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**PREREQUISITES FOR THE INTEGRATION
OF CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES**

This article discusses the prerequisites for the integration of Central Asian countries. At the same time, in the opinion of the authors, for greater convergence of the countries of Central Asia, each of them has its own pros and cons. It describes the pros and cons of closer integration for each of the countries in the region, emphasizing that certain prerequisites for this are available. Plus, the article analyzes the integration of Central Asian countries from a historical point of view, describing the problems that arose on this path in the 1990s. still devoted to describing the similarities and differences of the post-soviet countries of Central Asia, which can both facilitate and hinder normal cooperation. In the conclusion it is claimed that «Kazakhstan can become a» locomotive «of regional economic development and therefore intends to act as a pole of integration of the Central Asian countries and to take an active part in the formation of a dynamic market throughout the region». The article also examines the factors that contribute to the real integration of Central Asian countries. Authors give historical facts confirming the prospects of this process for each country in the region, and also coordinate this process with the membership of states in various international and regional organizations. Under the assumptions, we mean those objective conditions and trends that can facilitate or hinder the implementation of a project. This article discusses the prerequisites for the economic integration of the Central Asian countries as a set of objective conditions that imply closer cooperation between the countries of the region in order to solve common problems and ensure the economic development of each of them, as well as the trends in the world economy that have been manifested in recent years and are characterized by increased protectionist moods in the leading economic powers of the world that can exert their influence in the integration processes in the decisions of Central Asia. Factors that could have a negative impact on the integration processes in the region include processes that began in the 1990s with the collapse of the USSR and manifested themselves in various approaches to economic reform and the pace of their implementation, in selected forms of political organization of countries, in national priorities in various spheres of social life, etc. Much will depend on the positions of international organizations interested in the problems of the region and integration groups in which the members are the countries of Central Asia. In conclusion, we believe that the positive prerequisites for economic integration outweigh the negative and the future of the countries of the region objectively linked to integration among themselves and Kazakhstan can be the «locomotive» of economic integration in the region.

Key words: integration, positive and negative prerequisites, objective prerequisites, preconditions, preventing integration, Central Asia, countries of the region.

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Орталық Азия елдерінің өзара интеграциялануының алғышарттары

Бұл мақалада Орталық Азия елдерінің өзара интеграциялануының алғышарттары тақырыбы қарастырылған. Сонымен қатар, авторлардың пікірі бойынша, Орталық Азия елдерінің өзара интеграциялануында әрқайсысының өзіндік кемне артық тұстары бар. Бұл үшін белгілі алғышарттар бар екенін айта отырып, аймақтың әрқайсысы үшін тығыз интеграцияның артықшылығы мен кемшіліктерін сипаттайды. Бұған қоса, мақала осы жолда ХХ ғасырдың 90-шы жылдары туындаған мәселелерді сипаттай отырып, тарихи тұрғыдан Орталық Азия елдерінің интеграциясын, Орталық Азиядағы бұрынғы кеңестік елдердің қалыпты ынтымақтастыққа ықпал ететін немесе кедергі келтіретін ұқсастықтары мен айырмашылықтарын талдайды. Қорытындысында «Қазақстан өңірлік экономикалық дамудың «локомотиві» бола алады, сондықтан Орталық Азия елдерінің интеграциясы полюсі ретінде әрекет етуге және аймақтағы динамикалық нарықтың қалыптасуына белсене қатысуға ниетті», – деп айтылған. Мақалада Орталық Азия елдерінің нақты интеграциясына ықпал ететін факторлар қарастырылады. Авторлар осы аймақтың әр елі үшін осы үдерістің перспективаларын растайтын тарихи фактілерді, сондай-ақ осы үдерісті түрлі халықаралық және аймақтық ұйымдардағы мемлекеттердің құрамымен байланыстырады. Алғышарттар деп біз белгілі бір жобаны іске асыруды жеңілдетуге ықпал ететін немесе кедергі келтіретін объективті шарттар мен үрдістерді түсінеміз. Бұл мақалада Орталық Азия елдерінің экономикалық интеграциялануының алғышарттары әрбіреуінің экономикалық дамуын қамтамасыз етумен қатар ортақ проблемаларды шешу үшін негізделген тығыз ынтымақтастықты, сонымен қатар соңғы жылдары байқалған және Орталық Азияның шешімдерінде интеграциялық процестеріне өзіндік ықпалын тигізуі мүмкін әлемнің жетекші державаларының протекционистік кейіпінің қарқындылығымен сипатталады. Аймақтық интеграциялық процестерге теріс әсер етуі мүмкін факторларға ХХ ғасырдың 90-шы жылдары КСРО ыдырағаннан бастап, экономиканың реформалануы мен оның іске асу қарқындылығының түрлі тәсілдері, елдің саяси нысандарының таңдалған формалары, өмірдің түрлі салаларындағы ұлттық басымдылық және т.б. процестер ретінде жіктеледі. Көбісі Орталық Азия елдері мүшелері болып табылатын интеграциялық топтардың және аймақтың мәселелерімен айналысатын халықаралық ұйымдардың жағдайына да байланысты болады. Қорытындылай келсек, біз экономикалық интеграция үшін жағымды алғышарттар жағымсыз алғышарттарды басып озады және аймақ елдерінің болашағы объективті тұрғыда бір-бірімен өзара байланысты және Қазақстан өңіріндегі экономикалық интеграцияның «Локомотиві» бола алады.

