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## THE PLACE AND ROLE OF UZBEKISTAN IN ENSURING SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE CENTRAL ASIAN REGION

Zohidjon Mingodilovich Khayitmatov

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science (PhD)

Acting Associate Professor, Andijan State University

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### Abstract

This article examines Uzbekistan's role and position in ensuring security and stability in the Central Asian region and establishing alliances aimed at long-term strategic goals. The analysis includes Uzbekistan's initiatives to address the environmental threats facing regional countries, particularly the Aral Sea issue; severe social problems in Afghanistan; terrorism and extremism; and the influx of psychotropic substances, as well as efforts to reduce their negative impact on youth. Furthermore, the article explores challenges to economic stability in Central Asia, including transit routes affecting the economic and social resilience of the region. The impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and wars in the Middle East, which have exacerbated difficulties in trans-regional trade routes, are also discussed, along with the importance of strengthening integration processes to mitigate these consequences on the region.

**Keywords:** Central Asia, states, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, transport and trade routes, integration, security and stability, terrorism, extremism, narcotics trade, psychotropic substances, concept, European Union, China, South and Southeast Asia, and Middle East markets.

### Introduction:

In the context of global globalization, terrorist attacks and threats are intensifying in all countries of the world, hindering the development of states, which in turn creates various problems for the overall security and sustainable development of the international community. Today, when the situation and balance of power on



Earth are rapidly changing, it is necessary to find new approaches to ensuring the security and stability of states and peoples, and to develop new models of security. Scientific research centers in developed countries around the world are conducting scientific and theoretical research on global threats, including the prevention of terrorist acts and various types of conflict processes, as well as the problems of maintaining internal and external balance. In the 21st century, global security and development are threatened by extremism and terrorist acts, regional and local conflicts, and militant separatism within countries. In particular, it is crucial to analyze the actions of certain countries or terrorist groups aimed at further expanding their spheres of influence and changing the balance of strategic forces in pursuit of their goals, to study the factors contributing to the emergence of extremist and terrorist movements, to prevent threats in this regard, and to conduct scientific research aimed at ensuring security in specific territories and regions.

Indeed, the growing loss of mutual trust between the countries of the world demonstrates how difficult it has become to ensure interstate and interregional peace and stability. In such a situation, the times themselves demand that the states of each region act together to maintain their peace and tranquility.

The state of Uzbekistan, as one of the largest states in the region, is equally interested in establishing peace and stability in the Central Asian region, and in this regard, it pursues long-term relations of good neighborliness and cooperation with the countries of the region. Accordingly, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. UP-158 "On the Strategy 'Uzbekistan - 2030'" signed on September 11, 2023, which includes five directions and one hundred goals, stipulates that the countries of the Central Asian region are of priority importance in the state's foreign policy. In particular, the fifth direction of the strategy is called "a safe and peaceful state," and in this direction, attention is focused on implementing reforms to conduct an open, pragmatic and active foreign policy until 2030, while Goal 91 emphasizes bringing practical cooperation in the Central Asian region to a qualitatively new level. (Uzbekistan - 2030 Strategy / Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. UP-158 // <https://lex.uz/docs/6600413>)



In its open, pragmatic and active foreign policy, the state of Uzbekistan, which views the countries of the Central Asian region as its main partners, has long been one of the central regions of the Silk Road, connecting East and West. Therefore, accelerating reforms to ensure peace and stability, and environmental security in the Central Asian region, which has a changing continental climate and rich natural resources, with a history of statehood spanning almost three thousand years, is becoming as necessary as water and air. Indeed, it is crucial to fight together with the countries of the region to prevent the emergence of religious, national, racial and ethnic conflicts that currently pose a high social threat to the well-being of humanity, as well as to combat extremism and terrorism, drug trafficking, and the potential for their origin in the region. This, in turn, creates a foundation for a peaceful and prosperous life for the population of the Central Asian region, which unites about one hundred and forty nationalities and has a multinational population of about eighty million.

