

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NEW UZBEKISTAN AND THE TURKIC STATES

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Abstract:

This article presents views on the social, economic and cultural relations between the Independent Republic of Uzbekistan and the Turkish state.

Keywords: Independent Uzbekistan, New Uzbekistan, Turkey, social, economic and cultural relations.

Introduction

After gaining independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan sought to protect its national interests and transition to a market economy, first of all, to establish mutually beneficial relations with developed countries in Europe and Asia.

The independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan was recognized by the first state of the world, Turkey, and diplomatic relations were established. In this regard, in the speech of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, it was noted that "Turkey, a close friend and economic partner for us, was one of the first to recognize the independence of Uzbekistan."¹ It is also appropriate to recognize. Uzbekistan's integration into the world community, its important place in international relations, has been effectively implemented in the political, economic, socio-cultural spheres. The first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, visited Turkey on June 29-July 1, 1992². This visit was significant as it was one of the first high-level engagements between Uzbekistan and Turkey after Uzbekistan gained independence. It laid the foundation for long-term cooperation between Uzbekistan and Turkey, with Turkey being one of the first countries to recognize Uzbekistan's sovereignty and establish diplomatic relations.

¹ Mirziyoyev Sh. We will continue our path of national development with determination and take it to a new level. – Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 2017. – P. 390.

² Президент Республики Узбекистан в Турции // Народное слово. 1 июля 1992 г.

In 1994, the "Foreign Investment Agency" of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the "Organization for Economic, Cultural, Educational and Technical Cooperation" of the Republic of Turkey cooperated in the implementation of rehabilitation programs for the transition to a market economy, rehabilitation of industrial enterprises, development of small and medium-sized enterprises in agriculture and related industries, foreign trade and international finance projects, and the exchange of information and analytical materials. The cooperation of the two states, in its turn, served for the positive results of reforms in the economic sphere in Uzbekistan. The experience of Turkey in the development of small and medium-sized businesses in our country came in handy³.

On July 9, 1995, the "Agreement on the Development and Strengthening of Cooperation" was signed between Uzbekistan and Turkey⁴ this memorandum was part of the ongoing efforts to develop bilateral cooperation between the two countries. It laid the foundation for deepening cooperation in various areas, including trade, economy, culture, and education.

On May 7, 1996, the Treaty of Eternal Friendship and Cooperation was signed between Uzbekistan and Turkey⁵. This historic agreement strengthened the foundations of a long-term strategic partnership between the two peoples. It emphasized the desire of the two countries to cooperate in various fields, including politics, economics, culture and defense, and reaffirmed their support for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

The visit of Turkish Prime Minister R. Erdogan (2003-2014) to Uzbekistan on December 19, 2003 was of great importance for the further expansion of bilateral relations. They signed the "Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Republic of Turkey"⁶ in particular, an intergovernmental agreement was signed on cooperation in the fight against international terrorism and the abolition of visas for holders of diplomatic passports. Although relations and political cooperation between Uzbekistan and Turkey have been established, they have faced disagreements due to the fact that Turkey's pan-Turkism and religious-political

³ Imamov B. Political, economic and cultural relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey (1991–2018)/ Monograph. – Karshi: "Intellect" publishing house, 2021. P. 21.

⁴ <https://lex.uz/uz/docs/-2736749>

⁵ <https://yuz.uz/uz/news/ Uzbekistan-Turkey-strong-historical-ties-bound-brotherly-countries>

⁶ <https://lex.uz/docs/-1324320>

views conflict with Uzbekistan's foreign policy. These conflicts have arisen for the following reasons:⁷

- Turkey voted in favor of a resolution at the UN General Assembly accusing the Uzbek government of using disproportionate force in response to the 2005 Andijan events;
- The existence of problems with currency conversion in Uzbekistan;
- The suspicion of Turkish companies' links to international religious and political terrorist organizations, in particular, the "Fethullahists (FETO)", and their attempts to import banned literature into Uzbekistan have had a negative impact on relations between the two countries.

Foreign relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey have come to a standstill. During this period, joint economic projects have been suspended or slowed down, and political dialogue has been minimal. Both countries have focused on their domestic policies, and diplomatic relations have remained frosty.

Relations have begun to improve since Shavkat Mirziyoyev was elected President of Uzbekistan in 2016, and his administration has pursued a more open and reform-oriented foreign policy, which has led to rapprochement with Turkey. High-level visits have resumed, and economic, cultural, and political cooperation has gradually resumed. The first meeting of the heads of state of the two states took place on November 17, 2016. The Acting President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited the tomb of the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov in Samarkand. After that, negotiations were held between Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Forum Complex in Samarkand. The two heads of state expressed their firm belief that the agreements reached during this meeting would serve to elevate bilateral relations to a new level and open a new page of cooperation in areas of mutual interest⁸.

The first meeting between the two countries brought friendly relations to a new level. "There were periods of distrust and coldness between us, but we united and melted these ices, and this coldness will never return," emphasized the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. In particular, during the visit of the two heads of state to Samarkand, and while the foreign relations of the two countries had

⁷ <https://www.bukhari.uz/?p=34088&lang=oz>

⁸ Rajabov K., Bekmuratov H. From the history of economic and cultural cooperation between Uzbekistan and Turkey. –Tashkent: "Tafakkur", 2017. -P. 4

been sluggish until 2016, which led to a decline in foreign trade, this meeting created the basis for an increase in trade volumes and an increase in trade turnover. This meeting was of particular importance as it was the first high-level interaction between the two countries after a period of relative stagnation in relations. This clearly demonstrated Uzbekistan's intention to revive and strengthen its relations with Turkey, with which relations have been relatively weak in recent years. The heads of state of both states emphasized the historical, cultural and religious ties connecting the two peoples and expressed their desire to further expand cooperation in various fields. President of the Republic of Turkey Erdogan and President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev agreed on the need to expand trade, economic and cultural relations, paying special attention to increasing mutual investments and increasing the volume of mutual trade.

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