



MODERN APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF CENTRAL ASIA WITH EUROPE

Izzatilla M. Khaydarov

Assoc. Prof. Doctor of History

Sh. E. Ziyoyev,

Research Fellow Tashkent State

University of Oriental Studies (Uzbekistan)

E-mail: sherzoduz@mail.ru

Abstract

This article is devoted to the participation of Central Asian states in international processes and the place of Europe in them. In the article, the authors, responding to concepts widely used by the scientific community, various interdisciplinary theories and views, try to reveal the impact of the region on its relations with Western countries, including Europe. The work also analyzes the tendency of the region to engage in external (extra-regional) processes in the modern era from a historical perspective and based on an interdisciplinary approach. The priorities, mutual problems and solutions in the relations of Central Asian states with Europe from the post-independence period to the present are also put forward.

Keywords: Central Asia, interregional relations, "new Great Game", interdisciplinary approach, modern era, extra-regional processes, multilateralism, theories of international relations, historical analysis, perspective from Uzbekistan

Introduction

Looking at the recent history of Central Asia, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the socio-political, economic, and ideological situation in the world and



Eurasia changed radically. Among the newly independent states, the Central Asian republics, which have their own unique problems and conditions, have embarked on the path of open market economy and democratic development chosen by Western countries, achieved technical and technological modernization, and sought integration with the world community.¹ was the main impetus for the regional states to establish foreign policy relations with the European region. On the other hand, this has already led to the beginning of democratic restructuring in the post-Soviet countries of Central and Eastern Europe, changes in political systems, and the development of international relations in the Soviet Union and throughout Eurasia in a new spirit.

In the Central Asian republics, the observation of some ethnic and political conflicts on the threshold of independence required the new governments to pay serious attention to the issues of strengthening independence and sovereignty. Therefore, this aspect should be taken into account when assessing the political systems in the region in the 90s of the last century. In many studies that have studied the processes in the recent history of Central Asia, the paradigm associated with the disintegration of the bipolar world order and the theory put forward by F. Fukuyama and S. Huntington² and we feel the superiority of views. However, in the study of the problem, based on the traditional paradigms, the approach prevents the correct understanding of the problem and finding a practical solution. As a theoretical-methodological basis for the study of the foreign political relations of the Central Asian countries, scientific theories used in the study of history, political science, modern international relations - neo-realism, neo-liberalism, globalism, regionalism, multilateralism (multilateralism), institutionalism, constructivism³, inter-governmentalism and others. In the study of the political relations of modern Central Asia with the EU, various methods are widely used - mainly systemic analysis, historical-comparative analysis, document analysis, quantitative and qualitative analysis methods, content analysis, etc.

¹ Кўчаров Ш. Марказий Осиёнинг минтақавий интеграцион жараёни муаммолари (геосиёсий таҳлил тажрибаси). – Тошкент: Фан, 2008. – Б. 5.

² “Маданиятлар тўқнашуви” назарияси ҳақида гап кетмоқда.

³ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constructivism_\(international_relations\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constructivism_(international_relations))



The political and diplomatic relations of the Central Asian states with Europe are one of the most relevant topics in the recent history of the region. Since we approach the issue more from the point of view of the political and diplomatic relations between the parties, it is necessary to get acquainted with the many approaches and theories that have been and are being expressed in this regard. In particular, in the study of the history of the region at the modern stage, various theories - neoliberalism, democratism⁴, "democratic world" theory⁵, Also, concepts such as "Ideal Politics", "Real Politics", "New Great Game", "New Silk Road projects" are often used. In this regard, in the process of conducting an interdisciplinary analysis of these issues, concepts such as "multilateralism", "connectivity"⁶, "The concepts of "sustainable development" and "inclusive policy" (in the sense of "a policy that includes all aspects" - author)⁷ At the same time, theoretical approaches such as globalization and regionalization, inclusive development, are today equally relevant not only to historical events on a global scale, but also to political, socio-cultural processes taking place in the region. For example, the above approaches and theories help to understand the activities of external forces in the region and the processes related to the foreign policy of young independent republics.⁸

Also, the concept of "nation-state" occupies an important place in the study of Central Asian-European relations, and even within the framework of history and politics (especially as a geopolitical term), it is useful in understanding the hybrid foreign political activity of modern states.