### **Literature analysis**

Numerous scholars are conducting research on Uzbekistan's role and position in ensuring security and stability in the Central Asian region. They focus on the geographical location of Central Asia, the Afghanistan issue, and regional threats such as national, religious, ethnic, and environmental problems, economic and social decline, and the infiltration and spread of extremism and terrorism. Scientific research and works by foreign and local scholars are of great importance as they investigate terrorists' aggressive actions, attempts to create a caliphate state encompassing Afghanistan, Iran, and Central Asian countries, the impact of their attacks on socio-political processes, and protecting the region's youth from the ideological influence of radical extremism and fundamentalism. These scholars include Anna Matveeva, Sebastien Peyrouse, Edward Schatz, Nargis Kassenova, Shirin Akiner, Marat Yermukanov, John L. Heathershaw, S. Frederick Starr, and Svante E. Cornell, among others who have conducted research on the Central Asian region. Local scientists and researchers have also studied Uzbekistan's role in ensuring regional security and stability. Notably, Mirzayev Nuriddin Khamidullaevich, Allovuddin Komilov, Eldor Aripov, Eldor Tulyakov, and Farrukh Hakimov are conducting research on regional security,



stability, good neighborliness, improving cooperation with Afghanistan, and enhancing political, social, economic, and cultural-humanitarian ties with regional countries.

In her work "The Making of the New Central Asia: Politics and Culture in the Post-Soviet States" (2010), Anna Matveeva systematically examines the political, economic, and social relations and processes that occurred in Central Asian countries after gaining independence.

While methods of joint struggle against various threats in the region were analyzed, Sebastien Peyrouse, in his work "Central Asia: A New Great Game?" (2007), examines the geopolitical processes in Central Asia and focuses on ensuring security and stability in the region amid new global dynamics emerging in the world community. The researcher emphasizes that regional security is directly linked to the mutual economic development of the countries in the region, primarily demonstrating its connection to the interdependence of regional integration.

Edward Schatz, in his work "The Politics of Rights and the Right to Politics in Kyrgyzstan" (2009), analyzes the political processes in the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as ongoing democratic reforms, specifically the development of civil society, examining citizens' rights and freedoms. The researcher provides an in-depth analysis of the importance of forming a civil society in ensuring security and political stability in the Central Asian region.

In her book "Kazakhstan's Foreign Policy: Continuity in Change" (2015), Nargis Kassenova examines how the evolution of Kazakhstan's foreign policy, given its large geographical area in Central Asia, affects regional security and stability. The researcher pays special attention to energy resources and regional integration processes in ensuring international security.

Shirin Akiner's work "Central Asia: The Struggle for Stability" (1999) provides an in-depth analysis of the origins of political and social crises in Central Asia, as well as the threats to regional security posed by potential national, ethnic, and religious conflicts in the multinational region. The author also emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in ensuring political stability in the region.



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In his work "The Role of Central Asia in Global Security" (2014), Marat Yermukanov examines Central Asia's role in ensuring global security, analyzes regional relations with China and Russia, and explores the political and economic influence of the United States on the region.

The book "The Long Game on the Silk Road: US and EU Strategy for Central Asia and the Caucasus" (2018), written by S. Frederick Starr, Chairman of the Joint Center for the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program, and Svante E. Cornell, Director of the Center, discusses the existence of structural barriers in understanding American and European policies towards Central Asia and the Caucasus. The authors recommend that Western countries work together with the states of Central Asia and the Caucasus region. They suggest that Western countries should not seek to dominate or fight against these states, but rather focus their policies on improving the quality of governance in the region, helping to build institutions for the rule of law and developing the foundations of democracy, rather than directly influencing political systems.

In the book, the authors emphasize the importance of building secular states in the Central Asian-Caucasian region, as well as preserving these secular states, which can serve as an example for the entire Muslim world.

Accordingly, foreign researchers and experts in their studies on ensuring security and stability in the Central Asian region focus more on the region's geopolitical location, namely its position between Russia and China, as well as the serious ecological problem caused by the drying up of the Aral Sea in the region. In addition,

it is noted that while the Central Asian region is located at the crossroads connecting East and West, the countries of this region have limited direct access to the sea. To gain sea access, it is necessary to resolve the internal socio-political and economic problems and conflicts in Afghanistan within the region.

