to human civilization, the need for which is increasing year by year. Therefore, it will increase the importance of Central Asia and, as a consequence, deteriorate the struggle for control over the region from the industrialized powers and the major centers of power.
- supplies of non-ferrous and rare metals and other minerals. It should be noted that the subsoil of the region and its mineral wealth is not fully investigated;
- communication potential of the region. Central Asia and the Caspian-Black Sea region is a crossroads of two new global communication routes: the North - South and East - West. The development of these communications is just beginning, but these transcontinental highways have very good long-term prospects. In the XXI century, it is obvious that they can be in a number of the main arteries of world economic relations, especially in the Eurasian continent;
- potential of cheap labor. And although by the standards of developed countries the average level of qualification is high enough, but it is quite suitable for mining and processing industries [10, p.98-102].

Second is - geostrategic aspect identifies by the fact that the main tasks of the world community, may require the use of armed force or the threat of force, with their agendas as fight against international terrorism and, secondly, the prevention of armed conflicts in different parts of the world. As part of these global challenges Central Asia occupies an important strategic position, being close to the possible centers of international terrorism and the potential sources of conflicts (Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, India - Pakistan and others, which are less critical).

Third factor is political one. The region of Central Asia becoming the center of the different vectors of force, “the North” (the CIS and Russia), “Western” (NATO and the EU, and in national capacity - the United States and Turkey as the main guiding centers, “mentors” for the countries in the region), “Eastern” (China), “South” (ECO, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran and other Muslim countries). All of them, not equally affect the situation in the region, whereas interests are mostly divergent and even contradictory [11, p.20-25].

Migration processes enhanced in the 90-ies in Central Asia and CIS countries due to the crisis, has as common to all countries causes of socio-economic nature, and the specific internal, intrinsic to the region features, such as ethnic tensions, armed conflicts environmental disasters and others. According to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for refugees, only for the period from 1989 to 1996 in Central Asia in various displacements was attended over 4.2 million people.

Due to the long period of the transformation of socio-economic and political system from a planned, command to market and democratic social and political structure of each of the states did not formed yet. The Central Asia region is important for world politics, both in strategic and in economic terms, but it is vulnerable from the inside because of possible political instability and ethnic conflicts [11, p. 12-18].

Overall the main wealth of the region - is still energy, oil and gas. The total potential of Central Asian energy resources are as follows: natural gas - more than 12 trillion. m³ (explored - about 5 trillion cubic meters.), gas condensate - about 1 billion tons, oil - about 13 billion tons, proven coal reserves - more than 4 billion tons [12, p 36].

The country has huge reserves of hydrocarbons, especially oil, as well as deposits of metal ores, including uranium. Due to high world prices for energy resources national economy has developed rapidly in recent years. There are over 200 oil and gas fields, most of which are located in the western part of the Republic. Among them there are those which found in times of the USSR, deposits giants like Tengiz, which has recoverable oil reserves of over 1 billion tons, and oil and gas field Karachaganak with resources of 1.3³ bln. meters of gas and 185 mln. tons of gas condensate.

Among CA countries Uzbekistan also faces similar problems in the oil industry. The country has more than 150 oil fields. They are mainly located in five regions of oil and gas: the Ustyurt, Bukhara-Khiva, South-West Hissar, Surkhandarya, Ferghana. With the oil production of more than 7 million tons in 2003 Tashkent overcame the direct dependence of the economy on imports of this resource. Stocks of the oil, gas and condensate can significantly increase energy exports.

Turkmenistan has ambitious plans to increase oil production and exports. Today 16 oil fields developed in the republic. The largest of them are Gosturdepe and Barsagelsez, where 65% of explored all Turkmen oil. It should be noted that the entire oil and gas complex of Turkmenistan is distributed among the three state-owned companies: "Turkmengaz" is responsible for the production and transportation of natural gas, "Turkmenneftegaz" - for the processing, transportation and delivery of oil and gas, "Turkmenoil" produces oil. Together, they account for about half of the industrial production of the republic.

According to the adopted national program for social and economic development, by 2020, oil and gas industry of Turkmenistan plans to invest up to 63 billion dollars, and the amount of foreign direct investment in the oil industry under the production sharing agreement will be \$ 25.6 billion. However, the implementation of these plans under the question now. The current investment climate could not be expected to attract large-scale investment in the industry. Turkmenistan has not yet succeeded in involving the giants of the world oil industry projects in its territory.

From geopolitical positions we can talk about the new role of the Central Asian states, which they began to play in the Eurasian region since their independence. Among five Central Asian states Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan tend to occupy a leading position in the region, also Turkmenistan tends to become a geopolitical center in the region. All factors such as occupied important position, natural resources and economic opportunities play crucial role in defining region's policy [13, 122-138].

Kazakhstan among the CIS countries is the second, and the first in Central Asia largest territory. Besides long borders with Russia and China, it borders with Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Due to its unique geographical location, Kazakhstan has become a priority state in Eurasian continent, and deserves close attention from the international community.

Kazakhstan is rich with a variety of natural resources. Republic is one of the former USSR leader in the manufacture of copper (about half of the stocks of copper), lead (four thirds) and zinc (more than one-third), the main consumer of which was primarily Russian. Huge reserves of oil, gas, coal, gold, silver, iron, uranium and other minerals. In the industrial production structure rich in fuel and energy resources Kazakhstan it is dominated industries based on the processing and use of fuel resources and mineral raw materials, reviving mining, metallurgy, chemical industry, engineering, industry agro-industrial complex.