Literature review

The analysis of objective and subjective factors that influenced the formation of the EU's relationship with Central Asia is currently gaining relevance in world

⁴ Sinnott R. Theory and the Internationalisation of Governance: Bringing Public Opinion Back in // Final Plenary Meeting of the European Science Foundation paper: Believes in Government Project. Strasbourg, 1993.

⁵ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/social-sciences/theory-of-democracy>;
https://ru.frwiki.wiki/wiki/Th%C3%A9orie_de_la_paix_d%C3%A9mocratique

⁶ Khanna, Parag. Bridges to Everywhere – Connectivity as Paradigm. <https://www.cirsd.org/en/horizons/horizons-summer-2018-issue-no-12/bridges-to-everywhere>

⁷ Европейский Союз и Центральная Азия – European Union and Central Asia. Под общей ред. Б.Ходжаева. – Ташкент: УМЭД, 2010. – С. 6.

⁸ Қўчаров Ш. Марказий Осиёнинг минтақавий интеграцион жараёни муаммолари (геосиёсий таҳлил тажрибаси) ... Б. 26;



history and political science. The main attention of researchers is focused on the extent to which it reflects the current political changes in Central Asia and the impact of external leading forces in the region. In our opinion, a broad approach is necessary to the issue, and issues such as the legal and economic feasibility of bilateral relations, mutual interest, the compliance of the infrastructure of the Central Asian states with international standards, and their readiness for integration into the world economic system play an important role in highlighting the specific features of the Central Asian states-EU cooperation.

Of course, the acceleration of international relations in the region at the initiative of Uzbekistan after 2017 has given it a new impetus, but it is important to take into account the situation in countries like Uzbekistan, which have limited access to the world ocean, are experiencing a shortage of water, energy, and human resources, and the situation in which Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, or the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan, also have their own problems.

In an increasingly globalized world, and at the same time, operating at the intersection of complex international structures, the practical level of cooperation between the five states of Central Asia - Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Kazakhstan - is one of the pressing issues of today. In particular, one of the opportunities that has arisen in the fate of Central Asia as a result of the post-2016 political changes in Uzbekistan has been the restoration of political dialogue between the countries of the region. It should be noted that the newly elected President Sh. Mirziyoyev has shown special will for this.⁹. Because many local and foreign experts have expressed a critical attitude to the opening of borders. Of course, problematic and controversial issues are related to other interregional and global tensions and conflicts of interests. Nevertheless, the positive trends in Central Asia show that further effective continuation of ties based on mutual trust and beneficial cooperation can change the situation for the better through a firm position of political leadership and the correct use of diplomatic means. When talking about the history of modern Central Asia, it is first necessary to clarify the concepts and terms used. For example,

⁹ Ш.Мирзиёев. Ўзаро ишонч, яхши қўшничилик ва дўстликни янада мустаҳкамлаш – энг муҳим вазифа // Қозоғистон пойтахти Остона шаҳрида бўлиб ўтган ШХТ Давлат раҳбарлари кенгашининг кенгайтирилган таркибдаги мажлисида сўзланган нутқ. 2017 йил 8-9 июнь.



conventionally, historical Central Asia refers to the historical borders of statehood and historical and cultural spaces in certain periods, geopolitical Central Asia is also often imagined in Western studies in connection with various geopolitical and geoeconomic parameters, and political Central Asia refers to the newly independent states that are forming in the region. Because the term Central Asia is an invention of a new era¹⁰.

