* **Why Uzbekistan plays a significant role in Central Asia (US perspective)?**

Abstract

**When Uzbekistan left the Soviet Union 30 years ago and declared independence, the United States was one of the first to recognize it and establish diplomatic relations. Former US ambassadors were given the floor at a virtual forum hosted by the Republican Embassy in Washington. According to Uzbek Ambassador to the United States and Canada Javlon Vahabov, they have made an invaluable contribution to making the two countries, strategic partners. In 1992, the American Embassy was opened in Tashkent. Henry Clark, the first US ambassador to Uzbekistan, recalls how the country spent its days of coupons and economic hardship when it was difficult to boil a pot. Political scientist Ainura Akmatalieva mentions “In the US Central Asian policy, the desire to strengthen relations with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan will prevail over regional dialogue”. It is stated that the USA focuses on Uzbekistan because of Afghanistan, and stability. In this paper, I will analyze why the relationship between Uzbekistan and USA is stronger than in other Central Asian countries, and supporting with a literature review based on open sources (articles, reports, news), accompanied with applying International Relations theory, and in the last part, I can try to conclude by recommending policy to The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.   
  
Keywords: diplomatic relations, foreign policy, economic and military ties, stability, prosperity, security.**Introduction  
  
 The whole world has been looking forward to the consequences of the 2020 U.S. presidential election, looking forward to a new path by using the new president and his coverage of his White House friends and foes. Now that President-elect Joe Biden and his leadership were waiting for electricity on January 20, 2021, the White House’s vision and coverage will indeed change or alter President Donald Trump’s diplomatic, economic, and military ties within Central Asia. These and various issues will become important concerns for students of politicians and global family members in the years to come the current dynamics of global reality require a sustained assessment of ongoing adjustments for the operational calibration of internal and external management choices for each player, both near and far. As a global player, the United States must be responsible for maintaining sector and immediate stability in its territory by striving to find its place in the realities of Chinese-Russian domination.  
  
 The recent warming of U.S.-Uzbek relations, which have cooled since the 2005 Andijan events, it is explained by the war in Afghanistan and the fact that Uzbekistan remains an important transit route. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's visit to Washington became a historic event. The first legal visit of the President of Uzbekistan was in 2002. Mirziyoyev's acceptance and the breadth of the agreements signed to reflect the recognition of the ongoing reform process in Uzbekistan a new local function of the country and an optimistic approach to solving the Afghan problem in particular. Washington's involvement in these efforts will also increase Uzbekistan's chances for domestic reform and local initiatives. As mentioned above The United States appointed members of its diplomatic family in 1992 after Uzbekistan became independent from the Soviet Union. Since then, the U.S. and Uzbekistan have worked together in a wide range of areas, including border security programs, family finances, political and civil society issues, and English language teaching, and developed a close relationship. Uzbekistan is essential for US entertainment in ensuring stability, prosperity, and security in the Central Asian region. Regional threats include illicit drugs, human trafficking, terrorism, and violent extremism. Uzbekistan is a key partner in supporting global efforts in Afghanistan, often through the supply of electricity, financial assistance, and the improvement of Afghanistan's infrastructure.   
 The dreams of U.S. aid are to improve living standards by decorating the usual financial situation and increasing funding in key sectors, imposing prices on horticultural products, diversifying financial markets and combating the threat of infectious disorder and transnational crime. Assistance is also needed to ensure that growing citizens have access to justice and access to power in decision-making, sell the rule of law, reform public education, protect cooperation, and ensure that authorities respect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Uzbekistan and the United States belong to several same international organizations, along with the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank are members of equal organizations around the world. Uzbekistan is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for Peace and an observer of the World Trade Organization and is currently ready to join.  
Business development and improving the business environment

The increasingly hasty and transparent policy of our country is paving the way for a new level of relations with advanced skills. President Mirziyoyev agreed to create favorable conditions for business in Uzbekistan and open their markets to US companies and investors. In addition, Uzbekistan and the United States have signed more than 20 major contracts worth $ 4.8 billion (38 trillion Uzbek soums) if fully implemented.

The number of jobs created as a result has not yet been calculated, but some American companies have announced new projects. On May 15, Jizzakh Petroleum of Uzbekistan and Honeywell UOP of the United States signed licensing and engineering contracts for the construction of an oil refinery in Jizzakh region, which will process 5 million tons of oil per year.

