

Strong Relations Uzbekistan Plays an Important Role in Central Asia (US perspective)

Bobur Bakhrom ugli Toshbekov

Webster University in Tashkent, ул.Навоий 13 Ташкент, 100011, Uzbekistan
boburtoshbekov@webster.edu

Received: 2022-January-25

Rev. Req: 2022-July-15

Accepted: 2022-August-22



10.5758/ijls.2022.12

How to cite this paper: Toshbekov, B.B.u. (2022). Strong Relations Uzbekistan Plays an Important Role in Central Asia (US perspective). *International Journal of Law and Society (IJLS)*, 1(2), 144-151.
<https://doi.org/10.5758/ijls.2022.12>

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

ABSTRACT: *Henry Clark, the first US ambassador to Uzbekistan, recalled how the country spent its days with coupons and economic hardships when it was hard to boil the pot. Political scientist Ainura Akmatolieva stated, "In US policy in Central Asia, the desire to strengthen relations with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan will prevail over regional dialogue". It was noted that the US is focusing on Uzbekistan because of Afghanistan and stability. In this paper, I will analyze why the relationship between Uzbekistan and the United States is more robust than that of other Central Asian countries. A phenomenological approach is used in this study and is supported by a literature review based on open sources (articles, reports, news), accompanied by applying International Relations theory. In the last section, I try to conclude by recommending policies to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev. In conclusion, I recommend maintaining strong and beneficial relations for both sides in many sectors. Still, neutrality should remain the basic concept of Uzbekistan when it comes to other industries, such as foreign policy, military agreements, and interference in any issues between Afghanistan and the Taliban.*

Henry Clark, duta besar AS pertama untuk Uzbekistan, mengenang bagaimana negara menghabiskan hari-harinya dengan kupon dan kesulitan ekonomi ketika sulit untuk merebus panci. Ilmuwan politik Ainura Akmatolieva menyebutkan "Dalam kebijakan AS di Asia Tengah, keinginan untuk memperkuat hubungan dengan Kazakhstan dan Uzbekistan akan menang atas dialog regional". Dinyatakan bahwa AS berfokus pada Uzbekistan karena Afghanistan, dan stabilitas. Dalam tulisan ini, saya akan menganalisis mengapa hubungan antara Uzbekistan dan Amerika Serikat lebih kuat dibandingkan dengan negara-negara Asia Tengah lainnya. Pendekatan fenomenologi digunakan dalam penelitian ini, dan didukung dengan tinjauan pustaka berdasarkan sumber terbuka (artikel, laporan, berita), disertai dengan

penerapan teori Hubungan Internasional, dan dalam bagian terakhir, saya coba simpulkan dengan merekomendasikan kebijakan kepada Presiden Republik Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Sebagai kesimpulan, saya akan merekomendasikan untuk menjaga hubungan yang kuat dan bermanfaat bagi kedua belah pihak di banyak sektor, namun netralitas harus tetap menjadi konsep dasar Uzbekistan ketika menyangkut sektor lain seperti kebijakan luar negeri, perjanjian militer, dan campur tangan dalam masalah apapun antara Afghanistan, dan Taliban.

Keywords: *Diplomatic Relations, Foreign Policy, Economic And Military Ties, Stability, Prosperity, Security.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The 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 change or alter President Donald Trump's diplomatic, economic, and military ties within Central Asia. These and various issues will become significant 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, 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 historical 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 many 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 critical 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 crucial 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 confirm that authorities respect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Uzbekistan and the United States belong to several similar international organizations. The United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank are members of equal organizations worldwide. 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

Our country's increasingly hasty and transparent policy is paving the way for a new level of relations with advanced skills. President Mirziyoyev agreed to create favourable 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 yet to be 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 to construct an oil refinery in the 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 to Uzbek products in the US market. The plan is to promote such products on electronic platforms, especially Amazon. "We have made some progress in this regard," Uzbek Foreign Trade Minister Jamshid Khodjaev said in a May 17 statement aimed to further develop Uzbekistan's economy.

