



Uzbekistan - Kazakhstan: New Age of Friendly Relations

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Abstract: This article is devoted to the analysis of the relationship between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, their place and role in the modern geopolitical system. Attention is paid to the historical relations of these countries. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, as two leaders of Central Asia, have significant potential for expanding political, economic, cultural and humanitarian ties, which will contribute to the stable development of these states and strengthening security in the region.

The next visit of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to Uzbekistan began a new era of allied relations. Uzbekistan is following the path of developing relations with the countries of Central Asia, in particular with Kazakhstan, based on mutual trust and good neighborliness. Our peoples, as close fraternal peoples, have understood and supported each other in all matters of multifaceted cooperation since ancient times. Our countries, as good neighbors and mutually interested partners, are moving shoulder to shoulder along the path of development.

In the modern world, the process of globalization is accelerating, opening new horizons and drawing more and more countries, peoples and cultures into its orbit. One way or another, they are united by a system of political, economic, and social relationships. Against the backdrop of changes and modern trends, the importance of strengthening cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian sphere is growing.

In particular, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan have come a long way from forming the foundations of bilateral interstate interaction to strategic partnership. Relations between the countries are developing, including taking into account the Treaty of Eternal Friendship adopted in 1998, the Strategic Partnership Treaty in 2013, and the Joint Declaration on the further deepening of the strategic partnership and strengthening good neighborliness between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2017. in Nur-Sultan, as well as cooperation within the UN, CIS, SCO, UTC, ECO, CICA, as well as the “Central Asia +” formats, as a result of which relations between the countries have risen to a new level.

“For us, Kazakhstan is our closest neighbor, tested by time and life itself, with whom we are bound by inextricable centuries-old ties of friendship and brotherhood.” These are the words that the leader of Uzbekistan said at the last visit of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to Uzbekistan.

The leaders expressed confidence that the high-level negotiations will undoubtedly give a new powerful impetus to the development of multifaceted Uzbek-Kazakh relations of strategic partnership and alliance. Kazakhstan is the closest and most reliable partner of Uzbekistan.



Uzbeks and Kazakhs are not just close neighbors, but brothers, bound by a common historical heritage, cultural and spiritual values. This is our priceless wealth, and we value it and will continue to value it. “I am sure that we have a common destiny and a common future,” Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized. The key topics of the negotiations were issues of a radical expansion of relations in the political, trade, economic, energy, transport and logistics, agricultural, water and other spheres. It was noted that in recent years, significant progress has been achieved in all areas of cooperation. Contacts are carried out on a regular basis between governments, ministries and departments, as well as regions of the two countries. A detailed exchange of views on the regional and international agenda also took place, and issues of ensuring the stable development of Central Asia were discussed. The firm intention to continue mutually beneficial cooperation within the framework of multilateral structures was confirmed.

The heads of state emphasized significant progress in all areas of multifaceted and mutually beneficial Uzbek-Kazakh cooperation.

In this vein, the main emphasis in the dialogue was on cultural and humanitarian interaction. After all, fraternal peoples, both for a thousand years and during the years of independence, mutually supported and support each other. There are similar points in history, language, culture, values.

The heads of the two countries, making the decision to declare 2018 the Year of Uzbekistan in Kazakhstan and 2019 the “Year of Kazakhstan” in Uzbekistan, demonstrated the need to take care of historical friendship and the common heritage of fraternal peoples. The first event can be considered historical without any exaggeration. Within its framework, about 30 cultural events took place: creative evenings, concerts, film screenings, conferences and symposiums. More than 400 copies of literature in Uzbek were handed over. At the same time, focusing on issues of youth education, it should be noted that within the framework of the Year of Uzbekistan in Kazakhstan, an action was held - First President Nursultan Nazarbayev allocated grants for applicants from Uzbekistan. It was noted that compatriots on preferential terms can receive higher education in economic, medical, technical, and humanitarian fields in any of 30 universities in Kazakhstan. Currently, events dedicated to the life and work of the great son of the Kazakh people, poet and thinker Abai Kunanbayev are being held throughout Uzbekistan. Such events strengthen friendly ties, clearly demonstrating mutual interest in each other’s glorious past and present-day life.

It should be noted that cultural centers in Uzbekistan, which actively participate in the socio-political life of the country, play an important role in preserving traditions and customs and language. During a visit to the Uzbek-Kazakh National Cultural Center in the Mirzachul district of the Jizzakh region, the President of Uzbekistan got acquainted with the activities of this center, and the Kazakh National Drama Theater also operates in this building. The activities of music, dance, song, and fine arts clubs have been established. The head of state especially emphasized that the restoration of the theater and the opening of the national cultural center play an important role in strengthening ties between fraternal peoples.

