THE INFLUENCE OF INFORMATION COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA ON THE INTERESTS AND FOREIGN POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

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ABSTRACT

This article examines how information cooperation influences Kazakhstan's foreign policy. Through systematic analysis and comparison methods, this article identifies key trends and differences in information cooperation among Central Asian countries. Strengthening regional contacts and Kazakhstan's engagement in international organizations emerge as pivotal outcomes of this interaction. Diplomatic services, regional initiatives, media projects, and cybercrime counteraction play essential roles in creating a modern information landscape in Kazakhstan. This research provides a foundation for future studies on information cooperation in Central Asia and its broader international implications.

Keywords: globalization, media space, cybersecurity, international cooperation, digitalization

Over the past few decades, the speed and intensity of the transformation of the socioeconomic and political formation of the state as an independent unit within the interactions in the international arena have become unprecedented. New information and communication technologies determine the vectors of a country's foreign policy, its interests, and the goals

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of international cooperation, which form the directions of development not only of an individual state but also of the region in which it is located. According to the tasks outlined in the strategic concepts and plans of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the sphere of foreign policy activities, Astana considers itself the center of all external relations in Central Asia, and in order to perform this role clearly and as efficiently as possible, the leadership of the Republic is carefully developing mechanisms for using all possibilities of new tools in the course of information communication to maintain stability both within the region and, in fact, within the country. The study of the topic of information cooperation among Central Asian states and its influence on the foreign policy of Kazakhstan is a very relevant and timely task. The third millennium has brought both innovative opportunities and new problems and challenges to all spheres of social and state interaction, with which it is necessary to fight, resist, or learn to coexist. Consideration of the Republic's policy on reactions and responses to information and communication activities in Central Asia will contribute to a better understanding of Kazakhstan's future development in the context of a rapidly transforming world order and the emergence of new forms of interstate interaction.

Due to the fact that the process of forming the foreign policy course of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the basis of information cooperation of the Central Asian states has many structural elements and components that require thorough analysis, the problem is to study the key aspects, as well as the problems, complexities, and strategic interests of Astana in terms of successful development in the conditions of accelerated globalization processes, against the background of growing threats to the overall security system.

According to Salykov et al., there is a need to formulate and consider the main tools of digital socioeconomic and political transformation, as well as to create a new model of interstate influence, because transforming existing forms and concepts inherent to the socioeconomic systems depends on this model.[1] At the same time, the lack of reforms in the field of information policy was not addressed by the authors in the course of their study. The use of a combination of different regional and international factors

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1. Azamat Salykov, Aidyn Aimbetov, Nurgul Yesmagulova, and Aruzhan Jussibaliyeva, "Factors and Trends in the Development of the Space Industry in the Context of the Digitalization of the Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan," *Environment, Development and Sustainability* 2023, https://doi.org/10.1007/s10668-023-02983-x.

influencing foreign policy and shaping the course of foreign policy played an important role in shaping Kazakhstan's understanding of its place and role in the modern world community. Insebayeva, analyzing the influence of the Republic on the course of various international events and the level of its involvement in the processes of solving some interstate situations, calls Astana a legitimate leader in the information space in Central Asia, although the aspect of the country's media impact outside of the region is practically not raised by the specialist.[2]

During the formation of a new world order, which is associated with various political developments and the widespread use of new information and communication technologies, Kazakhstan's information space is going through a difficult period.[3] Solving the problems that, according to Oralova, are revealed in the course of regional communication of the country can help in forming a holistic concept of information security of the country; however, Astana is not able to influence other Central Asian states.[4] Effective public administration in the modern world is largely determined by the development of digital transformation, and the issue of digitalization of public administration is extremely acute. Maltabarov believed that the transfer of all spheres of state development on digital rails and the use of the information component in interaction would help to develop coherently in the new millennium. However, the impact on international relations in Central Asia through the prism of information cooperation was poorly analyzed by the authors.[5] Through the global trends in information transformation of habitual spheres of interstate interaction, the Central Asian countries seek to follow them in order to meet global standards. According to Alibekova and Bapiyeva, the use of new

2. Nafissa Insebayeva, "On Becoming a Development Cooperation Partner: Kazakhstan's Foreign Policy, Identity, and International Norms," *Journal of Eurasian Studies* 11, no. 2 (2020): 158–73, https://doi.org/10.1177/1879366520943899.

3. Kanat Yensenov, Karasayev Gani, Dyusen Seitkali, Naimanbayev Bekmurat, and Islamov Marat, "The Model of Interethnic Accord in the Republic of Kazakhstan (1991–2018): Historical Research Aspect," *Analele Universitatii din Craiova—Seria Istorie* 35, no. 1 (2019): 79–92.