Until recently, ideological views dominated research and assessment of the statehood and ethnic history of Central Asia among regional scholars¹¹. Of course, it is worth considering that it is connected with strengthening the legitimate foundations of political power within countries, practical actions on the issue of national identity. If we approach these processes from a purely scientific point of view, then, of course, it is possible to understand and correct, even supplement, research based on a certain objectivity. However, it is known that major regional studies are being conducted on Central Asia in many centers around the world that conduct scientific research and practical activities¹². In our opinion, they mainly contain reports on the results of practical activities resulting from the activities of various state and non-state organizations. Although in-depth scientific research is found in the works of local scholars, there are very few works that summarize the general new history of Central Asia and the historical processes of this period¹³.

Research Methodology

We wrote above about the use of an interdisciplinary approach to illuminate our research topic. First, let's briefly consider what and why interdisciplinary research and the approach itself are needed, how this approach can be applied in the social and humanities, just like in the natural sciences. So, before dwelling on the

¹⁰ Алимова Д.А. Марказий Осиё тарихига доир умумий китоб яратиш хусусида: Ўзбекистондан боқиш // Тарих ва ўзликни англаш III: Ўзбекистонда ва Германияда тарихни ёритиш. – Тошкент: “Фан”, 2008. – Б. 67.

¹¹ Қаранг: Ртвеладзе Э.В. Марказий Осиё тарихи энг янги тадқиқотларининг айрим жиҳатлари тўғрисида // Тарих ва ўзликни англаш: Ўзбекистон ва Германия тажрибаси. – Тошкент, 2005. – Б. 54.

¹² Рахимов М.А. Современные подходы в изучении международных отношений и мировые центры по изучению Центральной Азии // Историческая наука в контексте интеллектуального развития Центральной Азии (очерки историографии и источниковедения). – Ташкент: “Yangi nashr”, 2014. – С. 214.

¹³ Понамарёва Т.Л. Историографический обзор литературы по проблеме процесса интеграции в Центральной Азии // Марказий Осиё халқлари тарихи манбашунослиги ва тарихнавислиги масалалари. 4- илмий тўплам. – Тошкент, 2012. – С. 207.



application of an interdisciplinary approach in research in history and political science, we will start with the problem of interdisciplinarity in a general theoretical sense. Interdisciplinarity is “problematic thinking, “offset vision”. This does not mean abandoning the acquisition of knowledge in a disciplinary (between one discipline or its branches) way, but rather supplementing it with methods of interdisciplinary transmission of the material that forms interdisciplinary thinking.” Interdisciplinary thinking is the basis for the formation of a knowledge space for merging (integrating) adjacent (disciplinary) disciplines in solving common problems. The study of these problems should serve as a basis for the formation of a certain type of thinking. Theoretical concepts of one discipline are applied by another related discipline, and this process helps to solve general scientific problems, that is, we are talking about the creation of common methodological, cognitive approaches in interdisciplinary research ¹⁴. For example, physics and chemistry have long been interdisciplinary. Later, the ideas of cybernetics and systems approach gained interdisciplinary interest. Currently, synergetics is actively transforming its ideas and methods into other related disciplines, using a complex and rich body of knowledge from previous studies¹⁵. One of the directions of modern scientific thought - "synergetics" studies the process of formation of the new in both animate and inanimate nature. The necessary conditions for this process include the following: the system must be in an unbalanced state, a continuous flow of matter and energy must pass through the system, there must be a subtle connection between the elements of the system, characterized by the functioning of a feedback loop. When these conditions are met, the change in structure, the emergence of new structures, becomes a general law in both animate and inanimate nature, and in the mental sphere. For example, from the point of view of synergetics, the formation and functioning of the creative process occurs as follows: “a peculiar phase transition occurs in the brain, when previously unrelated details suddenly become parts of an ordered and deeply meaningful

¹⁴ Абдуллаева М.Н., Гаффарова Г.Ф. Илмий контекстда фанлараро ёндашув. НамДУ илмий ахборотномаси - Научный вестник НамГУ 2019 йил 1-сон. <https://uzjournals.edu.uz/namdu/vol1/iss1/16>