However, the role and place of Uzbekistan in ensuring security and stability in the Central Asian region have been analyzed by foreign scholars only in some aspects, while Uzbek scholars have provided more information on the topic under investigation.

Specifically, in his article "Central Asian Region: Sources of Security Threats and Measures to Counter Them" (2024), Mirzayev Nuriddin Khamidulaevich





highlights that one of the most important tasks facing countries in the region is preventing increasing global threats, as well as ensuring regional security. The author concludes that in recent years, the increasing geopolitical and geostrategic importance of the Central Asian region in the world is linked to the region's richness in natural resources and the clash of strategic interests of the world's major powers.

In his article "Central Asia: Comprehensive Security and Sustainable Development" (2024), Allovuddin Komilov writes that the nature of security problems in today's modern geopolitical landscape is characterized by its unique development, encompassing issues ranging from individual concerns to state and regional consequences. This complex network of security challenges requires a comprehensive approach that helps to understand and respond effectively. Central Asia, a strategically important region located in the heart of Eurasia, faces security challenges including traditional threats as well as socio-economic and environmental problems.

The significance of Central Asia in the global context, encompassing countries such as Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, cannot be overestimated. The article highlights traditional security threats in the region such as border disputes and water conflicts, as well as non-traditional issues including economic instability, social inequality, and environmental degradation.

In his scientific article "The main stages and prospects for peace in Afghanistan" (2021), Eldor Aripov drew attention to the ongoing changes in the Central Asian region, the strengthening of mutual trust in the region as a result of the open and consistent foreign policy of the President of Uzbekistan, as well as the creation of favorable conditions for solving security and stability problems in the region, developing economic and cultural-humanitarian cooperation.

Therefore, the presence of socio-political, economic, and cultural-humanitarian changes in the region is also linked to the establishment of peace in Afghanistan. The article notes that the presence of peace in the country can give a powerful impetus to the implementation of transregional transport and communication projects that will provide the shortest exit to the ports of the Indian Ocean and the



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Persian Gulf for Central Asian countries and connect them to the markets of South Asia and the African continent.

Eldor Tulyakov and Farrukh Khakimov, in their article "Friendly Cooperation with the States of Central Asia - a Priority Direction of Uzbekistan's Foreign Policy Activity" (2020), identified the development and strengthening of friendly, good-neighborly, and mutually beneficial ties with the countries of Central Asia as a key foreign policy priority. The State Program for 2020 provided for a number of tasks and plans of measures in this direction. In particular, in order to bring relations in the spirit of friendship, good neighborliness and strategic partnership with the countries of the Central Asian region to a qualitatively and meaningfully new level in all spheres, 23 high-level and 12 high-level visits and various events were carried out by state agencies on foreign policy and economic activity during 2020.

### **Characteristics of the scientific problem:**

Uzbekistan, as one of the largest countries in the region, is equally interested in establishing security and stability in the Central Asian region, and in this regard, it pursues long-term relations of good neighborliness and cooperation with the countries of the region. Therefore, in the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 11, 2023, No. UP-158 "On the Strategy "Uzbekistan - 2030," which includes five directions and one hundred goals, the countries of the Central Asian region are prioritized in the state's foreign policy. Specifically, the fifth direction of the strategy is called "a safe and peaceful state," focusing on implementing reforms to conduct an open, pragmatic, and active foreign policy by 2030, while Goal 91 aims to bring practical cooperation in the Central Asian region to a qualitatively new level. (Uzbekistan - 2030 Strategy /PF-158 // <https://lex.uz/docs/6600413>)

In its open, pragmatic and active foreign policy, the state of Uzbekistan, which sees the countries of the Central Asian region as its main partner, has long been one of the central regions of the Silk Road, connecting the East and West. Therefore, accelerating reforms to ensure peace and stability, environmental security in the Central Asian region, which has a changing continental climate and rich natural resources, with a history of almost three thousand years of



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statehood, is becoming a necessity like water and air. After all, today it is necessary to fight together with the countries of the region to prevent the emergence of religious, national, racial and ethnic conflicts that pose a high social danger to the well-being of humanity, extremism and terrorism, drug trafficking, as well as the threat of their origin in the region. This, in turn, creates a foundation for a peaceful and prosperous life for the population of the Central Asian region, which unites about one hundred and forty nationalities and has an international population of about eighty million.