Түйін сөздер: интеграция, жағымды және жағымсыз алғышарттар, объективті алғышарттар, алғышарттар, кедергі келтіретін интеграциялар, Орталық Азия, аймақ елдері.

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Предпосылки для интеграции стран Центральной Азии

В данной статье рассматриваются предпосылки для интеграции стран Центральной Азии. Для сближения стран Центральной Азии каждая из предпосылок содержит в себе свои плюсы и минусы. Причем определенные факторы сближения для этого существуют. В статье анализируется интеграция стран Центральной Азии с исторической точки зрения; названы проблемы, возникавшие на пути интеграции и сближения в 90-е годы ХХ века. В статье указаны сходства и различия постсоветских стран Центральной Азии, которые могут как способствовать, так и препятствовать эффективному сотрудничеству. В заключении утверждается, что Казахстан может стать «локомотивом» регионального экономического развития, поэтому намерен выступить в роли полюса интеграции Центральноазиатских стран и принимать активное участие в формировании динамичного рынка во всем регионе. В статье рассматриваются предпосылки экономической интеграции стран Центральной Азии в качестве совокупности объективных условий, которые предполагают более тесное сотрудничество стран региона для решения

общих проблем и обеспечения экономического развития каждой из них, так же как тенденций развития мировой экономики, проявившихся в последние годы и характеризующихся усилением протекционистских настроений в ведущих экономических державах мира, которые могут оказать своё влияние на интеграционные процессы в Центральной Азии. В статье приводятся аргументы, подтверждающие перспективность интеграционного процесса для каждой страны региона. Этот процесс увязан с членством государств в различных международных и региональных организациях. Авторы полагают, что позитивные предпосылки для экономической интеграции перевешивают негативные. Будущее стран региона объективно связано с региональной интеграцией.

Ключевые слова: интеграция, позитивные и негативные предпосылки, объективные предпосылки, предпосылки, препятствующие интеграции, Центральная Азия, страны региона.

Introduction

In modern political understanding, Central Asia is Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. There are other definitions, in particular (according to the UNESCO version) the region includes Mongolia, Western China, Punjab, northern India and northern Pakistan, northeastern Iran, Afghanistan, areas of Asian Russia to the south of the taiga zone and five former Soviet republics of Central Asia. The article uses a narrower interpretation of the region and considers the situation in the economies of these post-soviet Asian republics. To varying degrees, the socio-economic situation, mentality and cultural background in these countries can be called similar (Kazakov, 2018).

The article examines the socio-economic situation of the states of Central Asia, the formation and main priorities of the Union of Central Asian states, the trends of regional cooperation. By the end of the twentieth century, Central Asian countries had all the necessary prerequisites for regional economic integration, and this opened up ample opportunities for solving the complex of economic, social and environmental problems in the region. Moreover, the geopolitical position of the Central Asian region was of paramount strategic importance. The protection of national economies within one geographical area becomes a trend of global development. An organizational structure has been created to deepen the interaction of the countries of the Central Asian region. The countries of the region are developing unevenly, but nevertheless the way to real integration opens. In recent years, development policy has become a priority in many countries of Central Asia (Erimbetova, 2018).

Methods

To solve the set goals, such methods as the analysis of literary sources and documents were used to study problems and determine the theoretical and

methodological basis for the study; concretization, induction and deduction; abstraction, classification and systematization of theoretical and experimental data on the research problem.

Analysis of the integration of Central Asian countries from a historical point of view, describing the problems that arose on the way in the 1990s, the pros and cons of closer integration for each of the countries in the region, a description of the similarities and differences in post-Soviet Central Asian countries that could, and interfere with normal cooperation and so on. The historical facts confirming the prospects of this process for each country of the region are presented, and this process is linked to the membership of states in various international and regional organizations.