¹⁵ Ҳайдаров Ў.Ж. Фан тараққиёти, синергетика ва модернизация масалалари. // Фалсафа ва фанлар методологияси муаммолари. Омонулла Файзуллаев 4 илмий-назарий ўқишлари материаллари. 2-китоб. – Тошкент: Фалсафа ва ҳуқуқ институти, – Самарқанд: Самарқанд давлат университети, 2012. – Б. 17.



unity. Here we are talking about similar processes known to us from other areas of synergetics. As a result of this or that fluctuation (“competition” or sudden ignition), a new parameter of order arises (a new idea), due to which it becomes possible to find connections between individual details and organize and subordinate them. But all this happens due to self-organization - in this case, the self-organization of our thoughts.”

Interdisciplinary approach to synergetics as a methodology of non-classical science¹⁶ is based on philosophical ideas and situations, forms the regulatory principles, methods and forms of knowledge used in the study of the world around us. In the process of studying the laws of nature, classical science ignored irregular phenomena: such objects of classical science as turbulence, fluctuations in the number of plant and animal populations, and the non-periodicity of heart muscle contractions were considered in terms of stability and order, and all objects and phenomena that did not fit the classical model of knowledge were left outside of scientific research and were considered a subjective error of the researcher. At the beginning of the 20th century, humanity faced the problem of complexity. At this stage of its development, science had developed a scientific apparatus of the knowledge process based on determinism, the principles of reduction and superposition. The second half of the 20th century is characterized by the formation of chaos theory and the science of trivia. The development of science, the latest technologies, methodology, and the apparatus of knowledge is significantly determined by the achievements of a particular science. At this stage of the development of science, concepts such as probability, chance, and uncertainty also reflect the characteristics of the elements that make up the world.

Analysis and Results

Now, we will apply an interdisciplinary approach to the recent history of Central Asia and regional cooperation relations and try to conduct an analysis. Considering that the interdisciplinary approach allows for a comprehensive look at the development of science, as well as the processes of modernization, this can

¹⁶ Синергетика – Табиатдаги ночизикли жараёнларни ўрганиш давомида замонавий билиш аппаратиға мураккаб тизимлар назарияси бўлиб, у ночизикли оламнинг ўрганилмаган томонларини тадқиқ қилиш имконини беради.



be observed not only in closely related scientific fields, but also in the natural and humanitarian sciences. For example, synergeticism in philosophy, which emerged in the 1970s, as a new doctrine of the process of self-management¹⁷ studies the principles of manifestation in physical, chemical, biological, technical, economic, social and other fields as a global evolutionary direction. According to him, the structure of space and time is understood as a complex nonlinear system in the process of macroscopic order¹⁸. This system moves away from the equilibrium state and approaches a specific bottleneck, and as a result, a floating, unstable state of the system is formed. In such a situation, the system can change its state dramatically based on insignificant influences or fluctuations. This situation often occurs on the basis of a transition from chaos, disorder to order. In our opinion, we can apply this analysis to integration in Central Asia. That is, it has been shown in practice that regional processes, which are a product of the global system (market economy and democratic political system), are also a parallel phenomenon with globalization, which requires complex institutional, historical changes, and renewal. First of all, it should be said that objective factors in Eurasia and the world have led to the fact that integration in the region is manifested in a way that is somewhat different from the historical space, or rather, at the intersection of several integration structures. These structures are Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), Organization of Turkic States (TDT)¹⁹ The prevailing view is that the delay in the creation and implementation of institutional foundations for close cooperation in Central Asia is an objective fact and one of the important requirements of sovereign statehood. However, if political scientists, historians, and scholars of various fields take a broader approach in their research and if the results of their research are used effectively in practice, political, cultural, and economic ties between the countries of the region could further deepen.²⁰

For example, if we analyze the recent period of stagnation in the Central Asian countries, we believe that the region's "closure" in itself is not only due to external

¹⁷ Бу ерда Марказий Осиё янги давлатларида эски Совет Иттифоқи давлатчилигидан мустақил бошқарув тажрибасини шакллантирилиши тизимий ҳодиса сифатида қаралмоқда (муаллиф).