To prevent potential national, religious, racial, and ethnic conflicts in the region, as well as threats such as extremism, terrorism, drug trafficking, and human trafficking, it is necessary to resolve the complex internal political and social crisis in Afghanistan bordering the countries of the region through peaceful negotiations. For example, in January 2015, the terrorist organization "Viloyati Khorasan," created by ISIL in Afghanistan, became a serious threat due to the fact that it had members in 34 regions of the country. According to the UN Special Representative for Afghanistan, Deborah Laons, the number of attacks carried out by the terrorist group "Viloyati Khorasan" in 2020 was 60, and by 2021, the number of terrorist acts carried out in the country had reached 334, and this terrorist group remains a threat not only to Afghanistan, but also to the entire Central Asian region.

In addition to strengthening the influence of the terrorist group "Viloyati Khorasan" in Afghanistan, the use of modern information and communication technologies also negatively affects stability in the region. In particular, the fact that terrorists are trying to instill radical extremist ideas in young people, especially in the Central Asian region, through the widespread use of social websites on the Internet, leads to an increase in their influence in the region. The attempt to radicalize the grave youth through the widespread use of social networks contributes to the terrorist group's ambition to create a region of the history of Greater Khorasan, which includes parts of Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

In turn, this goal of the terrorist group "Viloyati Khorasan" requires the leaders of the Central Asian countries to solve a number of social problems in the economic, trade, transport, and energy sectors of the country together with the





Taliban, who are at the head of the government in Afghanistan in the fight against terrorism and extremism. In turn, addressing the socio-economic problems accumulated on Afghan soil will lead to an increase in the confidence of the hard-working Afghan people in tomorrow's peaceful and tranquil life. And the people, seeing their family, their children's peace and tomorrow's prosperity, will fight against the activities of a terrorist group such as the "Huroson region" of ISIS themselves.

In this regard, the most important issue facing the countries of the region will be the development of an intergovernmental strategic plan to mitigate the serious consequences of the socio-political and economic crisis in Afghanistan. Developing this strategic plan will ensure security and stability in the region. The rational policy of the state of Uzbekistan is of great importance in achieving peace in Afghanistan. Given that the complex political and military situation in Afghanistan has consistently posed a threat to the countries of the Central Asian region, the countries of the region are equally interested in establishing stability and peace in Afghanistan. In turn, Uzbekistan, which, along with the countries of the Central Asian region, is equally interested in peace in Afghanistan, has also put forward a number of initiatives. These initiatives include:

The first initiative is to support the peace process in Afghanistan. In this regard, the Uzbek side supports peace negotiations, primarily through strengthening cooperation with the international community in the peaceful settlement of the military and political conflict in Afghanistan.

The second initiative is Economic Relations and Project Development. The strengthening of Uzbekistan's economic relations with Afghanistan and the implementation of a number of infrastructure and energy projects play an important role in ensuring peace and stability not only in the territory of Afghanistan, but also in the Central Asian region.

In particular, the implementation of such projects as the Termez - Mazar-i-Sharif railway, as well as the supply of electricity, contribute to the development of the economy of Afghanistan and further improve the living standards of its population.

The third initiative is to support education and social stability in Afghanistan, in this regard, Uzbekistan will contribute to the development of the education



system of Afghanistan by training Afghan students in its educational institutions, creating opportunities for them to improve their qualifications. To achieve these goals, it is necessary, first and foremost, to further strengthen cultural and social relations between the two countries by establishing special educational centers for Afghan youth in Termez.

**The fourth initiative focuses on strengthening cooperation with the international community.**

According to the initiative put forward by Uzbekistan, strengthening cooperation with the UN and other international organizations is of great importance in ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan. In particular, active participation in resolving the Afghan issue in regional organizations, including the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) and the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States), as well as in consultative meetings of the heads of states of Central Asia.

Therefore, the state of Uzbekistan, paying attention to the high role and place of the international community in establishing peace and stability in the region by overcoming the deep socio-economic crisis in Afghanistan, calls on the international community to constantly participate in these processes.

