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CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL TRENDS “THE DISINTEGRATIONAL PROCESSES IN CENTRAL ASIA”

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Disintegrational processes of the Central Asia

Over the past two decades, the development of the post-Soviet Central Asia, the search for models of integration unification was an important element of the development strategy of the countries of the region and determining their place on the economic and political map of the world. However, multilateral economic cooperation within the framework of the first integration projects in Central Asia has not been widely developed, and attempts to create a single economic space have failed.

Historically, we can see that integration processes were successful in Europe, and in the prism of comparison, it can be seen that Central Asia started working very late in this regard. A number of opinions were expressed about the reasons for what happened, in particular, that the real potential of integration factors turned out to be overestimated, and the issues of objective readiness of the countries of the region for deep integration of production, commodity and material exchange and the financial sphere remained without due attention [6, p. 33].

Central Asian economies struggle to benefit from regional cooperation due to disparities in rules, policies, modernization models, and institutional underpinnings. In Central Asia, factors complicating interstate contact remain significant. Regional integration is a key topic for developing economic policy in Central Asian countries [1, p. 148].

Definition of disintegration.

Most integration procedures are studied within the framework of international organizations established by former Soviet Union countries: CIS, CES, EurAsEC, CAC, CSTO, and so on.

Consider the very origin of the term "integration" (from Latin. Integration - restoration, replenishment of the whole), which appeared in the 40s of the twentieth century, and a generalized definition: "integration is the cohesion, fusion of public, state structures within the state or into a broader interstate community. Interstate political integration occurs through the establishment of new institutions of power and the delegation of some of the sovereign rights of national political bodies to them. Central

Asian integration processes might be seen as the return of the USSR in some manner, whether economic or political.

In this case it is appropriate to understand and deduce general integration criteria:

1. A common political space and the presence of a supreme political body.
2. Coordinated legal and administrative space.
3. Common economic space.

Let us examine each requirement. First, there is no common political space or supreme political body in which all nations and political forces in the CIS would be represented, and which would get a portion of the sovereignty of the countries involved in this integration process. In Central Asia, there is **no unified common political space** encompassing all the countries in the region. Instead, each nation operates independently, with its own distinct political system, governance, and policies [2, p. 48].

Central Asian countries have not had a unified political space, despite shared history, culture, and language. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan all have separate political structures, legal systems, and foreign policies. These states cooperate through bilateral agreements, regional organizations, and international forums, but there is no overarching political union. Kazakhstan was among the first to launch an integration project. President N. Nazarbayev's concept to form a new organization of CIS member nations, known as the Eurasian Union (EAC), was originally expressed on March 29, 1994, in a talk to instructors and students at Moscow State University. On June 3, the same year, the "Draft on the Formation of the Eurasian Union of States" was delivered to the heads of state of the CIS. The early press reactions, and subsequently the discussion surrounding the notion of the EAC took on a fundamentally new significance.

The region boasts abundant mineral and agricultural resources, including rare and highly sought-after commodities. Joint efforts will secure its processing and delivery to the global market. Only collaborative efforts will be able to resolve differences and even confrontations among Central Asian governments. One of the most important issues is the unsolved question of water consumption. Its solution will contribute to the region's long-term growth, as the socioeconomic well-being of Central Asian republics is dependent on water and its distribution. For decades, the region relied on hydroelectric power facilities in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as gas delivery, as its primary energy sources [3, p. 158].

Second, there is no coordination between the legal and administrative spaces. That is, Central Asian legislation has not been brought to a single standard, issues are frequently resolved through bilateral interstate agreements, and citizens of the countries do not have the opportunity to travel freely (without visas and using general civil documents) to other countries in the region. There is no counterpart to the Schengen visa, which allows you to freely access all Central Asian nations.

The disconnected character of legal frameworks and administrative systems is at the root of the problem. While legislative frameworks allegedly offer the norms and regulations required for governance, administrative structures are responsible for putting these laws into action on the ground. However, in Central Asia, congruence between these two domains is frequently weak, resulting in inefficiencies, inconsistencies, and even contradictions. One serious effect of this lack of coordination is a loss of faith in institutions. When individuals see a mismatch between the laws made by their governments and their actual implementation, they become cynical and lose faith in the legal system. This, in turn, can worsen corruption problems, as people may seek alternate, often illegal, ways to get over bureaucratic red tape.

1. **Legal Fragmentation:**

- Central Asia comprises five independent countries, each with its own legal system, constitution, and administrative structures.
- **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan** have distinct legal frameworks shaped by their historical, cultural, and political contexts.
- While some legal principles are inherited from the Soviet era, each country has made modifications to suit its specific needs.

