

ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES AND UZBEKISTAN'S ROLE IN IT***Yusuffjonov Bahrom Yo'ldoshovich****Uzbekistan State World Languages University,
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Abstract: This article examines the history of the Organization of Turkic States, its main goals and tasks, and the process of Uzbekistan joining this organization. The geopolitical and economic significance of the Organization of Turkic States, the cooperation among member states, and future opportunities are analyzed. Uzbekistan's role and activity within the organization play a crucial part in strengthening the country's position on the international stage. The article also highlights the future of the OTS, particularly new opportunities for cooperation in scientific, technological, and cultural fields.

Keywords: Organization of Turkic States (OTS), Nakhchivan Agreement, Uzbekistan and OTS, International Cooperation, Geopolitics, Culture and Tourism, Economic Integration, Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

INTRODUCTION

The Organization of Turkic States (OTS) is an international organization composed of Turkic-speaking countries, with its primary goal being the comprehensive development of friendship and cooperation among member states. Looking at the historical development of this organization, on October 3, 2009, the "Nakhchivan Agreement" was signed in Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan, between Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey, laying the foundation for the "Turkic Council" as an international organization. Although the organization was established in 2009, it is necessary to review the stages of its origins and early cooperation.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The history of the OTS begins in 1992 with the establishment of the "Joint Administration of Turkic Languages and Arts" in Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan. Later, in 1998, the "Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries" was founded in Baku, Azerbaijan. The most recent milestone in its development is tied to the Nakhchivan Agreement signed in 2009. In 2018, Hungary joined the organization as an observer, and in 2019, Uzbekistan became a full member. At the summit held in Istanbul in 2021, the organization's name was changed to the "Organization of Turkic States," and Turkmenistan gained observer status.

The world is changing, and each day brings new challenges, problems, and crises. Instability in certain countries, escalating wars, the global food and energy crisis and their impact on the world economy, rising inflationary pressures, the weakening of global and national economies, the impoverishment of millions, the intensifying U.S.-China rivalry, and polarization in Asian countries all indicate the precarious state of the international system. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has deepened economic stagnation. In short, the order established after World War II can no longer sustain the current international system. In a context where profound changes are occurring in the global socio-political system, the question of how a key region in Asia will develop, who or what will shape its future, and what the political mood and social activism of Turkic peoples sharing a common past and heritage should be has become a critical

strategic objective. From this perspective, the establishment of an official organization to define relations based on mutual cooperation and solidarity among these countries was a demand of the times. After the collapse of the Soviet system, Central Asian states and Azerbaijan declared their sovereignty and became full-fledged actors in international relations. To avoid disappearing in the shadow of hegemonic powers or falling under the influence of foreign ideologies and dependency on another strong state, each country began striving to define its own development path and secure its place on the international stage.

On October 30, 1992, at the initiative of Turkey, the first “Summit of Turkic-Speaking States” was held in Ankara. Leaders from Azerbaijan, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan participated. Subsequent presidential summits took place in Istanbul in 1994, 2001, and 2010; in Bishkek in 1995; in Tashkent in 1996; in Astana in 1998; in Baku in 2000; and in Antalya in 2006. In the following years, the Council succeeded in institutionalizing sectoral cooperation and establishing auxiliary platforms such as the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA), the International Organization of Turkic Culture (TURKSOY), and the International Turkic Academy. At the historic summit held in Istanbul in November 2021, the Turkic Council was reorganized as the Organization of Turkic States. During the summit, the Charter of Partners of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was approved. Building good neighborliness, solidarity, and cooperation potential through equality, trust, mutual interest, consultation, and collaboration became the core objectives of the OTS. In other words, the concept of a “Great Turan” was envisioned to unite all Turkic-speaking peoples under a super-confederation. The new structure also declared its openness to constructive cooperation with third countries and international organizations.

Uzbekistan’s accession to the Organization of Turkic States was warmly welcomed by all member states. On April 30, 2018, Uzbekistan expressed its desire to join the Council, and on September 14, 2019, it became a full member. At the VIII Istanbul Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States on November 12, 2021, the organization’s name was officially changed to the Organization of Turkic States, and Turkmenistan gained observer status.

Main Goals and Tasks of the OTS

The legal foundation of the OTS, the “Nakhchivan Agreement,” is primarily aimed at fostering comprehensive cooperation based on the historical ties, common language, culture, and traditions among peoples. The goals and tasks of the organization are outlined in Article 2 of the Nakhchivan Agreement, which include:

- Strengthening mutual trust, friendship, and good neighborly relations among the parties;
- Ensuring peace and reinforcing security in the region and beyond;
- Adopting common positions on foreign policy issues;
- Developing effective regional and bilateral cooperation in all areas related to common goals;
- Creating favorable conditions for trade and investment among member states;
- Discussing issues of ensuring the rule of law, effective governance, and the protection of human rights;
- Expanding mutual cooperation in science, technology, education, and culture;
- Promoting collaboration with mass media and fostering more intensive communication.

In a world undergoing profound socio-political changes, the Organization of Turkic States provides opportunities to create new projects in trade, energy, tourism, culture, and social

spheres by strengthening mutual cooperation. The primary mission of the OTS is to unite Turkic-speaking peoples, support their collective development, and secure a strong position in the international system. Uzbekistan's accession to the Organization of Turkic States has strengthened its international relations and enhanced its contribution to economic integration. Uzbekistan has gained opportunities to showcase its economic potential, particularly in energy and trade, while actively participating in the development of cultural ties. Notably, on June 24, 2021, the city of Kokand in Uzbekistan was declared the tourism capital of the Turkic Council, further boosting cooperation in tourism among OTS members.

CONCLUSION

The Organization of Turkic States plays a significant role in promoting regional and global economic cooperation, particularly in establishing new transport and energy corridors in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Additionally, the organization offers opportunities to enhance collaboration in addressing global challenges such as economic crises, climate change, and pandemics. Political and economic integration among member states is intensifying, increasing the OTS's influence on the international stage. The Organization of Turkic States holds great potential in strengthening friendship and cooperation among its member states and ensuring mutual interests in regional and global politics. Uzbekistan's membership in this organization has further solidified its position on the international stage. The future of the OTS, particularly in implementing new projects in scientific, technological, and cultural fields, is noteworthy. Uzbekistan's active participation in the OTS serves to strengthen its geopolitical standing and enhance its economic prosperity.

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