

shame are also important values.

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**SHARED SECURITY IN CENTRAL ASIA: CHALLENGES TOWARDS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Abstract: This article reflects on the path to the establishment of international and regional cooperation in solving global and regional problems, the concept of national and regional security, on increasing the threat to international and regional security today, on the existing Uzbekistan's strategy among the Commonwealth countries.

Keywords: Globalization, genesis, economic, geopolitical, moral, cultural, environmental, linguistic, communication, socio-military relations, threat-strategy-security, retrospective, military-administrative sectors.

“Our such increasing cooperation today is becoming an important factor in ensuring regional security and stability, peace in our common Central Asian home”, underscored President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in his greeting message on the 28th anniversary of the Armed Forces and the Day of Homeland Defenders[1].

Indeed, enhanced collaboration among all states in the region of Central Asia is a fundamental basis of shared security that guarantees predictable sustainability – a key condition for progressive economic development, for which every nation in Central Asia is desperate for without an exception.

Under current realities of increased interconnectivity between states no country can afford a luxurious condition to stay aside from common processes of increasing political, diplomatic, trade and economic ties with their immediate neighbors and countries further beyond. Even such a devastating pandemic as COVID-19, which has paralyzed the civil physical global communication, has not been strong enough to halt back the trade relations, the basis of globalization. However, it remains a good topic for further discussion as a separate issue.

Going to the roots of the globalization, most researchers studying the historical genesis of the globalization process identify the beginnings of globalization starting from the ancient world with the first efforts of powerful states to conquer more lands and ultimately the world using initially “military, but gradually turning in the course of civilization,

economic, geopolitical, moral, cultural, environmental, linguistic, and communication forms of globalization” [2]

Main driving force towards globalization has not changed since the first humans tried to satisfy their basic needs - feed themselves to continue hunting. In order to maximize their efficiency individuals made groups, groups made tribes, and the expansion went until nations and countries were formed. As people's basic instincts for survival, the demand of economic needs, and the desire to change their lives have led to the expansion of the geography of social relations.

At the same time, military marches were a political instrument of globalization and matched specific interests. Therefore, in the context of globalization in general, the socio-military in particular, it must be acknowledged that not only their political goals but also their humanistic needs played a major role in expanding the boundaries of integration. Military aggression, however, has never been in line with humanistic principles.

One of the main driving forces of globalization has always been the inability of nation-states to solve certain issues that are interconnected with different actors[3] (Sklair, 1991, 1999). The phenomena of globalization is not a new concept, it has evolved a result of progress over the several thousand years[[4] (Hall, 2000a: 6). With the industrial revolution of the 18th century, countries started to be proactive in their economic integration to the world, where big companies played a pioneering role[5] (Chase-Dunn, 1999).

In the contemporary world, globalization is both opportunity and threat, nations due to their strength or weakness, maturity or fragility can either benefit or lose the global integration[6] (Ripsman & Paul, 2005). Currently, there are several serious challenges that shade the further progressive development of the regions like Central Asia.

The first can be considered as continuous instability, one like in Afghanistan. President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoev has always paid a key attention to the integration of Afghanistan to the region of Central Asia, which should have its obvious positive effect in solving decades-long stability issues in the country, hence in the region. In his speech, President Mirziyoyev stressed that the region's problems could not be solved without the Afghan government and representatives. Also, Tashkent called on the U.S. President Donald Trump to work closely to address the Afghan problem. Uzbekistan stressed that it is always ready to improve the living standards of the fraternal Afghan people, and that it would further facilitate economic and social development. Our country is promoting important initiatives to stabilize the situation in neighboring Afghanistan and has been instrumental

in implementing various UN programs on socio-economic reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Moreover, Shavkat Mirziyoev urged the UN High Commissioner to cooperate in maintaining stability in Central Asia as it is one of the key factors in changing military and political security in the region. The "remnants" of international terrorist groups are still carrying out covert operations in Afghanistan. In addition, Central Asian countries are becoming an integral part of the drug trade. This is (and remains to be seen) a very dangerous situation in the context of the national security of the region, which means that the territory of the region will become an area of drug consumers, not just a transit route. It is worth noting the activities of the UN, SCO and other international organizations to ensure peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan also has a significant contribution to this. In particular, to solve the problem of Afghanistan under the auspices of the United Nations on the "6 + 2" group of member states in July 1999, "Tashkent Declaration on basic principles of settling the conflict in Afghanistan" was adopted. The UN Security Council recognized the outcome of the Tashkent meeting as an important step towards a political solution to the Afghan problem.

