

POLITICAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND TURKEY (2017-2024)

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Abstract

The article below broadly covers the formation of cooperation relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey, as well as the importance of establishing political, socio-economic, cultural and spiritual ties between them. It also discusses the fact that in recent years, during the high-level state visits and official meetings of the heads of two developed and developing states, the normative and legal documents signed in the trade-economic, scientific-technical, cultural-humanitarian spheres have played an important role in expanding bilateral mutually beneficial relations, and the most pressing issues of state and social life at the meetings of the heads of state of Uzbekistan and Turkey at different times.

Keywords: Political relations, meeting, foreign policy, cooperation, relationship, integration, democracy, science, culture, worldview, security, economy, development.

Introduction

It is worth noting that the establishment of close relations with Turkey after Uzbekistan gained independence, especially the fact that Turkey was one of the first countries in the world to recognize the Republic of Uzbekistan as an independent state, has historical value. To this day, successful cooperation continues in many areas, such as economy, education, tourism, industry, technology and culture. Today, relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan have become significant not only at the interstate level, but also in regional integration and international levels.

Cooperation between independent states in the socio-economic and cultural spheres and the protection of national interests in the international arena of the Republic of Uzbekistan, first of all, required the establishment of mutually beneficial relations with developed countries in Europe and Asia. In this regard, during the years of independence, Uzbekistan created organizational and legal foundations and established mutually beneficial relations with influential international organizations and various countries of the world in all areas, achieving a number of positive results. In particular, the cooperation between Uzbekistan and Turkey also served the interests of both countries. It should be noted that Turkey is a country in the world community with its own development path, located at the junction of the Asian and European continents, and in a favorable economic and geostrategic location. It is also appropriate to acknowledge that "Turkey, a close friend and economic partner for us, was one of the first to recognize the independence of Uzbekistan"[1].

Uzbekistan's integration into the world community is determined by its worthy place in the system of international relations, the effective implementation of its interests in the political, economic, scientific-technical, socio-cultural spheres. Accordingly, a new stage has emerged in the cooperation between the states of Uzbekistan and Turkey. The rational approaches to



mutual relations that have been implemented have paved the way for the opening of a new page in the foreign policy of both countries. After all, Turkey is currently a state with great potential, respected worldwide, and the Uzbek and Turkish peoples are very close to each other in terms of religion, language, history and culture. The official visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Ankara on October 25, 2017 opened a new page in Turkey's relations with Uzbekistan. The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of Turkey signed an agreement on the foundations and goals of interstate relations, protocols on the exchange of consular missions, an agreement on trade and economic cooperation, protocols on cooperation in the fields of culture, science, education, healthcare and tourism, and other regulatory and legal documents. In this regard, scientific research on economic and cultural relations between the Republics of Uzbekistan and Turkey is one of the current issues.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODS

Turkey is a country that has its own path of development in the world community, and in the last quarter of the 20th century, it launched its foreign political activity based on the principles of democracy and social justice. Turkey skillfully applied its "Turkish model" in the conditions of the market economy and developed a unique way of development [2]. As a result, Turkey's economic reforms have borne fruit, and it has become one of the most developed countries in the world. In 1991, Turkish President Turgut Özal's diplomatic visit to the USSR included not only Moscow, but also Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and other union republics[3]. These visits showed Turkey's growing interest in the newly emerging republics in the south of the former Soviet Union. On December 8, 1991, the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) was established, and Turkey became the first country to recognize the newly independent republics[4]. This, in turn, opened opportunities for Central Asian countries to establish relations with European countries through Turkey. First of all, he focused on establishing cooperation relations with the Turkic-speaking peoples who have historically shared language, religion, and culture, in particular with the Republic of Uzbekistan. First of all, Turkey was one of the first to recognize the independence of Uzbekistan, and new opportunities arose in the cooperation of the two countries.