4. Saltanat Oralova, "The Main Trends in the Formation of the Internet Space and Information Society in Kazakhstan," *Economics: The Strategy and Practice* 17, no. 1 (2022): 50–61, https://doi.org/10.51176/1997-9967-2022-1-50-61.

5. Arsen Maltabarov, Meiram Seisenbaevich Sarybayev, and Ermek Chukubayev. "Digital Transformation of the Countries of the Central Asian Region: Prospects of Public Administration in Kazakhstan," *Kazakhstan-Spectr* 4, no. 104 (2022): 83–101, http://dx.doi.org/10.52536/2415-8216.2022-4.05.

technologies, such as social networks in foreign policy, will be the best way to achieve the desired results in this area.[6]

The aim of the article is to assess the level of influence of cooperation in the sphere of media and information interaction between Central Asian countries on the foreign policy of Kazakhstan through the study of individual elements of information policy in the region.

Materials and Methods

In the process of preparing and conducting the presented research, the following methods were used: system analysis, comparison, system modeling, theoretical generalization, and statistical methods. The method of system analysis was used to examine the general characteristics and generalized features of the mechanism of information cooperation in Central Asia, to identify the key participants and actors in media cooperation in the region, and to summarize the specifics of their activities in the context of global influence on international relations. In addition, the method was used to study the key features of the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, to identify the main priorities and the most important areas of activity, and to summarize the key vectors of the interaction of the state in the international arena. The method of comparison was used for drawing parallels, finding out general tendencies and distinctive features in the work of diplomatic services, media organizations, and state bodies of Central Asian countries through the prism of the influence of the results of their activity on the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Also, the method was used to compare some structural elements and peculiarities of the fulfillment of tasks in the direction of ensuring information security in several Central Asian countries.

The method of theoretical generalization was used to consider various subjects of information and communication interaction in Central Asia as the main components, key players of the information sphere in the issues of interstate regional interaction among the countries. Also, the method was used to distinguish separate functions and specifics of activity of participants in external communication to summarize their common features and peculiarities in the context of analyzing the impact on the interests of

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6. Gaukar Alibekova, and Melec Bapiyeva, "Digitalization Processes and Their Impact on the Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan," *Bulletin the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan* 4, no 380 (2019): 217–25, https://doi.org/10.32014/2019.2518-1467.113.

the Republic of Kazakhstan. The statistical method was used to determine the key qualitative and quantitative performance indicators of the main international players in the sphere of information cooperation and to find out the factors and elements affecting the effectiveness of the main participants in the studied area of activity. The method was also used to establish the level and strength of influence in the sphere of cybersecurity among the world's countries in the context of several factors: legal measures, technical measures, organizational factors, development potential, and vectors of international cooperation. The method of systemic modeling was used to analyze the main structural elements and components of the information policy of the Central Asian states in the context of their future mutual development, which have a direct impact on Kazakhstan's foreign economic and international activities. The method was also used to develop and present general practical recommendations to improve the process of monitoring, planning, and implementing the most important foreign policy goals based on the interaction of global actors in the information sphere.

While preparing for and conducting the presented research, in order to better understand the essence and focus of the problem, a wide range of different pieces of literature on the subject were selected and used. In particular, the regulatory and legal documents of the Republic of Kazakhstan were considered and analyzed, for example, Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 407 "On approval of the Cybersecurity Concept (Cyber Shield of Kazakhstan)," Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 280 "On the Foreign Policy Concept of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020–2030."[7] Also, the constituent acts of other Central Asian countries and international organizations have been studied: Communication Strategy: Uzbekistan, Global Programme on Cybercrime.[8]

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7. Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 407 "On Approval of the Cyber Security Concept (Cyber Shield of Kazakhstan)," 2017, https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P1700000407; Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 280 "On the Foreign Policy Concept of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020–2030," 2020, https://adilet.zan.kz/eng/docs/U2000000280.

8. European Union, "Communication Strategy: Uzbekistan," 2021, https://internews.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Commstrat_UZ_ENG.pdf; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Global Programme on Cybercrime, 2010, https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/Cybercrime%20Nayelly%20Loya%20%28UNODC%29.pdf.

Results

The development of world history has contributed to the strengthening of international relations: political, economic, and defense ties between countries have been unprecedentedly strengthened, including using modern tools and technologies. Information cooperation refers to the sharing of information between Central Asian countries to achieve common goals related to foreign policy and security. It is information interaction, joint use of common databases and registers, and exchange of various data—of both open access and secret nature—that make the sphere of international relations closely interconnected with information cooperation through various information and communication mechanisms and tools.[9]

Central Asia, which geographically consists of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, is also an active participant in international relations—both in its region and globally.[10] Over the years since the independence of these countries (and also partly during the Soviet period in the history of their development), many organizations, structures, as well as systems, and tools have been created to share and use different kinds of information for specific purposes.