Result

To the objective prerequisites (factors), which presuppose closer cooperation of the countries of the region, we include natural and climatic conditions, geographical location, historical, cultural, religious, ethnic, etc. factors that involve close cooperation in various spheres of public life, primarily in the economy. Without a joint solution of demographic, resource, environmental, transport and logistics, etc. problems, each country separately can not develop normally.

The central problem of economic cooperation of the countries of the region is their common history within the framework of the single national economic complex of the USSR, when the general water-energy, transport, logistics, information, etc. was created. infrastructure that served the interests of not only this region, but also interregional links (water and energy complex, interstate network of railways, roads and airways, oil and gas pipelines, common standards, etc.). Unfortunately, some of them are liquidated, some are preserved, but do not function, some are «robbed» for individual countries. Despite the existing contradictions, for the deepening of

economic cooperation it would be possible to begin with the restoration of these structures. Of course, we are not talking about «direct» restoration, but, in the presence of political will, in our opinion, it is possible to find new organizational forms for performing the same functions.

Meanwhile, in political events and economic processes in the countries of Central Asia, there are not only integration processes, but also processes of disintegration, which also need to be taken into account.

The collapse of the USSR – the processes of systemic disintegration, taking place in the economy, social structure, social and political sphere of the Soviet Union, leading to the end of the existence of the USSR in late 1991.

Since the destruction of the former USSR in 1991 in Central Asia, there have been processes of transforming the socio-political, ideological and economic system. This is due to the gradual departure from the rigid vertical – orientation to the former union center and the search for new opportunities for development and security in relations with other countries of the world, strengthening of horizontal interstate relations within or outside the CIS (Doroshko, Shpakova).

And as a result – the reduction of trade, investment and discrepancies in economic models.

All this gave rise to an acute crisis situation, led to a sharp increase in social and political tensions in society and represented a kind of «time bomb».

For the first half of 1994, due to inflation, the cost of a set of food products increased 5-fold, which significantly exceeded the growth of incomes of the population.

Material impoverishment was exacerbated by the loss of work, a sense of social isolation. The countries of the region were fully aware that each individually can not independently solve these «piled up» problems of steel, to some extent, to seek ways of integration with other states. To date, they (not all and to varying degrees) are members of such integration groups as the CIS, the CSTO, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Central Asian Union and others.

Security of the countries of Central Asia and the region as a whole can be effectively ensured within the framework of such structures as the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The Collective Security Treaty within the framework of the CIS, reorganized in the Collective Security Treaty Organization, to which all the countries of Central Asia except Turkmenistan are participants (Zakrzhevskaya, 2007).

An in-depth analysis of the political and economic processes taking place in the Central Asian region was facilitated by the cooperation of the CACO states with international organizations. In particular, UNDP, the European Expert Service of the European Union (EU EEC), the German Foundation for International Development, and the American Agency for International Development (USAID) participated in the recommendations for solving the problems of Central Asian integration. The Special Program of the United Nations for the Economy of Central Asia (SPECAs) is devoted to the urgent problems of the integration cooperation of the Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan Institute of Strategic Studies, 2008).

Discussion

If we briefly describe the current situation in the region, it represents a kind of state of positive expectations. However, whether these expectations can turn into real integration projects at the official level, it is impossible to say for sure.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Republic of Central Asia's gaining state sovereignty. Over the years, many documents of various levels aimed at regional integration have been signed. However, there are no visible results so far. On the contrary, over the two decades, each country has tried to do everything possible to shield itself from its closest neighbors: closed borders, imposed restrictions on the movement of citizens.

What prevents countries that have similar historical and geopolitical prerequisites for unification, to implement intraregional integration? Interesting discussions around this problem unfolded in Bishkek, at the international conference «Europe and Central Asia: New Trends of Cooperation».

As analysts note, the need for integration within the Central Asian region has long been ripe. Tajikistan, still not recovered after a long civil war, especially needs the support of its neighbors in terms of security, the political scientist from Dushanbe, Rustam Khaidarov:

- There are many regional problems that Tajikistan itself can not solve. These are security issues, threats from Afghanistan. It is necessary to coordinate the joint efforts of the Central Asian countries in the fight against religious extremism, terrorism, trafficking in human beings and drug trafficking, which one country alone can not solve. In addition, there are water and energy problems.

Therefore, Tajikistan seeks to ensure that the integration process in Central Asia is progressing steadily (Khaidarov, 2011).

Teacher from the American University of Central Asia Serik Beimenbetov believes that the need for unification is quite obvious for the entrepreneurs and youth of the region, however, the political elite can not make up this step.