Interstate official meetings and state visits of the Presidents of Uzbekistan and Turkey began in late 1991. The first step in this direction was the signing of documents such as the "Agreement on the Foundations and Goals of Relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Turkey", "Agreement on Economic and Trade Cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Turkey", and "Protocol of Agreement"[5] during the official visit of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I. Karimov to Turkey on December 16-19 of this year.

The arrival of the Prime Minister of Turkey S. Demirel to Uzbekistan on April 28, 1992 was a major event in the development of relations between the two countries. On April 28, 1992, the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey was opened in Tashkent[6].

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Ankara also began its activities in January 1993[7]. The opening of embassies between the two countries has been of great importance in intensifying political, socio-economic, and cultural ties.



RESULTS

Uzbekistan is one of Turkey's main partners in Central Asia. Uzbekistan's huge market, increasingly liberalized economy, favorable investment climate, historical cities, tourist destinations, and sacred religious sites are of great interest to Turkey. Therefore, both sides benefit from strengthening cooperation, which indicates that the prospects for mutual relations are high. Turkey, as a country in the top 20 economically developed countries in the world, and as a country that always supports Uzbekistan's peaceful policy in the international arena, plays an important role in raising these relations to a higher level as the republic enters Europe and the world. On September 3, 2018, the Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States was held at the Ruh Orda Cultural Center in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan[8]. For information, the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States was established in 2009, and the organization's secretariat is located in Istanbul. Uzbekistan participated in this council's conference for the first time, and in his speech at the summit, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on Central Asia in June 2018 was an important step among the peoples of the region. Therefore, Uzbekistan's membership in the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States on October 15, 2019 has served to further strengthen mutual cooperation with the states within this structure in political, economic, cultural, scientific and other spheres [9]. Due to the similarity of the positions of the two countries on issues of regional and international importance, Turkey and Uzbekistan have also cooperated effectively within the framework of international structures such as the UN, SCO, CIS, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

DISCUSSION

The establishment of political dialogue between the two countries was due to a number of factors.

Firstly, the struggle of the Turkish government against the ideological rival of the religious and political organization "Fethullahist" and its leaders showed that the measures taken by the Uzbek government a few years ago were practically correct. In particular, the closure of educational institutions under its auspices led to the de facto removal of the "invisible barrier" between Uzbekistan and Turkey.

Secondly, the cooling of relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey forced the two countries, especially Turkey, to abandon financial resources. Uzbekistan sought alternative options for access to seaports, developing transit transport routes. In particular, the somewhat revival of relations with Latvia, the fact that measures were being taken to gain access to the Persian Gulf, was tantamount to the loss of great economic opportunities for Turkey. Therefore, although Ahmet Davutoglu's words "Turkey's ports are also Uzbekistan's ports" may sound pleasant to every Uzbek, in reality it was a request for Turkey to pay attention to its own ports. Thirdly, the fact that Uzbek citizens are visiting Turkish cities such as Istanbul, Bodrum and Antalya for tourist purposes shows that Turkey would benefit greatly from strengthening economic cooperation with Uzbekistan in the literal sense.



CONCLUSION

Based on the study of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- Turkey, as one of the developed countries in the world, established a practical and constructive dialogue as one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Uzbekistan.
- In establishing relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey, great importance was attached to the formation of the legal basis for cooperation. During the official interstate meetings, state visits and high-level political dialogues of the Presidents of the two countries, agreements were signed in all areas, and the legal basis for the sector was formed on the basis of these documents.
- Cooperation relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey developed in different ways during the years of independence. The heads of state of Uzbekistan and Turkey, Sh. Mirziyoyev and Due to the political activity of R. Erdogan, the relations between the countries have reached a new strategic level. Uzbekistan, which bases its foreign policy on the principles of peace, stability, equal rights, mutual trust, respect and interest, non-use of force, supports the establishment and development of both bilateral and multilateral agreements in foreign relations and was the initiator.

In conclusion, it can be said that the economic relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Turkey are constantly developing, both today and in the future. This is because our countries, which have been fraternal for centuries, are strengthening and developing comprehensive cooperation relations year after year. In the future, economic cooperation relations will develop and expand even more than today.

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