Border crossing difficulties are a critical component of regional dynamics in Central Asia, influencing economic development, security, and social stability. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan encounter a variety of border crossing challenges, including:

The majority of Central Asia's boundaries were set during colonial rule or during the collapse of the Soviet Union. This has resulted in the formation of several hereditary borders that may conflict with ethnic or cultural groupings, as well as the region's economic demands. Transport and commerce constraints: The region's underdeveloped infrastructure and commercial ties provide considerable impediments to cross-border movement. The lack of integrated customs processes and infrastructure makes it harder for products and services to cross borders, reducing commerce and economic cooperation.

Security breaches and smuggling: Uncontrolled borders and a weak state control system facilitate drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and illegal migration. This endangers regional security and undermines societal stability.

Ethnic and religious tensions: Some Central Asian boundaries pass through areas populated by many ethnic and religious groups. This can cause tensions, disagreements, and even violence among ethnic communities. To address these issues, stronger regional coordination and collaboration are required, with the goal of increasing confidence among nations, adopting uniform standards and processes for border crossings, and fostering trade and economic cooperation. International organizations and mediators, such as the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, can play an essential role in facilitating conversation and peace negotiations among Central Asian countries.

Challenges:

- The lack of coordination poses challenges in several areas:
- Trade and Commerce: Disparate legal systems can hinder cross-border trade and investment. Harmonizing commercial laws would facilitate economic cooperation.
- Migration and Labor: Migrants move within the region for work, but varying immigration laws and administrative procedures create complexities.
- Environmental Protection: Shared ecosystems (such as the Aral Sea basin) require coordinated legal efforts to address environmental degradation.
- Security and Border Management: Border disputes and differing security policies necessitate legal coordination.

Furthermore, a lack of coordination between the legal and administrative domains hinders attempts to solve urgent societal concerns such as human rights breaches, environmental degradation, and socioeconomic disparities. Without good coordination, programs aiming at addressing these issues may lack the required enforcement mechanisms or fail to reach those in most need.⁴ Addressing the issue of legal and administrative cooperation in Central Asia demands a diversified strategy. First and foremost, institutional reform is required to streamline administrative procedures while increasing the uniformity and coherence of legislative frameworks. This might include improving civil servant training, investing in technical infrastructure to better data management, and encouraging increased collaboration among national and local government organizations. Thirdly, there is no common economic space. Even the broadest economic organization, the Eurasec, does not include Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, either as members or as observers. The Customs Union within the organization has not yet been formed and has not started working. [5, p 186] All countries have their own monetary unit, and different financial and economic policies are being pursued. In other words, the current community of Central Asian countries does not meet the requirements that can be presented to countries in the integration stage.⁵ If we consider the third criteria then, The Soviet Union's legacy is one of the most significant impediments to the establishment of a shared economic space in Central Asia. While the area has a shared history of Soviet authority, the disintegration of the USSR in 1991 resulted in the formation of sovereign republics with separate political and economic trajectories. This fragmentation has contributed to a lack of coherence in

Central Asian countries' economic strategies, regulatory frameworks, and commercial connections [4, p. 25].

Finally, the integration of Central Asian nations is influenced by the post-Soviet space's overall growth. Russia continues to play a key role in the area, and successful integration measures are linked to its presence and leadership. There are two more directions. The first is China's expanding influence in Central Asia. Despite this, China's influence remains far greater than Russia's. This is due to economic, political, and cultural concerns. Russia continues to have economic and political influence in the region, building on the legacy of the Soviet period, including shared infrastructure, language, management systems, and education.

The second strategy aims to establish Kazakhstan as the "integration core" of regional integration in the CIS and Central Asia. Kazakhstan excels at labor mobility and providing educational services. Kazakhstan's growth as an independent integration core has resulted in a higher GDP than its Central Asian neighbors, making it a desirable destination for trade, labor migration, and education. It also serves as a source of investment.

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THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF KAZAKHSTAN IN SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION: MAIN PRIORITIES AND ITS IMPORTANCE FOR STATE

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Shanghai Cooperation Organization is an intergovernmental international organization established in 2001 on the basis of pre-existing "Shanghai five". Today it is known as one of the largest multilateral organizations that includes 9 Member States, 3 Observer States and 14 Dialogue Partners, and account for a quarter of global GDP and more than 15% of world trade [1].

Since its establishment, as one of the founding members of organization, Kazakhstan was actively involved in its work, and national diplomats proposed number of initiatives, such as the signing of the Agreement on Cooperation and Interaction of the Member States of the SCO on Border Issues, the adoption of the SCO Development Strategy until 2025, the SCO programs in the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism, and food security programs, etc. Organization's crucial bodies responsible