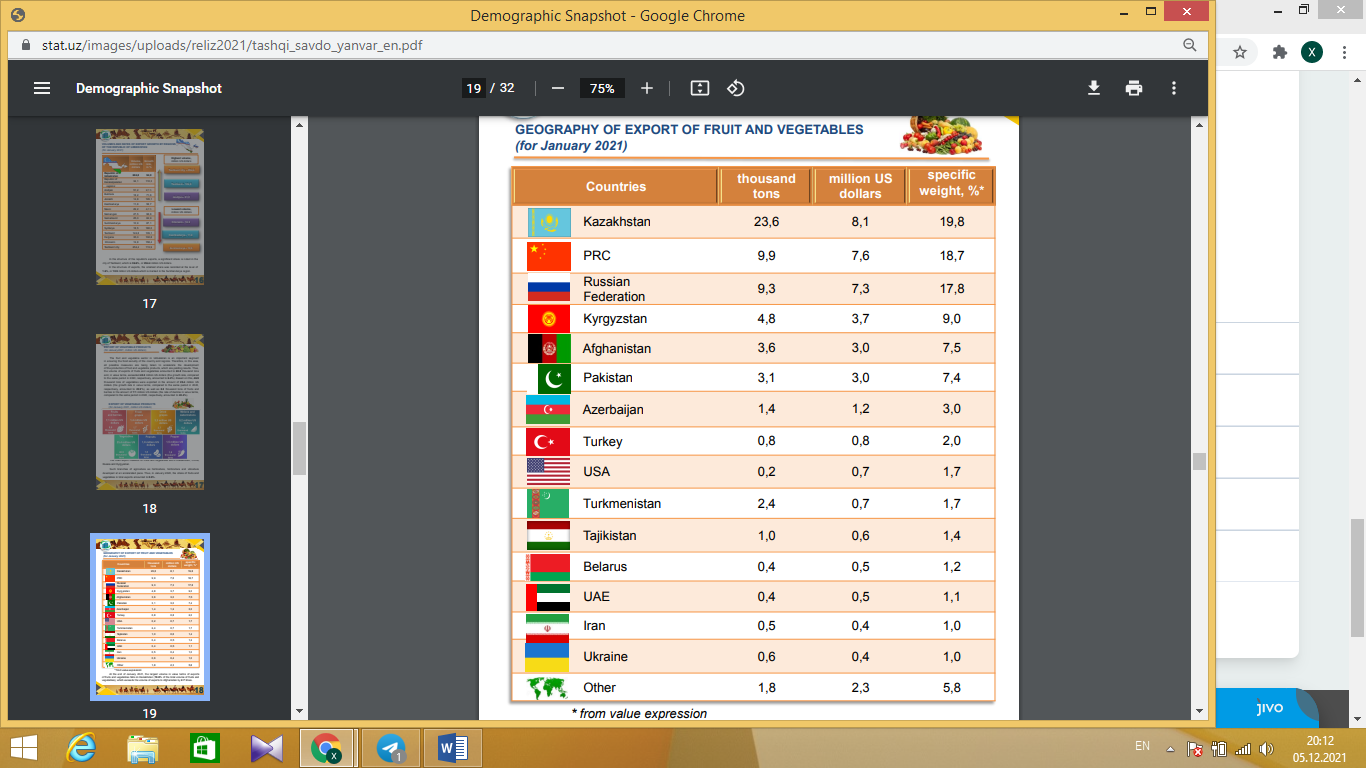
On May 16, US General Electric announced that it had signed a contract with Uzbekenergo to build a 660-megawatt unit at the Tashkent Thermal Power Plant. During Mirziyoyev's visit, the Uzbek Foreign Trade Ministry signed various agreements with American partners.

In particular, the US company WCC (Public & Private Employment Services and government ID/Security agencies) International has agreed to implement a joint project to ensure uninterrupted access of Uzbek products to the US market. The plan is to promote such products on electronic platforms, especially on Amazon. "We have made some progress in this regard," Uzbek Foreign Trade Minister Jamshid Khodjaev said in a May 17 statement, which was aimed at further developing Uzbekistan's economy.

Discussion of the results

Foreign trade turnover of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the CIS countries (Commonwealth of Independent States, 12 state members) reached 905.0 million US dollars. Of these, the volume of exports amounted to 289.3 million US dollars, and the volume of imports - 615.8 million US dollars. The increase in the volume of exports of textile products can be directly considered as a result of reforms in the production of finished products and the formation of added value instead of the production of raw cotton. For example, at the end of January 2021, textile products were exported in the amount of 193.2 million US dollars, which amounted to 27.8% of the total export volume, and, compared to January 2020, it increased by 24.9% (1-Tabel).

*GEOGRAPHY OF EXPORT OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES (for January 2021)*



In general, at the end of January 2021, goods and services from 114 countries were imported to the Republic of Uzbekistan. A third of imports (1 161.5 million US dollars) is accounted for by such large partner countries as the PRC (share in the total imports of 21.0%), the Russian Federation (19.9%), Kazakhstan (12.7%), Turkey (6.6%), France (4.9%), Republic of Korea (4.4%) and Lithuania (2.8%).

Background/ History:

Observers had expected, at some point in many years that American-Uzbek members of the family would quickly decline if any. Proponents of strategic cooperation have done so with the confidence that each international location has the right aspirations and can therefore last a long time. Their reliability and, in a few cases, their careers, convinced of the correctness of this proposition, they might have been astonished to see the development of the disorder. On the contrary, U.S.-Uzbek cooperation has had important aspects in every aspect from the beginning. But such skeptics were not equally prepared for the speed and extent of the disruption. The first reason for the following articles is to begin to identify the causes of this development. Only what happens through the tools of exact know-how is everyone fit for it or not develop a rational path forward. In this regard, the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute / Silk Road Program has prepared a random crew of students and individuals coordinated using John JC Daley to establish a chronology of connections between 2001 and 2005. The American-Uzbek members of the family are long, but not comprehensive because it inevitably consists of the simplest piece of facts that can be applied to the subject. Additional circumstances may be covered by the known. When preparing a chronology, an attempt is made to cover all relevant information, whether one interpreter prefers the other. Any correct analysis of the chronology leads to the conclusion that the statistics of the situation correspond to several interpretations.

