

# ISSUES OF TURKEY'S CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION WITH CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES

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## Abstract:

This article mentions the relations and cooperation between the Central Asian countries and the Republic of Turkey in the field of culture and education. Also, the diplomatic relations of the republics, cultural events, opinions about higher educational institutions, cultural events between the five republics and Turkey, and innovations and cooperation in the field of education will be discussed.

**Keywords:** National Philharmonic, Kyrgyz students, Turkish Television and Radio Company, Aitmatov days.

## Introduction

Relations between the countries of Central Asia and Turkey in the fields of education and culture began to take shape almost since the independence of the new countries in 1991. At the summits and bilateral meetings of the leaders of the Turkic-speaking countries, the topics of cultural and linguistic proximity of the peoples of the Turkic-speaking countries began to be raised regularly.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, Turkey has paid great attention to the development of cooperation with Central Asia and is still paying attention. In addition, the position of state minister for relations with Turkic-speaking countries was established within the TR government<sup>1</sup>.

In 1992, the Republic of Turkey established diplomatic relations with Kyrgyzstan. In Bishkek, musical groups from Turkey performed in the Opera and Ballet Theater, the Sports Palace and the National Philharmonic Hall. In addition to the capital of the republic, similar events were held in Chui region.

This year, the Republic of Turkey allocated 1,000 places to Kyrgyzstan for the education of Kyrgyz students. 2.

In 2014, Kyrgyzstan Days were organized in Turkey. The events took place in Ankara and its surrounding cities. Painting, art and craft exhibitions, national music concerts were held.

<sup>1</sup> М. Чыналиева. Культурное сотрудничество Кыргызстана и Турции. <http://todo.selyam.net/docs/78/index-82639.html>

In the same year, a delegation of the Turkish Broadcasting Company visited Kyrgyzstan with the aim of studying the republic's telecommunication services market. As a result, a TV channel in Turkish was broadcast in the republic for several years.

Multilateral Kyrgyzstan participated in almost all cultural events organized by Turkey. These are: congresses of Muslim countries and communities, congresses of Turkic-speaking countries, exhibitions of works of art and folk art, international symposium "Days of Aytmatov" in Ankara, symposia of Turkish culture and art, etc<sup>3</sup>.

The famous Russian geopolitician Nikolay Nartov believes that 2014-2016 was a period of active discussion of the ideas of pan-Turkism, which took place in the form of cooperation between Turkic-speaking countries in history, culture, education and other fields. He clearly states that during the celebration of the 1000th anniversary of the Manas epic in 1995, attempts were made to seriously discuss the ideas of Panthuranism, but "these efforts did not find adequate support and understanding."<sup>4</sup>

Then the Turkish side provided important technical and financial support for the celebration: "Turkey allocated 100,000 dollars for the celebration, in addition, with the financial support of the Turkish government, a number of books and albums were published, documentaries were shot. was received, a live broadcast of the festivities was organized on the huge news space through the CNN channel"<sup>5</sup>. In addition, academic conferences were held in 33 Turkish universities to celebrate the Manas saga and promote Turkish values. Thanks to the news, one of the parks in the capital of the republic was renamed in honor of Atatürk in Kyrgyzstan, and a monument was erected in honor of the Turkish public figure and statesman.

In 2015, one of the most important events for the relations between the two countries in the cultural and educational sphere took place - an agreement was signed on the establishment of the Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas joint university in Izmir<sup>6</sup>. Since the beginning of work, this educational institution has become one of the leaders in the republic. This was achieved primarily due to the absence of corruption among teachers, quality education, first-class material and technical support, as well as the availability of free "budget" education only by the state. On average, about 3,800 students study at this university<sup>7</sup>. According to Kyrgyz Education and Science Minister Kanat Sidikov, Turkey has invested \$289 million in the university since its establishment. Currently, 14 buildings of the unified educational complex are operating, and a new building for more than 3,000 people is under construction<sup>8</sup>.

In 2016, Turkish Minister of Education T. Tayan visited Bishkek. As a result of the negotiations, an agreement was reached on increasing the amount of scholarships for Kyrgyz graduate students studying in Turkey and developing graduate training programs<sup>9</sup>.

3 2-й Международный симпозиум, посвященный творчеству кыргызского писателя Ч. Айтматова «Дни Ч. Айтматова» состоялся в Анкаре. [http://www.mfa.kg/news-foreignmissions-of-kr-2-i-mejdunarodnii-simpozium-posvyashenniitvorchestvu-kirgizskogo-pisatelya-ch.-aitmatova\\_en.html](http://www.mfa.kg/news-foreignmissions-of-kr-2-i-mejdunarodnii-simpozium-posvyashenniitvorchestvu-kirgizskogo-pisatelya-ch.-aitmatova_en.html)

4 Н.А. Нартов. Геополитика.— М., 2004. — С. 256-258.