As a result of the intensification of socio-political problems in Afghanistan, about 69 percent of the country's population does not have food security, the unemployment rate has doubled, and the economy has shrunk by 27 percent, which has a serious impact on the standard of living of the country's population. Currently, about 29 million people in Afghanistan are in need of assistance, including 6 million Afghan refugees, and many families face difficulties.

The main role in overcoming the difficult socio-political and economic situation in Afghanistan is played primarily by neighboring countries, particularly the countries of the Central Asian region. Uzbekistan, which shares a border with Afghanistan, is also carrying out effective work to overcome the socio-economic situation that has accumulated in this country.

The Republic of Uzbekistan, in its foreign policy, focuses on relations with the countries of the Central Asian region, conducts an open, constructive, well-thought-out and pragmatic policy with the countries of the region, which is of great importance in ensuring mutual solidarity and stability in the region.



In particular, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who participated in the sixth Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States held in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, on August 9, 2024, touched upon the alarming events taking place in the world community today and put forward the following ideas. The events taking place around Ukraine and in the Middle East have a direct impact on the sustainable development of the region. Traditional trade and transport chains have been disrupted. We have become captives of sanctions policy, logistics costs have significantly increased, inflationary pressure is increasing. Opportunities in the global capital market are shrinking, protectionism is intensifying, and new obstacles are emerging.

Indeed, the mitigation of the deep crisis caused by the conflicts currently occurring around Ukraine and in the Middle East depends on mutual trust between the countries of the region. Ensuring mutual trust and solidarity will accelerate the processes of mutual integration, as well as ensure the general security and stability of the countries of Central Asia with a multi-ethnic population of about 80 million people. The strengthening of integration, along with the development of trade-economic and trade relations, will serve as the basis for stabilizing the rich history and culture of Central Asia, which has been developing for almost three thousand years, its unique past and common future. Therefore, the fact that the states of the Central Asian region, whose culture, spirituality, customs, and traditions share the same water from the same river, unite a single history, a common past, and a common future, serves as the foundation for the peoples of the region to live in mutual unity.

Ensuring the mutual well-being of the countries and peoples of the region largely depends on shared efforts, close cooperation, the adoption of decisive measures and the readiness to jointly advance the interests of the region.

After all, our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who paid special attention to the expediency of developing a Concept for ensuring regional security and stability in Uzbekistan's foreign policy, put forward his proposals on the following six priority issues in his speech at the meeting.



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**These proposals include:**

**First,** new drivers, development of a new model for the development of economic partnership in the long term.

According to this model, it is necessary to eliminate the remaining artificial barriers by forming a full-fledged free trade zone in the Central Asian region. In eliminating artificial barriers, first and foremost, with the involvement of international experts in the region, it is necessary to determine priority measures that will ensure a twofold increase in the volume of mutual trade in the next 5 years. Establishment of measures will create an opportunity to develop more than 500 additional goods.

**Secondly,** the development of special zones for cross-border cooperation, modern cars, consumer electronics, pharmaceuticals, the implementation of projects for agricultural and textile clusters, logistics centers and infrastructure through mutual support and stimulation of industrial cooperation.

In the development of cross-border trade relations, the establishment of the Central Asian Investment Council, the creation of the Bank for Innovative Development of the countries of the region, and the regular holding of joint investment forums also determine the region's prospects.

**Thirdly,** according to the World Bank's conclusion, our countries still remain among the least united economies in the world.

However, due to the geographical specificity of the region, the share of foreign trade cargo transportation costs is 50 percent of the final value of goods, which is 4–5 times higher than the global average.

Tovarlarni tashish va yetkazib berishdagi xarajatlarning sun'iy ravishda ortib borishini oldini olishda avvalo mintaqada samarali transport yo'lagini rivojlantirish zarur bo'ladi. Bu borada esa, kompleks choratadbirlar ishlab chiqilganligi Yevropa Ittifoqi, Xitoy, Janubiy va Janubi-Sharqiy Osiyo hamda Yaqin Sharq bozorlariga chiqishni ta'minlovchi ko'plab loyihalarni amalga oshirishga imkon berdi.