Why so much attention?

U.S. officials say Uzbekistan has risen to the top of the list of concerns after the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. The international community has become a website for discussions about bringing refugees from various neighboring Tashkent neighborhoods, and American troops, although this has been frustrating on every front. However, some lawmakers see Uzbekistan as a uniquely located village to help sustain local U.S. entertainment.

August Pflegur (R-Texas), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee who visited, instructed us: "I believe the United States can keep an eye on the interior of Afghanistan". "Having a friend in a geographically close area that can be a safe haven for terrorists is tactically and strategically important."

But now it's no coincidence: the Uzbek embassy in Washington has spent extra time building and maintaining relationships with lawmakers and administration aides. “They’re first or third in terms of reaching our office, Beaverbrook said, and they’re one of the most active embassies I’ve seen” -Josephn Merante, director of government at the Humpty Dumpty Institute, who specializes in logistics for the Republican House tour, said the Uzbek embassy was "one of the most experienced and enthusiastic embassies we've worked with".

Beaverbrook has instructed us to move beyond the U.S.-Uzbek exchange border and is working to receive a delegation in Nebraska to discuss agricultural cooperation and a variety of issues. He also plans to build a sister metropolis between Nebraskan and the Uzbek city center. Pfluger said the United States could help Uzbekistan with water shortages, including that its West Texas district knows a lot about how to deal with the problem.

The Uzbek embassy and government, which did not respond to requests for comment, were forced to cut back. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has recently launched a new document that estimates that the United States has imprisoned 2,000 people for their religious beliefs. Even pro-Uzbek lawmakers acknowledge that the media and political freedoms within the Central Asian state are under threat.  
 The United States later acknowledged this Washington had entered into an agreement. There was a truce with the Taliban and Uzbekistan is actively supporting this process. When the Taliban Representatives arrived in Tashkent the negotiators worked very closely with the Uzbeks in the case of Afghanistan. War for the United States Afghanistan is America's longest-running conflict records remain a major security interest across the country.  
 The United States was one of the major states supporting the achievement of five CA independence countries and worked diligently in the last three security, development and for many years the well-being of each of these countries. Central Asia has been a constant strategic and exchange crossroads for Civilizations between Europe and Asia. This is a nearby U.S. strategic hobby is to create a more stable and prosperous Center Asian political, economic, and security interests with different partners’ personal conditions:

a) connected and open to world markets and global investment;

b) has strong democratic institutions;

c) support the basic rules of regulation and respect the person’s rights. Stable and safe CA contributes to the neighbor directly assisting U.S. efforts in the fight against terrorism promoting regional stability, strengthening energy, and security, and increasing economic prosperity near and beyond.

The political portrait of Joseph Biden is characterized by adherence to the values of the Democratic Party and liberal ideology, consistency in actions, the capacity to constructively negotiate with any associate and opponent, friendliness and sincerity, humility, and diplomacy. Therefore, the position of Uzbekistan will grow because of the safety troubles in Afghanistan, and as a nearby leader. The Central Asian path might be taken into consideration inside the framework of the implementation of the desires of the posted US Strategy 2019-2025 beneath the management of Joseph Biden.  
*Applying an International Relations Theory:*

The relations between the US and Uzbekistan are connected to the border crossing with the territory of Afghanistan, Afghanistan is considered vital for the political purposes of the USA to strengthen its political and military power in Asia. I personally do not believe the incredibly high amount of trade relations with the USA as Uzbekistan is a landlocked country and it costs too much to enter the market if it is done only through airways. What I believe is the power that plays a much important role in the interest of the USA in the region, therefore the International Relations theory of “realism” best describes the relations of the USA in Central Asia. Liberal views of the USA threaten Uzbekistan considering it is still closed and not ready for significant changes in the policies towards the foreign affairs of the country. I consider the essential work of the USA to support openness in Uzbekistan as very effective but it is still below the preferable level. Summarizing the idea of the relationship, power is the strongest objective of the USA in Uzbekistan hence realism matches most compared to other theories to describe the current position.

Conclusion

Analyzing the aims and the current position of Uzbekistan, it would be preferable to divide relations into sectors and sort those sectors out depending on how it matches the policies of Uzbekistan to keep peace and security. The sectors including education, trade, investments, and other peaceful purpose-based sectors from the biggest economy owners have to be welcomed in our country. Moreover, Uzbekistan admittedly has more experience to learn from the USA, especially when it comes to protecting Human Rights, freedom of expression, the medical system, the successful development of society, and eliminating corruption to build a transparent system. In conclusion, I would recommend keeping the relations strong and beneficial for both sides in many sectors, however, neutrality must stay the basic concept of Uzbekistan when it comes to other sectors like foreign policy, military agreement, and intervening in any issues between Afghanistan, and the Taliban.

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