

ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE OF RUSSIA, CHINA, THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER MAJOR POWERS IN THE REGION'S INTEGRATION PROCESSES.

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Abstract. *Central Asia is a strategically important region where the interests of major world powers such as Russia, China and the United States intersect. This article analyzes the role of these powers in the integration processes of the region and the impact of their foreign policy on the internal processes in the Central Asian countries. The first part of the article examines the economic, political, and security initiatives supported by Russia, China, and the United States, as well as their strategic interests in the region. The second part examines the impact of these countries' foreign policies on political stability, economic development, and social change in Central Asia. The analysis shows that the influence of major Powers is multifaceted and leads to both positive and negative consequences for the countries of the region. Identifying these trends allows for a better understanding of the mechanisms of regional integration and developing more effective interaction strategies to achieve stability and prosperity in Central Asia.*

Keywords: *Central Asia, integration, Russia, China, USA, foreign policy, economic cooperation, political stability, social changes, regional security.*

АНАЛИЗ РОЛИ РОССИИ, КИТАЯ, США И ДРУГИХ КРУПНЫХ ДЕРЖАВ В ИНТЕГРАЦИОННЫХ ПРОЦЕССАХ РЕГИОНА.

Аннотация. *Центральная Азия является стратегически важным регионом, где пересекаются интересы крупнейших мировых держав, таких как Россия, Китай и США. В данной статье анализируется роль этих держав в интеграционных процессах региона и влияние их внешней политики на внутренние процессы в странах Центральной Азии. В первой части статьи рассматриваются экономические, политические инициативы и инициативы в области безопасности, поддерживаемые Россией, Китаем и США, а также их стратегические интересы в регионе. Во второй части рассматривается влияние внешней политики этих стран на политическую стабильность, экономическое развитие и социальные изменения в Центральной Азии. Анализ показывает, что влияние крупных держав многогранно и приводит как к положительным, так и к отрицательным последствиям для стран региона. Выявление этих тенденций позволяет лучше понять механизмы региональной интеграции и разработать более эффективные стратегии взаимодействия для достижения стабильности и процветания в Центральной Азии.*

Ключевые слова: *Центральная Азия, интеграция, Россия, Китай, США, внешняя политика, экономическое сотрудничество, политическая стабильность, социальные изменения, региональная безопасность.*

Introduction

Central Asia is a region of strategic importance, both from a geopolitical and economic point of view. Located at the intersection of major transport corridors and with significant natural resources, it is an important target for the interests of major Powers. In recent decades, the

influence of countries such as Russia, China and the United States on the integration processes in Central Asia has become particularly noticeable. These states actively participate in the economic, political and security projects of the region, which has a significant impact on the internal processes of the Central Asian countries.

Historically, Central Asia was a zone where the interests of various empires and states intersected. In the modern context, this region continues to be an arena of geopolitical rivalry, due to its strategic position and resource potential. The influence of major Powers on integration processes in Central Asia manifests itself in various forms, including economic investment, political support, and military cooperation. It is important to note that each of these countries pursues its own strategic goals, which often leads to complex and multi-layered dynamics of interaction.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the role of major powers in the integration processes of Central Asia and to identify the impact of their foreign policy on the internal processes of the region. The first part of the article will analyze the role of Russia, China, the United States and other major powers in stimulating and supporting integration initiatives in Central Asia. The second part of the article will focus on studying the impact of the foreign policy of these countries on the political, economic and social situation in the countries of the region. Understanding these aspects will allow us to better understand the mechanisms of interaction between external forces and internal processes in Central Asia, as well as identify the main trends and prospects for further development of integration in the region. This includes both direct economic investment and financial assistance, as well as political pressure and military presence. The influence of the foreign policy of major powers on the internal processes in Central Asian countries is manifested in various aspects, including changes in the political structure, economic models and social relations.