¹⁸ Ҳайдаров Ў.Ж. Фан тараққиёти, синергетика ва модернизация масалалари ..., Б. 17.

¹⁹ Мазкур ташкилот аввал "Туркий тилли мамлакатлар ташкилоти" деб аталган.

²⁰ Алимова Д.А. Марказий Осиё тарихига доир умумий китоб яратиш хусусида ..., Б. 67.



factors. True, from a geopolitical point of view, the "New Great Game"²¹ The Cold War continued with the addition of new participants, and this had a significant impact on the mutual and external relations of the countries of the region.²². After the Central Asian countries gained independence, the "Great Game"²³ The number of participants has increased significantly, including the United States, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Iran, India, the People's Republic of China (PRC), the EU, and others. Historically, Central Asia has always suffered from external geopolitical pressure. One of the main reasons for this is that the peoples of the Central Asian region did not unite under external pressure and that internal conflicts were skillfully exploited by "big players". Historically, this region, known as Turan, Transnistria, Turkestan, Central Asia, and Kazakhstan, was first recognized by Jadids such as Behbudi, Fitrat, and Munavvarkari, who advocated the idea of regional unity, religious unity, and economic unity during the reign of Tsarist Russia. In turn, Jadids also advocated cooperation between Central Asian countries and the modernization of the political systems of the Bukhara Emirate, the Khiva Khanate, and the Turkestan Governorate-General²⁴.

Conclusion Recommendations

We offer the following conclusions and solutions on the topic:

- The institutional delay in close cooperation in Central Asia was caused by the model of economic development of the countries of the region and various natural conditions. For example, the population of Uzbekistan, which has a common border with all the countries of the region, makes up almost half of the population of the entire region. Kazakhstan, which has a large territory, has a population of almost half of Uzbekistan. Although the countries of the region have a common history of statehood in the recent past and for centuries, after their independence, due to changes in the social life of people, the stages and means of transition to

²² Фармонов Р., Рамазонов Ш. Марказий Осиёда етакчи давлатлар манфаатлари ва минтақавий интеграция масалалари (Франция ва Германия тажрибаси мисолида) // "Марказий Осиёдаги етакчи манфаатдор ташқи кучлар: Европа Иттифоқининг минтақадаги роли" республика илмий-амалий анжумани материаллари. – Тошкент: ЖИДУ, 2010. – Б. 109.

²³ Great Game – "Катта ўйин" Марказий Осиёда ташқи кучлар Англия ва Россия ўртасидаги 19 аср охирида олиб борган геосиёсий курашини ифодаловчи атама сифатида кенг ёйилган.



modernization processes, it can also be said that certain cultural differences have emerged among the indigenous peoples of the countries of Central Asia. Thus, it is clear that modern statehood and national formation trends have necessitated this²⁵, We can also say that the construction of political systems based on different models has also caused this.

- In recent years, work on a deeper study of the factors that require regional cooperation and the expansion of strategic cooperation in the future has been increasing. In our opinion, it is important to study these cooperative relations on a new basis, as well as to conduct a comprehensive study, taking into account not only geopolitical, but also economic, cultural, geographical factors²⁶. In studying the most recent history of Central Asia, it is advantageous for the researcher to use knowledge and information from several social and humanitarian disciplines - philosophy, psychology, religious studies, anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, political science, etc. - to better understand the changes in the recent past and today.

- To get to know Central Asia better today, one must approach the issue as a Tajik, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Uzbek, and Turkmen. This approach is reflected in the large meetings, conferences, and practical actions that have been regularly organized since 2017 under the leadership of political figures who care about the fate of the region. In particular, President Sh. Mirziyoyev expressed the following thoughts at a major official meeting dedicated to cooperation in Central Asia: "... Our main goal is to transform Central Asia into a stable, economically developed and highly developed region through our joint efforts. To do this, we need to jointly eliminate the causes and factors that provoke and contribute to various conflicts, and ensure national development based on taking into account the priority interests of the entire region. "²⁷.

