



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SOCIO-POLITICAL VALUES OF THE PEOPLES OF CENTRAL ASIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERSTATE INTEGRATION RELATIONS

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Abstract

The article analyzes the significance of common socio-political values of the peoples of Central Asia, such as socio-political unity, interethnic harmony and religious tolerance, mutual respect for the elderly and youth, cultural and linguistic affinity, historical unity of lifestyle and traditions, among others, which serve as fundamental socio-political factors underlying the process of strengthening and developing socio-economic and cultural interstate integration relations in the region. It is emphasized that in today's global environment, the role of common socio-political values as an instrument of "soft power" in fostering regional solidarity is increasing, as well as their growing influence and importance in strengthening and developing economic, socio-political, and cultural ties, established on the basis of systematically implemented interstate integration relations. The article demonstrates through examples that the socio-political values of the peoples of the region contribute to sustainable development through youth policy, intercultural dialogue, digital and public diplomacy, as well as through cooperation with various civil society institutions.

As recent experience shows, the common socio-political values of the peoples of Central Asia form a solid foundation for the development of interstate integration processes in various spheres of social life. Political, cultural, and social cooperation based on these values serves as an important factor in ensuring regional stability, strengthening trust, and fostering long-term development. By recognizing the significance of these values and promoting them in political and strategic directions, states can deepen integration processes even further.



Keywords: Central Asia, socio-political values, political integration, soft power, historical unity, intercultural dialogue, youth policy, historical heritage, cooperation, diplomacy, public diplomacy, social stability.

Introduction

Central Asia is a region with an ancient history, rich culture, and unique socio-political values. These values not only determine the internal social life of each nation, but also play an important role in the formation and strengthening of interstate relations in the region. In particular, values such as **solidarity, hospitality, mutual respect, social stability, and religious tolerance** make integration processes more natural, sustainable, and long-term between countries with a common historical and cultural foundation.

The value of solidarity, a culture of coexistence, and a willingness to compromise are among the main instruments of regional dialogue. States with different views can harmonize their mutual interests through these very values. At the same time, hospitality is reflected not only in personal contacts, but also in official visits, international meetings, and diplomatic contacts.

These values serve to strengthen the atmosphere of trust between the countries of the region. Mutual respect means recognition of the sovereignty of states, non-interference in their internal affairs, and adherence to the principles of equality. The policy based on these principles paves the way for integration. **The social stability** is one of the main factors of domestic policy and plays an important role in ensuring regional security. Religious tolerance contributes to ensuring harmony between multi-confessional societies and effectively combating extremism and radicalism.

Central Asia is the cradle of ancient civilizations and rich cultures, and each state of the region has its own unique path of historical development. At the same time, there are common socio-political values that unite the peoples of the region, which play an important role in deepening mutual integration. Such values include mutual respect, religious tolerance, cultural closeness, commonality of language and historical roots, hospitality, respect for young and old, and social solidarity. These values are becoming the main factor in the formation of "soft power" strategies for interstate relations. "Soft power" refers to the ability of one



state or region to influence other states without coercion, through positive values and cultural attractiveness.

The intensification of diplomatic contacts between the countries of the region in recent years and the strengthening of cooperation in economic and environmental projects demonstrate the effectiveness of these values in real life. For example, border, transport and logistics, water resources management, and educational integration initiatives between Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan are based on common values.

Through youth policy, regional projects in the media and digital spheres, as well as cultural festivals and forums, these values are developing not only within the political elite, but also at the level of the general public. Thus, common socio-political values are the natural basis of Central Asian integration and are becoming a factor of strategic importance in ensuring peace, stability, and development in the region.

Thus, these values, inherent in Central Asia, allow strengthening integration between the states of the region not only on the basis of economic or political interests, but also on the basis of common cultural and historical roots and social concepts. Therefore, the preservation and reliance on these values is one of the important guarantees of sustainable development in the region.

The nations of Central Asia have a centuries-old common history, traditions, a system of values, and religious beliefs, which have a profound impact on their interaction and communication culture. Especially since the peoples of this region once lived as part of a single empire, cultural space, and economic structure, the historical commonality formed between them is still relevant today. For example, the economic and cultural exchange, mutual travels, traditions of science and crafts, formed during the period of the ancient Silk Road, determined the historical roots of friendly relations between the peoples of the region.

This historical and cultural heritage still plays a key role today in deepening interstate cooperation and understanding the need for joint action. Moreover, the similarity of languages in the region and the possibility of mutual understanding facilitate direct contacts between peoples. For example, the Uzbek, Tajik, Kyrgyz, Kazakh, and Turkmen languages share common Turkic and Persian roots, which creates natural closeness in social communication, diplomatic processes, and



cultural projects. In matters of religion, these peoples mainly belong to the Hanafi school of Islam, and there are many similarities in religious customs and values. This strengthens religious harmony and tolerance in the region, ensuring a life based on common social and moral norms.

Historical commonality and cultural closeness increase trust between states and encourage faster political decision-making based on common interests. Therefore, in the integration processes of Central Asia, these factors are considered not only as a background, but also as one of the main foundations of strategic importance. A deep understanding and preservation of these values is an important guarantee of the region's development and stability.