Main body

The role of Russia. Russia is historically and geopolitically an important player in Central Asia. Both its historical heritage and contemporary economic and political interests drive Russia's influence on the region. Within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Russia is actively promoting economic integration ideas aimed at creating a single market for goods, services, capital and labor. Russia also plays a key role in ensuring the security of the region through the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), providing military assistance and support in the event of external threats. Russia's economic cooperation with the Central Asian states includes major investment projects, including in the energy sector. Gas and oil from Central Asia are transported through Russian infrastructure, which strengthens economic ties between the two countries. Support for the Russian-speaking population and cultural cooperation are also an important part of Russia's policy in the region.

The main instruments of Russian influence include:

- **Economic cooperation:** Russia remains one of the largest trading partners for Central Asian countries, providing significant financial support through investment and loans. Economic unions, such as the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), play an important role in strengthening the region's economic integration.

- * **Political influence:** Russia actively participates in the political processes of the region, supporting pro-Russian regimes and offering political support in international organizations.

* **Military cooperation:** Russia's military presence in the region is being strengthened through the deployment of Russian troops in countries such as Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, as well as through cooperation within the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

The role of China. The People's Republic of China (PRC) is another significant external actor in Central Asia that promotes its strategic interests through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China invests heavily in infrastructure projects, building roads, rail lines, and energy facilities. These projects contribute to improving the region's transport connectivity and integration of Central Asian countries into global trade networks.

China's economic influence is also evident in the form of loans and investments in the region's national economies. China is actively developing trade relations, becoming one of the largest trading partners for Central Asian states. China's political influence in the region is growing thanks to diplomatic and cultural programs aimed at strengthening friendly relations.

Key aspects of Chinese influence include:

* **Economic expansion:** China is actively investing in infrastructure projects in the region, such as the construction of roads, railways and energy facilities. The "One Belt, One Road" project (OBOR) has become a central element of the Chinese strategy in Central Asia.

* **Trade and investment:** China is the largest trading partner of many countries in the region, providing significant volumes of trade and investment, especially in the energy sector.

* **Political cooperation:** China actively develops political ties with Central Asian countries, offering models of development and cooperation based on the principles of non-interference and mutual benefit.

The role of the United States. The United States of America (USA) is also actively involved in the processes taking place in Central Asia, although its influence differs significantly from that of Russia and China. The United States pays great attention to democracy, human rights, and economic reform. American policy in the region is aimed at supporting the sovereignty and independence of Central Asian states, preventing extremism, and promoting stability.

Through international aid and cooperation programs, the United States invests in civil society development, educational projects, and infrastructure initiatives. Military cooperation also plays an important role: the United States helps train and equip the armed forces of countries in the region to fight terrorism and drug trafficking.

The main areas of American influence include:

* **Economic support and assistance:** The United States provides financial assistance and technical support for the development of democratic institutions and economic stability in the region.

* **Political influence:** The United States actively promotes democratic reforms and human rights, seeking to strengthen its political and ideological position in the region.

* **Security and military cooperation:** After the events of September 11, 2001, Central Asia became an important part of the U.S. counterterrorism strategy. Military cooperation includes training and equipping the armed forces of Central Asian countries.

Other major powers. In addition to Russia, China, and the United States, other major powers such as the European Union (EU), Turkey, and Japan are also participating in the integration processes in Central Asia. The EU actively promotes projects on infrastructure

development, environmental initiatives and human rights. Turkey develops cultural and economic ties, especially with the Turkic-speaking countries of the region, through the Turkic Council. Japan is focused on technological cooperation and humanitarian assistance.

* Economic cooperation: The European Union actively develops trade and investment ties with Central Asian countries, offering various support and cooperation programs.

* Cultural and humanitarian cooperation: Turkey and India seek to strengthen their cultural and educational ties with the regions by offering exchange programs and educational initiatives.

The foreign policy of major Powers has a significant impact on the political systems of Central Asian countries. Examples include:

* Support for ruling regimes: Russia and China often support existing political regimes, contributing to their stability and strengthening power. This includes both direct political support and economic assistance.

* Promoting democratic reforms: The United States and the European Union are actively promoting democratic reforms and civil society development, which can lead to changes in the political structures of countries in the region.

Political sphere. The influence of the foreign policy of major Powers on the political situation in Central Asia is manifested in various forms. Russian influence is expressed in supporting loyal regimes and promoting integration initiatives such as the EAEU and the CSTO.