5 М.Чыналиева. Культурное сотрудничество Кыргызстана и Турции. <http://todo.selyam.net/docs/78/index-82639.html>

6 Официальный сайт КТУ «Манас». <http://www.manas.kg/index.php/ru/university/istoriya>

7 Официальный сайт КТУ «Манас». <http://www.manas.kg/index.php/ru/university/istoriya>

8 Канат Садыков: Турция вложила в КТУ «Манас» 289 миллионов долл. [http://www.vb.kg/doc/223846\\_kanat\\_sadykov:\\_tyrciia\\_vlojila\\_v\\_ktu\\_manas\\_289\\_millionov.html](http://www.vb.kg/doc/223846_kanat_sadykov:_tyrciia_vlojila_v_ktu_manas_289_millionov.html)

9 М.Чыналиева. Культурное сотрудничество Кыргызстана и Турции. <http://todo.selyam.net/docs/78/index-82639.html>



The change of political power in Turkey affected the development of relations between the two countries, and the years 2017-2021 were characterized by a certain "quietness" in bilateral relations. In this situation, the initiative of dialogue was carried out primarily by Kyrgyzstan, which tried to support bilateral relations. On October 24, 1997, during the visit of President Askar Akayev, an agreement on eternal friendship and cooperation was signed between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Tajikistan. During the next visit, on July 1, 1999, a joint statement called "Kyrgyzstan and Turkey: Together for the 21st century" was signed<sup>10</sup>. After the victory of the Justice and Development Party in the elections held in Turkey in 2014, under the leadership of Recep Erdogan, relations between the two countries took a new look. The presentation of the Kyrgyz translation of Mustafa Kemal's book "Nutuk" ("New Turkish Way") was held at the National Opera and Ballet Theater. Also, in this year, the National Philharmonic Orchestra visited the Turkish Presidential Symphony Orchestra with a concert. Famous Turkish violinist Jihat Ashkin and opera singer Ishan Ekber took part in this event<sup>11</sup>. Since 2014, the cultural and educational cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Turkey has been significantly activated, many events have been held, and there is no need to mention them all. But in order to understand the intensity of interaction, it is worth listing individual events, for example, in May 2014, this gives us at least one cultural and educational event between KR and TR in an average week allows us to come to the conclusion that it will pass. So: On May 3-6, Uludag University held an international conference "Kyrgyz-Turkish relations from history to the present" in Bursa<sup>12</sup>. The 2nd international congress of universities of Turkic-speaking countries was held on May 9 at the Kyrgyz National University<sup>13</sup>. On May 24-25, the conference "The future of Kyrgyz-Turkish relations with many years of experience" was held at "Manas" Kyrgyz-Turkish University<sup>14</sup>.

If we analyze August 2014, we can see that the following cultural and educational events were held in this month: On August 6, the opening of the Kyrgyz House was held in Ankara<sup>15</sup>. On August 13-15, the VII meeting of the Kyrgyz-Turkey intergovernmental commission on trade, economic and cultural cooperation was held in Ankara<sup>16</sup>, on August 15, a concert of Turkic peoples was held in honor of the III Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking Countries in Gabala, Azerbaijan<sup>17</sup>.

Cooperation in the field of education and culture between Kyrgyzstan and Turkey is developing at a good pace, the two nations are getting closer to each other.

10 М.Чыналиева. Становление и развитие кыргызско-турецких отношений. [bizdin.kg/elib/jurnalдар/vik/2009\\_1/4inalieva.doc](http://bizdin.kg/elib/jurnalдар/vik/2009_1/4inalieva.doc)

11 М.Чыналиева. Культурное сотрудничество Кыргызстана и Турции. <http://todo.selyam.net/docs/78/index-82639.html>

12 В г. Бурса вспомнили кыргызско-турецкое сотрудничество, идущее из глубины. <http://www.for.kg/news-224997-ru.html>

13 Пройдет 2-й курултай ассоциации университетов. [http://www.gezitter.org/politic/19359\\_proydet\\_2-y\\_kurultay\\_assotsiatsii\\_universitetov/](http://www.gezitter.org/politic/19359_proydet_2-y_kurultay_assotsiatsii_universitetov/)

14 На конференции в Бишкек обсуждается будущее кыргызско-турецких отношений. <http://kant.kg/2013-05-24-na-konferentsii-v-bishkeke-obsuzhdaetsya-budushheekyrgyzsko-turetskih-otnosheniy/>

15 В столице Турции открылся Дом Кыргызстана // URL:[http://www.knews.kg/culture/35440\\_v\\_stolitse\\_turtsii\\_otkrylsya\\_dom\\_kyrgyzstana/](http://www.knews.kg/culture/35440_v_stolitse_turtsii_otkrylsya_dom_kyrgyzstana/)

16 Дни культуры Кыргызстана и Турции пройдут в четырех городах каждой страны // URL:<http://www.kabar.kg/society/full/61146>

17 В Габале состоялся III саммит Совета сотрудничества тюркоязычных государств // Официальный сайт президента Республики Азербайджан. — URL: <http://ru.president.az/articles/9013>

As was the case with Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan began cultural and educational relations with Turkey from the beginning of its independence.

The first document that served as a basis for the development of relations between the two countries was the agreement on cooperation in the fields of culture, science, education and sports, signed in May 1992. strengthened the possibility of organizing cultural exchanges between them, as well as made it possible to develop the art of music in general.

As a result, in November of the same year, the Days of Turkish Culture in Kazakhstan were held in Almaty<sup>18</sup>. In 2014, Turkey managed to broadcast a specially created TV channel to some countries of Central Asia and Azerbaijan. Also, in the same year, an agreement was signed on the sponsorship of Turkey for the reconstruction of the famous Khoja Ahmed Yasavi mausoleum near Turkestan<sup>19</sup>. Costs amounted to 54 million dollars.

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