The expert believes that the unconditional factor that negatively affects integration is the difference in economic development:

- Economic development in Central Asia is very different. For example, the position of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in relation to GDP is not comparable. This leads to the fact that Kazakhstan does not see any bonuses in trade with Kyrgyzstan. Therefore, non-regional partners are more important to him.

In any regional integration there are 5 steps. All of them are passed by the European Union. It is a free economic zone, an economic union, a currency fund, a monetary union and a political union (Beimenbetov, 2011).

Beimenbetov also believes that integration will be faster and more successful only if the regimes of the region become democratic and pluralism is ensured.

Experts believe that the countries of Central Asia can benefit from the experience of Europe, taking as the basis for integration the formation of the European Union, formed as a result of the implementation of the Marshall Plan. The American program for the restoration and development of the European economy was implemented after the Second World War.

Farhad Tolipov, a political analyst from Tashkent:

- This was the first impetus for the subsequent European unification. The same impetus for the Central Asian unification could now be made not by America, but by the already strong, strengthened, prosperous, democratic Europe. Europe, which once needed the Marshall plan, can, by convention, name the Marshall-2 plan, but for Central Asia.

However, the integration is heavily influenced by geopolitical factors, which greatly distort the intraregional process from the outside. Elites and leaders of the Central Asian states were not ready to give up part of their sovereignty and move towards full integration (Tolipov, 2011).

Andrea Schmitze, an analyst on political processes in Central Asia, is not sure that the European standard of regional integration will take root in Central Asia. The main thing, she believes, depends on the will of those who are at the helm of the state:

- Much depends on who will come to power in the future. The historical experience of these elites

shows that they are rather against integration.

According to the analyst from Kazakhstan, Almaty Toekin, one can not discount the presence of external forces that are not interested in unification of the republics of the region.

From the point of view of geopolitics, it is unprofitable for Russia, China and the United States that we are a single whole, as a region at the level of the European Union. If five republics unite like a clenched fist, then it will have quite a considerable power both in the military and in the economic sphere. Maybe that's why they throw fireballs from the fire so that there's always some friction between us and that we do not have the prerequisites for rapprochement (Shmitce, 2011).

Over the past 20 years in Kyrgyzstan, power has changed three times. In Turkmenistan, the country's leadership was replaced only after the death of President Saparmurad Niyazov. Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan seem to be relatively stable, where people who are brought up in the spirit of the Communist Party are at the helm.

According to experts, with such a distribution of forces, opportunities and preferences, it is hardly possible to expect rapid integration and rapprochement from Central Asia.

Conclusion

For the countries of Central Asia, the next decade should be decisive, or they will be able to choose a common path of integration into the world economic system with preservation of sovereignty, or they will remain as raw materials appendages of transnational companies. The integration processes taking place in the Central Asian region are the result of global trends in the system of international relations related to the internationalization of social life, the growing interdependence and the need of integrating states to strengthen national statehood, security and respond to the global challenges of our time. Realization of the above directions presupposes, first of all, the effective development of regional cooperation of the countries of the Central Asian region. Of course, the development of the integration process in Central Asia will not be so rapid and similar to Western Europe. Recognizing the gradual, coherent nature of this process, which involves the transition from simple to more complex forms of interaction, with the obligatory coordination of both the current and long-term interests of all participants and the interests of each integrating party with the interests of unification as a whole, should become the initial

prerequisite for the concept of Central Asian integration.

An important integrating factor is the need to jointly address the region's economic and environmental problems, consolidating the efforts of all CA states to ensure national and regional security and counteracting global challenges and threats of the present.

The main strategic economic goal of Central Asia is the formation of a single economic space, a single trade and customs zone, a single monetary union and a single economic strategy. According to Kazakh analysts, taking into account historical lessons, the countries of Central Asia have the opportunity to become a strong and independent region, since for the first time in the past 500 years this region has become economically important for the world economy. Central Asia is a supplier

of valuable goods in the world market – oil and gas, ore and agricultural raw materials. On the routes of the Silk Road in the XXI century will be transport and communication corridors connecting the West and East, North and South. However, for the development of transit trade, Central Asian citizens benefit from and need a unified foreign economic policy, a single customs, tax control, and a unified security system. As the experts note, in the context of globalization, integration in the region will contribute to the military-political and economic independence of the Central Asian states in the world arena. To bring together Central Asian countries in the future, as people having a common history, culture, language, faith and common economic, financial, educational and environmental standards, there are stronger prerequisites for integration than in Europe.

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