The President of the country also noted that the institutions will unite creative, educational organizations, and representatives of the intelligentsia. The center pays special attention to strengthening cultural ties and educating young people in the spirit of international friendship.

An important role is also played by the fact that in Uzbekistan about 400 schools provide education in the Kazakh language. A council on Kazakh literature has been created at the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan. In recent years, more than 50 books by writers and publicists of Kazakhstan have been published.



And also, it is necessary to note the special importance of tourism in the development of cultural and humanitarian ties between the peoples of the two countries. Today this direction is one of the most effective in establishing dialogue. As part of the Year of Uzbekistan in Kazakhstan, the Year of Tourism of Uzbekistan in Kazakhstan was initiated. As a result, by the end of 2022, more than 20 million people crossed the border. For comparison: in 2017 this figure was 13.8 million.

At the same time, one of the practical steps to develop cooperation in the field of tourism was the development of a draft agreement between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan on the introduction of the Asian analogue of the Schengen project “Silk Visa” (Silk Road visa) from 2019. Thus, any foreigner who legally entered Kazakhstan or Uzbekistan can freely move across the territory of the two countries without obtaining a visa from each state separately.

In April 2019, as part of the state visit of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan, the grand opening of the Year of Kazakhstan in Uzbekistan took place. In his welcoming speech, the head of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev said that the opening of this event testifies to the dynamically developing relations of strategic partnership, increasing trust and mutual support, and the inextricability of the bonds of brotherhood between our countries. As the President noted, this significant event is also a symbol of eternal and sincere friendship, cultural and spiritual community of peoples.

In turn, the leader of Kazakhstan emphasized that the events being held will open up new horizons for representatives of art, science, education, and business to expand mutually beneficial contacts and exchange knowledge and achievements. All this will contribute to the mutual enrichment of cultures.

During the meeting, two historical documents were signed. The Treaty of Alliance, which meets the primordial interests of both fraternal peoples and marks a new stage in the history of Uzbek-Kazakh relations.

Alliance is the highest and most trusting level of interstate partnership.

Thus, we confirmed that we intend to build a common future. The agreement on the demarcation of the state border testifies to the strength of our ties and serves the cause of peace and security in the region. Our border has always been and remains the border of friendship and good neighborliness,” Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized. The President of Kazakhstan noted with satisfaction the current highest level of bilateral relations. “Based on historical commonality, fraternal ties of peoples, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have built strong, harmonious relations,” noted Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. He emphasized that the agreements being signed open new horizons and fully reflect the mutual desire of the two countries for further rapprochement.

The President of Uzbekistan expressed gratitude for the decision to erect a monument to the great Uzbek poet and statesman Alisher Navoi in the center of Astana. This is a clear confirmation of the great respect for the Uzbek people’s common history and culture, a symbol of the inviolability of the bonds of friendship between the two fraternal peoples. At the same time, it was proposed to organize joint research to study and popularize the common cultural and historical heritage, as well as to launch for this purpose a joint information resource, including TV, radio and a website, and publish books by our great writers and poets.

An agreement was reached to hold Culture Days, joint film festivals, and creative evenings of famous artists in 2023. It will serve even more.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Kassym-Jomart Tokayev got acquainted with the exhibition dedicated to the legacy of the great Kazakh poet and thinker - Abay Kunanbayev. Abai’s work is a real encyclopedia of life, work and cherished aspirations of the Kazakh people. From his poetic works,



wise aphorisms and reasoning, collected in a unique book of teachings “Gaklia”, one can get a clear idea of the life of the Kazakh steppe in the last decades of the 19th century. The leaders of the two countries also got acquainted with unique exhibits from the collections of museums in Kazakhstan, historical documents, photographs, books relating to the life and work of Abai Kunanbayev. Of particular interest were the three-string dombra - Abai's talisman, skullcap, the poet's manuscripts, and surviving photographs of Kunanbai and his family. The heads of state, having examined the exhibition, expressed gratitude to everyone who contributed to the preparation of this important event in the cultural life of the two countries. It was emphasized that such events strengthen our friendly ties and clearly demonstrate the inexhaustible interest of the Uzbek people in the history of fraternal Kazakhstan.

The last visit of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the past negotiations between the heads of state on the broad scope of the agenda and the importance of the agreements reached became a historical event that opened a new page in bilateral relations.

In general, it can be stated that the strengthening of trusting relations between the two states confirms a strong commitment to further strengthening cooperation at all levels.

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