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**Fourth,** it is envisaged that work in the field of ensuring food security in the region should be carried out in a coordinated manner.

In accordance with this proposal, attention was paid to meeting domestic needs for basic types of food products in the region, as well as to acquiring strong positions in the international market. Increasing yields through the introduction of innovative methods into the agricultural production process in the region when growing food products in agriculture, and conducting scientific research in the field of breeding in the development of deep processing, along with the increase in food production, will help meet the needs of the region, which is growing demographically, as well as the export of food products.

However, the limited direct access of Central Asian countries to the sea necessitates the organization and conduct of an international forum on ensuring food security among the countries of the region.

**Fifth,** the severe consequences of global climate change are being felt in the countries of the region, leading to a year-on-year increase in temperature, which, along with a decrease in annual precipitation, leads to the melting of glaciers in the mountains. To prevent such climate change in the Central Asian region, to ensure environmental sustainability, it is necessary to hold joint presentations on the environmental situation in the region, focusing the attention of the international community, funds and donor organizations on finding a solution to this acute problem, namely the Aral Sea tragedy.

Developing a strategy for the rational use of water resources of transboundary rivers in the Central Asian region, along with mitigating the problem, will help restore the ecological balance in the elimination of the Aral Sea disaster.

**Sixth,** the development of mutual cooperation in the energy sector of the region is of paramount importance.

In this regard, it is necessary to develop a number of strategic projects to increase electricity generation on a regional scale and export it to third countries. In addition, the presence of plans for the development of nuclear energy in the Central Asian region and the increase in hydrocarbon supplies is of great importance in ensuring energy stability in the region.





The development of inter-parliamentary exchanges between the countries of the Central Asian region, taking into account the common cultural and historical heritage of the region, the involvement of our people in the future of the region, solidarity, and awareness of shared responsibility are of great importance in ensuring stability and peace in the region.

Also, the adoption of a program of educational and academic exchange between the countries of the Central Asian region, where the majority of the population consists of young people, requires the development of an agreement on mutual recognition of diplomas of leading universities in the region.

The President also proposed to allocate scholarships for the study of talented students from the countries of the region on the basis of mutual agreements.

In order to discuss these projects in detail, he noted that the city of Tashkent will help ensure transparency in identifying talented students, including ministers of education of the countries of the Central Asian region, rectors of leading universities, scientists and experts.

Also, taking into account the rich cultural and ecological diversity of the countries of the Central Asian region, the creation of a new driver of mutual cooperation between countries through the development of the tourism sector in the region has led to a significant increase in the share of domestic tourist flows.

To further expand tourist exchange, it was proposed to study the issues of mutual recognition of national ID cards and the development of mass tourism products based on the principle of "One Tour - the Whole Region." (Mirziyoyev Sh.M. 2024)

#### **Methods:**

The following methods were used in writing the topic of the role and place of Uzbekistan in ensuring security and stability in the Central Asian region:

This method analyzes the main directions of Uzbekistan's foreign policy in ensuring security and stability in the Central Asian region, and this method provides a deep understanding of Uzbekistan's interaction with countries in the region, the strategic impact of diplomatic initiatives on ensuring security and stability in the Central Asian region on regional security.

The method of structural analysis: this method is effective in studying the activities of regional organizations (for example, the SCO, CIS, Uzbekistan-



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Afghanistan-Pakistan trilateral framework) in raising Uzbekistan's relations with Central Asian countries to a new level and preventing inevitable threats in the region. This method is used to determine Uzbekistan's contribution to regional security and its role in ensuring stability.

Analysis of new initiatives: New initiatives put forward by Uzbekistan to ensure security and stability in the Central Asian region. In particular, improving the energy system of the region, strengthening mutual economic integration between the countries of the region, and discussing social cooperation. This method analyzes how Uzbekistan is adapting to changes in the economic and political climate and in what activities it is showing itself.

The method of historical analysis: The study of the political and economic history of Central Asia, as well as the role of Uzbekistan in this history and its historical actions aimed at regional security, is analyzed. The historical context helps to understand the development of regional cooperation and security.