²⁶ Фармонов Р., Рамазонов Ш. Марказий Осиёда етакчи давлатлар манфаатлари ва минтақавий интеграция масалалари (Франция ва Германия тажрибаси мисолида ...), б. 109.

²⁷ Ш.Мирзиёев. Марказий Осиёда ўзаро дўстлик ва ҳамкорликни таъминлаш барқарор ривожланиш кафолатидир. // Халқимизнинг розилиги бизнинг фаолиятимизга берилган энг олий баҳодир. Асарлар, 2-жилд. – Тошкент: "Ўзбекистон", 2018. – Б. 265.



References

1. Ш.Мирзиёев. Марказий Осиёда ўзаро дўстлик ва ҳамкорликни таъминлаш барқарор ривожланиш кафолатидир. // Халқимизнинг розилиги бизнинг фаолиятимизга берилган энг олий баҳодир. Асарлар, 2-жилд. – Тошкент: “Ўзбекистон”, 2018. – Б. 265.
2. Кўчаров Ш. Марказий Осиёнинг минтақавий интеграцион жараёни муаммолари (геосиёсий таҳлил тажрибаси). – Тошкент: Фан, 2008. – Б. 5.
3. Sinnott R. Theory and the Internationalisation of Governance: Bringing Public Opinion Back in // Final Plenary Meeting of the European Science Foundation paper: Believes in Government Project. Strasbourg, 1993.
4. Khanna , Parag. Bridges to Everywhere – Connectivity as Paradigm. <https://www.cirsd.org/en/horizons/horizons-summer-2018-issue-no-12/bridges-to-everywhere>
4. Европейский Союз и Центральная Азия – European Union and Central Asia. Под общей ред. Б.Ходжаева. – Ташкент: УМЭД, 2010. – С. 6.
5. Понамарёва Т. Л. Историографический обзор литературы по проблеме процесса интеграции в Центральной Азии // Марказий Осиё халқлари тарихи манбашунослиги ва тарихнавислиги масалалари. 4-илмий тўплам. – Тошкент, 2012. – Б. 207.
6. Алимова Д.А. Марказий Осиё тарихига доир умумий китоб яратиш хусусида: Ўзбекистондан боқиш // Тарих ва ўзликни англаш III: Ўзбекистонда ва Германияда тарихни ёритиш. – Тошкент: “Фан”, 2008. – Б. 67.
7. Абдуллаева М.Н., Гаффарова Г.Г. Илмий контекстда фанлараро ёндашув. НамДУ илмий ахборотномаси - Научный вестник НамГУ 2019 йил 1-сон. <https://uzjournals.edu.uz/namdu/vol1/iss1/16>
8. Ҳайдаров Ў.Ж. Фан тараққиёти, синергетика ва модернизация масалалари. // Фалсафа ва фанлар методологияси муаммолари. Омонулла Файзуллаев 4 илмий-назарий ўқишлари материаллари. 2-китоб. – Тошкент: Фалсафа ва ҳуқуқ институти, – Самарқанд: Самарқанд давлат университети, 2012. – Б. 17.
9. Фармонов Р., Рамазонов Ш. Марказий Осиёда етакчи давлатлар манфаатлари ва минтақавий интеграция масалалари (Франция ва Германия



***Modern American Journal of Social Sciences
and Humanities***

ISSN (E): 3067-8153

Volume 01, **Issue** 02, May, 2025

Website: usajournals.org

***This work is Licensed under CC BY 4.0 a Creative Commons Attribution
4.0 International License.***

тажрибаси мисолида) // “Марказий Осиёдаги етакчи манфаатдор ташқи кучлар: Европа Иттифоқининг минтақадаги роли” республика илмий-амалий анжумани материаллари. – Тошкент: ЖИДУ, 2010. – Б. 109.