II. METHOD

The phenomenological approach used in this study is a research approach that does not use temporary hypotheses or conjectures in the analysis process, although phenomenology can also produce a hypothesis to be tested further. This research also provides insight to find out more about relations between countries and the procedures and policies of each country. Supported by a literature review based on open sources (articles, reports, news), accompanied by the application of International Relations

theory, and in the last section, I try to conclude by recommending policies to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

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 book of exports of textile products can be directly considered 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. Compared to January 2020, it increased by 24.9% (1-Tabel).

Table 1. Geography of export of fruit and vegetables (for January 2021)

| | Countries | thousand tons | million US dollars | specific weight, %* |
|---|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|
|  | Kazakhstan | 23,6 | 8,1 | 19,8 |
|  | PRC | 9,9 | 7,6 | 18,7 |
|  | Russian Federation | 9,3 | 7,3 | 17,8 |
|  | Kyrgyzstan | 4,8 | 3,7 | 9,0 |
|  | Afghanistan | 3,6 | 3,0 | 7,5 |
|  | Pakistan | 3,1 | 3,0 | 7,4 |
|  | Azerbaijan | 1,4 | 1,2 | 3,0 |
|  | Turkey | 0,8 | 0,8 | 2,0 |
|  | USA | 0,2 | 0,7 | 1,7 |
|  | Turkmenistan | 2,4 | 0,7 | 1,7 |
|  | Tajikistan | 1,0 | 0,6 | 1,4 |
|  | Belarus | 0,4 | 0,5 | 1,2 |
|  | UAE | 0,4 | 0,5 | 1,1 |
|  | Iran | 0,5 | 0,4 | 1,0 |
|  | Ukraine | 0,6 | 0,4 | 1,0 |
|  | Other | 1,8 | 2,3 | 5,8 |

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 family members 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 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 essential aspects from the beginning. But such sceptics needed to be more prepared for the speed and extent of the disruption. The first reason for the following articles is 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 family members 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 Pflugur (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:

1. connected and open to world markets and global investment;
2. has strong democratic institutions;
3. 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.

IV. 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.

V. REFERENCES

- [1] Akmatallieva, A. (2021, February 10). US Policy in Central Asia under the Joseph Biden Administration. Retrieved from <https://cabar.asia/en/us-policy-in-central-asia-under-the-joseph-biden-administration>
- [2] Karen, A., McKibben, H., & M. Arreguin-Torf, I. (2019). Essentials of International Relations (8th ed., Vol. 3). New York , USA: W.W. Norton & Company.
- [3] Kun.uz. (2021, January 16). President Mirziyoyev touches upon issues of freedom of speech and foreign policy. Retrieved from <https://kun.uz/en/news/2021/01/16/president-mirziyoyev-touches-upon-issues-of-freedom-of-speech-and-foreign-policy>
- [4] Mendis, P., & Uralbayev, S. (2021). The Biden white house and the new foreign policy in Central Asia. KazNU BULLETIN. International Relations and International Law Series, 93(1). <https://doi.org/10.26577/irilj.2021.v93.i1.04>
- [5] Putz, C. (2020, November 25). US-Uzbekistan Relations Right on Track. Retrieved from <https://thediplomat.com/2020/11/us-uzbekistan-relations-right-on-track/>

- [6] U.S. Relations With Uzbekistan BILATERAL RELATIONS FACT SHEET BUREAU OF SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIAN AFFAIRS. (2021, January 20). Retrieved from <https://www.state.gov/U-S-RELATIONS-WITH-UZBEKISTAN/>
- [7] Uzbekistan's transformation. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.swp-berlin.org/10.18449/2020RP12/>
- [8] Valiev, S. (2018, June 11). Taking the U.S.-Uzbekistan Relationship to the Next Level: Mirziyoyev's Historic Visit. Retrieved from <https://www.cacianalyst.org/publications/analytical-articles/item/13524-taking-the-us-uzbekistan-relationship-to-the-next-level-mirziyoyevs-historic-visit.html>