China, despite its laissez-faire policy, exerts significant influence through economic levers, which sometimes leads to changes in the internal policies of countries in the region.

The United States promotes democratic values and human rights and promotes civil society and political reform. The intervention of major Powers can both stabilize the political situation and lead to tension, especially if the interests of external actors collide with national priorities.

Economic impact (model and development). The economic influence of major powers on internal processes in Central Asia is most noticeable through investment and trade relations.

Russian and Chinese investments contribute to the development of infrastructure and energy, which has a positive impact on the economic growth of the region's countries. However, this also leads to economic dependence on external actors, which may limit the economic independence of Central Asian States.

The United States, the European Union and other countries, through their assistance programs and investments in various sectors of the economy, contribute to economic diversification and reduce dependence on commodity exports. The influence of external economic actors contributes to the modernization of the economy, but also causes certain risks associated with debt obligations and political concessions. Key aspects include:

* Investment and Infrastructure projects: Chinese investment and infrastructure projects, such as OBOR, contribute to the region's economic growth and development, but can also create dependence on Chinese capital.

* Trade relations and economic integration: Economic unions and trade agreements with Russia and the European Union promote the integration of regional economies, but may also impose certain restrictions on the economic policies of Central Asian countries.

CoSocial and cultural changes. The social influence of major Powers is manifested through educational programs, cultural exchanges, and humanitarian initiatives. Russia supports

the Russian-speaking population, as well as cultural exchange and education programs. China is actively developing educational programs and scholarships for students from Central Asian countries.

The United States and the EU, through their programs, contribute to the development of civil society, human rights organizations and educational initiatives, which contributes to improving the level of education and civic engagement in the countries of the region. However, external interference in social processes can cause resistance from local authorities and the population, if it is perceived as imposing other people's values and behaviors. Examples include:

* Educational and cultural exchanges: Exchange programs and cultural initiatives offered by countries such as Turkey and India contribute to the development of educational and cultural ties, which can lead to changes in the social structures of countries in the region.

* Influence on public opinion: Political and economic support from external actors can influence public opinion and perceptions of foreign policy within Central Asian countries, contributing to the formation of new public attitudes and trends.

Conclusion

The analysis of the role of major powers in the integration processes of Central Asia and the impact of their foreign policy on the internal processes of the region allows us to identify key trends and mechanisms of interaction. External actors play an important role in the development of the region, but their influence is multifaceted and causes both positive and negative consequences. Understanding these processes is essential for developing effective cooperation strategies aimed at creating a stable and prosperous region. The influence of Russia, China, the United States and other major powers on the integration processes in Central Asia demonstrates a variety of approaches and interests. Russia, relying on historical and cultural ties, promotes economic and military integration, which contributes to strengthening security and economic stability. China, using economic levers and initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative, creates new opportunities for developing infrastructure and trade ties, but also increases the economic dependence of countries in the region. The United States and the European Union, by focusing on democratic reforms and civil society development, contribute to political modernization and social stability, although their influence may cause resistance from local elites. It is important to note that the influence of external actors is not unambiguous and uniform. It depends on a variety of factors, including internal conditions in Central Asian countries, the degree to which local authorities are willing to cooperate and adapt external models, and the competitive dynamics between major Powers themselves. In this context, the ability of Central Asian States to balance external influence and protect their national interests plays a key role.

The conclusion of this article is that external actors significantly influence the integration processes in Central Asia, which necessitates a comprehensive approach to the analysis of regional dynamics. Given the diversity of interests and strategies of major Powers, countries in the region should develop multilateral diplomatic and economic ties to minimize the risks of dependence and ensure sustainable development. It is also important to pay attention to strengthening domestic institutions and socio-economic structures, which will allow us to adapt more effectively to external challenges and use the opportunities provided for national development. Thus, further research on integration processes in Central Asia should take into account the interaction of various

external and internal factors, which will help to better understand the mechanisms of regional integration and develop more effective strategies for achieving stability and prosperity in the region.

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