Statistical and empirical analysis: Analysis of economic and social indicators between Uzbekistan and Central Asian countries. This method can be used to study the economic, social, and environmental aspects of ensuring security.

Interviews and surveys with key actors: Interviews with diplomats, experts, and politicians to identify Uzbekistan's security initiatives and the process of their implementation. This method helps to study the internal and external factors of activity.

With the help of these methods, it is possible to draw deeper, scientifically sound conclusions about the place and role of Uzbekistan in ensuring security and stability in Central Asia.

Results and discussion:

The results and discussion of the article on the place and role of Uzbekistan in ensuring security and stability in the Central Asian region include a number of key factors, including:

Cooperation and initiatives in security: Uzbekistan's initiatives aimed at ensuring security and stability in Central Asia occupy a strong place. The country emphasizes maintaining stability and developing interstate cooperation, including in border areas. Uzbekistan's border with Afghanistan, as well as Afghanistan's important role in regional security, are key factors in these initiatives.



Diplomatic actions and regional integration: Changes in Uzbekistan's foreign policy in recent years, including improved relations with neighboring countries, contribute to regional stability. In particular, Uzbekistan organized meetings with the heads of Central Asian states and intensified the integration process in economic, social and security issues.

Ensuring security through economic stability: The article also emphasizes that economic development is linked to security. Uzbekistan contributes to stability in Central Asia through economic cooperation, especially the development of transport and logistics routes has a positive impact on regional stability. Uzbekistan's strategy of economic cooperation and interdependence will strengthen socio-economic development within the region.

Active participation in international cooperation and organizations: Uzbekistan actively participates in international organizations such as the UN, the SCO, and the CIS, strengthening its position in ensuring security in the region. Within the framework of this cooperation, Uzbekistan is seen as a regional leader in implementing measures to combat such threats as international terrorism, drug trafficking, and extremism.

Considering the aforementioned factors, it can be seen that Uzbekistan's role in the region is increasing. This is achieved through a multifaceted policy aimed not only at security, but also at social and economic development. The article shows that Uzbekistan makes a significant contribution to ensuring stability and security by strengthening mutual trust and economic interdependence between the countries of the region. If you need more details or additional examples on this topic, please mention them.

### **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, it is necessary to strengthen the processes of mutual integration between the countries of the region in order to ensure peace and stability in the Central Asian region in today's dangerous period. In this case, it is first necessary to carry out the follow:

**First**, it is necessary to establish people's diplomacy between the countries of the Central Asian region. The establishment of people's diplomacy will contribute to



the further strengthening of a unified history, customs, values, and culture, whose language and religion are one, formed over centuries. The development of people's diplomacy is also important in preventing national, ethnic, and religious conflicts that may arise as a result of external influences among multinational peoples living for centuries in the Central Asian region, located at the intersection of East and West.

**Secondly**, it is necessary to remove artificial barriers between the borders of the countries of the region in the development of mutual relations in the trade-economic, socio-political, cultural-humanitarian spheres in the region. The removal of artificial barriers will not only improve trade, but also lead to an increase in foreign trade between the countries of the region. The growth of foreign trade leads to the economic stability of countries.

**Thirdly**, if we pay attention to the region's physical and geographical location, we can see that the countries of the region are far from the sea trade route. The development of mutual integration in the countries of the region, which are located far from the sea trade route and have their own diverse natural resources, will become the basis for ensuring stability in the region, where the majority of the population is young people. Fourthly, while the Aral Sea tragedy in the Central Asian region is causing environmental problems, the elimination of internal socio-economic crises in Afghanistan, which pose a threat to the countries of the region, as well as the strengthening of the terrorist organization "Viloyat Khorasan," which is considered the wing of ISIS in Afghanistan, threatens the security and stability of the region. To prevent these threats, it is necessary to strengthen the mutual cooperation of the countries of the region. After all, ensuring stability in the region depends on two factors, the first of which is to meet the food needs of the growing population through the effective use of existing water resources in the region. The rational use of water resources allows trans rivers to reach the Aral Sea by saving water. Addressing the problems in Afghanistan, along with ensuring peace and stability in the region, will allow the countries of the region to gain access to the Karachi Fortress.



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