Uzbekistan plays significant role in the region, which ranks second after Kazakhstan with its territory, and the leading country in terms of population with more than 30 million people. Uzbekistan borders with Kazakhstan to the north, with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to the east, with Afghanistan to the south and with Turkmenistan to the south-west. Ethnical issues in Uzbekistan is subject to a certain anxiety its neighbours. In addition, the factor of Uzbekistan's lack of common borders with Russia in contrast to Kazakhstan, plays an important role in its behaviour in regional and international arena. Borders with Afghanistan and Tajikistan is a risk factor for Uzbekistan because of the direct penetration of fundamentalists, militants, terrorists, the representatives of the drug trade - all this threatens the stability of the political regime.

Turkmenistan, located between the Caspian Sea in the west and the Amu Darya in the east, has no water resources. About 80% of the country is desert sand. Almost all of its territory - a zone of ecological crisis caused by the drying up of the Aral Sea, salinity of Kara-Bogaz-Gperol and degradation due to over-fertilization. From this perspective, the greatest risk factor in the region appears to environmental problem.

Significant reserves of natural gas and oil allow Ashgabat to hope that alone it would rather solve problems of economic development. For this reason, Turkmenistan is distancing itself from the unions (the CIS, the CACO, EAEU) and recognizes only bilateral agreements and obligations.

The Turkmen leader made no secret of its concerns about the fact that the political instability in some member countries of the CIS may spread as well as to Turkmenistan.

Common borders with Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Iran play a great geopolitical role. At the border of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan located facilities of water management systems (pumping stations, drainage systems, reservoirs and canals). The unresolved question of their belonging is subject of conflict between countries.

The smallest in territory among CA countries is the Kyrgyz Republic, the development of which largely depends on the geopolitical location, also on the processes taking place in neighbouring Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The border with China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Ferghana Valley region is country's specific risk factor. The country has little oil and natural gas, is located mostly within the Tien Shan mountain system, where only 7% of the territory is arable land. Mountain area and the presence of a large number of mountain rivers enable the country to produce a significant amount of hydroelectric power, which is an important export feature of the republic. Kyrgyzstan occupies the second place in the CIS after Russia in terms of export of electricity.

Kyrgyzstan's economy is heavily dependent on imports from the CIS countries, oil, gas, ferrous metals, chemicals and pharmaceutical products, various products of mechanical engineering, wood processing, construction materials, except cement, as well as a number of food products. Kyrgyzstan, with an economy entirely dependent on its neighbours, has allowed the IMF and the World Bank to reorient its economy and transform financial laws more to join the WTO. However, economic growth in Kyrgyzstan have been achieved by increasing external debt. The difficult economic situation was the main cause of manifestation of social and inter-ethnic strife in the south of the country as a result experiencing several instability situations.

Tajiks - one of the segregated nations, contributing to a weakening of regional stability. Exacerbation of tribal disputes within the country led warring parties to intraethnic confrontation and civil war in 1992, the participants to which were North - (Leninabad) and south - Kuliabis and the Pamir clans. The struggle was complicated by the influence of Uzbekistan patronize Leninabad group and participate in contingents on the territory of ethnic Uzbeks in Tajikistan. The most important external factors Tajik Afghan crisis began (the victory of "mujahideen" led the early 90-ies to help build their Tajik Opposition, which turned north Afghanistan in its support base).

External factors, especially the security in all its complex aspects of modern strategy remains the dominant within countries of Central Asian region. According to Z. Bzhezinski, Eurasia is the chessboard where continues struggle for global supremacy between the major players: first Great Game - between Russia and Great Britain at the beginning of the XX century, the second - between the USSR and the US in the late 70s and 80s for Afghanistan. One of the dimensions in the current Great Game related to the problem of deepening relations of Central Asian countries with major global and regional powers that resisting their attempts to establish hegemony or domination in the region [1].

The strategic importance of the region is that it borders with two of the five nuclear-weapon states in the world – Russia and China and has an access to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean through Iran and Afghanistan.

In addition after implementation of the project “New Great Silk Road”, commissioning of the Trans-Asian railway main line, international vehicle road corridor “Western Europe - Western China”, development of air traffic, appearance in the future of additional export oil and gas pipelines, the geopolitical and geo-economic importance of Central Asia will be enhanced since the Region will face heavy traffic flows from East to West from the Asia-Pacific region to Europe and Western Asia and back.

The main centres of global economic and political development - Russia, China, the United States, the European Union are the main attractive powers in the region. They are interested in investments in Central Asian countries through which the region is drawn into the world economy. The establishment of close relations with Western powers is motivated by the international and regional stability and the desire to avoid conflicts [14].

In conclusion, it should be noted that the new geopolitical role of the Central Asian countries

is determined by the fact that they are very active participants in modern international relations due to their specific and attractive geopolitical and geoeconomic status. Thus, within the regional situation in Central Asia and around it remains difficult: in addition to the internal problems of the region local, regional and global interests intertwined in a complex knot, which significantly complicates the geopolitical picture in Central Asia. It depends not only on the nature of the relationship between the Central Asian countries themselves, but also to a large extent on the policy of the great powers, whose interests are very high in the region.

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УДК3271-925.7/9

FEATURES OF EAST ASIAN REGIONALISM

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The concept of East Asia as a region is a relatively new one. Two decades after the Second World War, there was no "East Asia" in existence because of the shadows of the Cold War and of