Diplomatic rapprochement through values is becoming increasingly relevant in today's geopolitical conditions. In particular, in the dialogue between the countries of Central Asia, values serve as a decisive factor not only in the formation of domestic social life, but also in the formation of foreign policy relations. **Honesty, loyalty to one's word, respect for young and old, and a tendency towards compromise are characteristic of the people of this region.** For example, **the value of loyalty to the word** strengthens trust between heads of state and political figures. Agreements, statements, or contracts are perceived not only as legal documents, but also as moral obligations. This ensures stability in the implementation of agreed plans. Honesty guarantees openness and transparency in negotiations. Despite conflicting interests, the parties strive to strengthen mutual trust and reach agreements by openly expressing their intentions.

Respect for elders and the value of listening to the opinions of older people form an experience-based approach in political culture. Historically, the participation of elders, leading specialists, religious or scientific figures in the discussion of decisions in the region occupied a special place. This situation continues today in negotiations at various levels - a consultative, respectful, and balanced style of communication is being formed.

Moreover, the values of a willingness to compromise and a desire to avoid conflict are an important tool in mitigating conflicts, resolving disagreements, and creating a positive environment among the countries of the region. It should be noted that these values serve to base the diplomatic rapprochement between



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the states of Central Asia not only on official protocols, but also on genuine human and cultural closeness. Therefore, a political culture based on values not only simplifies diplomatic protocols, but also forms the trust necessary for deep and strong cooperation in international relations. This is one of the factors guaranteeing the peaceful, stable, and long-term development of integration processes in the Central Asian region.

Issues of social stability and regional security are relevant in today's global and regional politics, and the solution of these issues, especially in such a geopolitically important region as Central Asia, requires cooperation within the framework of international organizations. In this regard, such large structures as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) occupy a special place. The activities of these organizations, based on the common values of the peoples of Central Asia, serve to ensure peace, stability, and security in the region.

The SCO has become an important platform for combating threats to regional security, developing measures against terrorism, extremism, and separatism, strengthening information exchange between member states, and strengthening mutual trust and military-technical cooperation. These values are strengthened, in particular, through the principles of social stability, tolerance, intercultural dialogue, mutual respect, and commitment to sovereignty.

The Organization of Turkic States plays a special role in the development of social stability based on the historical, cultural, and linguistic unity of the peoples of Central Asia. The main activity of the organization is aimed at ensuring cooperation not only in political and economic areas, but also in such areas as youth policy, education, culture, and information security. In particular, common values are promoted among young people through programs aimed at preventing extremist ideas, preserving cultural heritage, and strengthening social stability.

The role of values in the activities of international organizations creates not only political closeness in Central Asia, but also the foundation of social stability and security. Trust, historical unity, and cultural closeness between peoples serve as the main foundation for ensuring effective dialogue and long-term cooperation within the framework of these organizations.



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Advancing integration through youth and cultural ties is one of the most effective means of ensuring long-term cooperation and stability between the countries of Central Asia. In today's global environment, the formation of a spirit of solidarity among the youth of the region, based on common historical heritage, cultural closeness, and social values, is becoming increasingly important. Especially the openness, the desire for innovation, and the readiness to assimilate international experience among young people make them active participants in integration processes.

In this regard, opportunities for direct dialogue, friendship, and mutual understanding between the youth of the countries of the region will be expanded through student exchange programs, joint educational projects, youth forums, and summer schools.

This dialogue is realized not only at the academic level, but also through the exchange of views on life, culture, and values, the elimination of stereotypes, and the formation of an atmosphere of trust.

Cultural exchanges also play an important role in this process. Exhibitions, film festivals, musical events, and literary conferences based on common historical heritage strengthen the concept of regional unity in the minds of young people. Through this, while respecting one's own culture, attention and interest in the culture of neighboring peoples also increases. It is cultural ties of this kind that create a social foundation for political and economic integration in the future.

Also, **joint content, blogs, podcasts, and social media projects implemented through modern media and digital platforms increase mutual understanding among young people.** They get acquainted with each other's daily lives, problems, and dreams, and learn to think rationally about common regional interests.

As mentioned above, **values are increasingly recognized as a tool of "soft power" in interstate relations.** Unlike traditional political and economic means of influence, influence through values is an effective way to make a positive impression on the minds of societies, to inspire confidence, and to achieve natural rapprochement. In particular, socio-political values, such as justice, equality, mutual respect, tolerance, freedom, and human rights, play an important role in enhancing a state's prestige in the international arena.



These values not only determine the domestic policy of the state, but also ensure the tone of its foreign relations, the reliability of its diplomatic positions, and the strength of partnership relations. For example, if a state adheres to such values as respect for human rights, ensuring gender equality, and openness to cultural diversity, it creates an environment of natural cooperation with other states, international organizations, and civil society. This is how the "soft power" effect manifests itself: influence is exerted not through coercion or pressure, but through value-based attraction, trust, and positive image.

This approach is especially relevant in a region as historically, culturally, and socially unique as Central Asia. Common values between the countries of the region - religious tolerance, family values, hospitality, respect, attention to the young and old - play a key role in the development of public diplomacy and intercultural dialogue. The soft power formed through these values also serves as an important foundation in political relations: strengthens the atmosphere of trust, prevents conflicts, and serves sustainable regional development.

Therefore, the role of values as a soft force is not only a foreign policy strategy for states, but also a means of enhancing international prestige, creating an image of a peacemaker, and achieving long-term partnership. Such an approach means that in the future, the concept of being influential through values, and not through the use of force, will remain a priority.

In conclusion, the common socio-political values of the peoples of Central Asia form a solid foundation for interstate integration processes. Political, cultural, and social cooperation based on these values serves as an important factor in ensuring regional stability, strengthening the atmosphere of trust, and long-term development. By understanding these values and promoting them in political and strategic directions, states will have the opportunity to further deepen integration processes.

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