Another serious threat to the security of the Central Asian states is the existence of religious extremist groups, which aim to undermine the constitutional order of the countries in the region. Therefore, it is necessary to counter this threat using both national, regional and international methods and tools. Several structures have been established and are working to address these issues to some extent. Among them SCO and Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) are covering the entire region with its immediate neighbors Russia and China.

Existing regional security structures in Central Asia, by their very nature, are still undergoing considerable changes, because these systems are not fully complete. Therefore, it would be extremely wrong to conclude that these systems are the best choice for Central Asia. When all the countries of the region solve and unite the existing problems in the region, the security system for Central Asia will demonstrate itself effective and viable.

A hot topic until recently with real conflict potential in the regions remains the use of transboundary water resources. The question of whether a new atmosphere of good neighborliness policy emerged in Central Asia, mainly due to President Mirziyoyev's 'Neighbors first policy', has addressed the issue of transboundary water resources remains open.

In order to collaborate together to increase the overall benefit to all, regional actors have been illustrating some signs of regional integration. We have witnessed informal summits of the presidents of Central Asia in

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Some say it may be the initial step towards the re-establishment of a regional multilateral body that can serve as a platform to solve intraregional issues without external players.

Security, as we know, is addressed by the threat-strategy-security formula. The creation and consolidation of any national security system is based on how we perceive a particular threat or potential enemy. In most cases, the enemy is one or more of the neighboring countries.

Therefore, the development of a security system by one side, even for the sake of defense, and the development of the security system as a whole, is simultaneously perceived by the neighboring state as a threat to its own security. In its turn, this neighboring state will seek to strengthen its security system and increase its military potential.

As a result, we may even face competition from neighboring countries that are not hostile to each other. In this case the "security dilemma" arises: Increasing A's own military power will result in the response of B, which means that A will continue to grow his power in response to B's actions[7].

It can be seen that the security dilemma can lead to mutual distrust of nations, arms race, and military strategic and geopolitical combinations of various, including high-risk. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoev also said: "As you all know, at present, cruel competition, contradictions and conflicts are becoming more acute in the world. Threats to religious extremism, terrorism, drug addiction, human trafficking, illegal migration, and "mass culture" are undermining the centuries-old beliefs and family values of humanity. It is true that such and many other threats pose serious problems in human life, and no one can deny that"[8].

National security is an integral part of regional security. It is impossible to ensure absolute national security. This is also confirmed by the security dilemma. A relatively stable and robust national security system can be created in conjunction with neighboring states, especially with countries in the region that have specific and common threats. The concept of national and regional security cannot be separated from each other in the context of Central Asia.

At the national level, all countries in the region are simultaneously facing the threats faced by the regional states. It is often said that Central Asia suffers from constant external geopolitical pressure and that they are consumers of security, not security producers[9].

This long-term paradigm implies that if the countries of the region are not sufficiently self-sufficient in the field of security, they will need external security assistance. As a result, a "security services market" was created in the region, as F.Tolipov said, and various "umbrellas" were offered, depending on the historical and current geopolitical situation. This is making the region a hub for geopolitical "games".

Further development of regional cooperation in Central Asia depends on the ability of countries in the region to withstand many of the existing threats collectively, finding more reasons to complement each other and create a healthy atmosphere of moderate economic competition. It has never been such a time of positivity in relations of all Central Asian states in recent history. It is a unique opportunity to strengthen fundamentals of regional security and cooperation as never before.

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