It is worth emphasizing that since the beginning of the third millennium, the widespread adoption of information technology has become commonplace in the region. Thus, the main function of the application of these tools is to obtain necessary information for all categories of the population (Figure 1).

With the increasing global threats to security—the intensification of terrorist organizations, the emergence of environmental problems, and intensification of economic instability—the advantages of using information and communication technologies to protect state interests and security have become obvious.[11] Thus, in the twenty-first century, the aspect of information

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9. Gani Karasayev, Yensenov Kanat, Aldabergenov Krykbai, Zhumagulov Bolat, Aminov Talgatbek, "From the History of International Economic, Industrial and Political Relations between Kazakhstan and Russian Federation (1991–1998)," *Journal of Advanced Research in Law and Economics* 10, no 5 (2019): 1434–37, https://doi.org/10.14505/jarle.v10.5(43).11.

10. Simant Shankar Bharti. "Central Asia as a Region in International Relations," *Social Science Research Network* 6 (2022): 15-27, https://doi.org/10.15804/rop2022202.

11. Mohammad Abbasi, "Security in Cyberspace in the Field of International Relations," *Journal of Archives in Military Medicine* 8, no 4 (2020): e114485, http://dx.doi.org/10.5812/jamm.114485; Aleks Trushaj, "Features of the Foreign Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan," *Foreign Affairs* 33 no 5 (2023): 45–51, http://dx.doi.org/10.46493/2663-2675.33(5).2023.45-51.
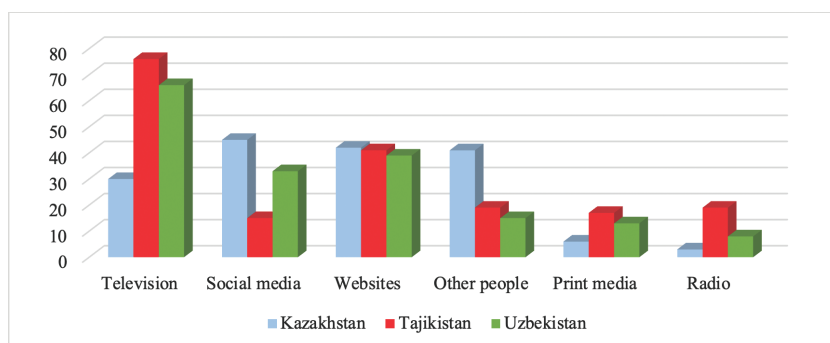
FIGURE 1   Sources of Information in Some Central Asian Countries
Source: Compiled by the author based on Oralova,[a] *Statista.*[b]

[a]Oralova, "The Main Trends in the Formation of the Internet Space and Information Society in Kazakhstan."

[b]Statista, "Where Do You Most Often Get Information From?" 2022, https://www.statista.com/statistics/1365655/main-information-sources-central-asia/

cooperation in international relations and the formation of foreign policy goals has become key, and the reasons for its use are undeniable.

Information Cooperation in Central Asia

Since the 1990s, the Central Asian states have been strengthening their ties, exceeding many statistical indicators of the Soviet period of cooperation.[12] Every year, the tools of interstate relations are becoming more diverse: if in the early years of independence the states held meetings within the framework of summits, and round tables, then with the beginning of the third millennium, when information technologies began to develop at an accelerated pace, the mechanisms of such contacts have become even more interconnected and flexible, the effectiveness of their application is reflected in the lightning speed of information exchange between the participants. Central Asian countries are making efforts to strengthen regional integration and cooperation through various initiatives, such as industrial cooperation, transport and logistics corridors, and multilateral forums.

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12. Era Dabla-Norris, Tidiane Kinda, Kaustubh Chahande, Hua Chai, Yadian Chen, Alessia De Stefani, Yosuke Kido, Fan Qi, and Alexandre Sollaci, "Accelerating Innovation and Digitalization in Asia to Boost Productivity," *Departmental Papers* 2023, no 001 (2023): A001.

The main mechanisms of information cooperation in Central Asia include the following:[13]

- offline international meetings (conferences, summits, roundtables, other official meetings).
- virtual contacts (various online events).
- live broadcasts from the scene of events.
- social networks (a modern tool of information exchange, that, in the twenty-first century, has become the most used means of obtaining data, leaving television, radio, traditional (printed) mass media far behind).
- exchange of classified data by authorized state bodies (National Security Committees, Foreign Intelligence Services).
- international bilateral and multilateral treaties (minutes of meetings, memoranda of intent) (Table 1).

TABLE 1 Some Organizations at the Regional and International Levels in the Field of Protecting Information Cooperation

Organizations	Mechanisms of Cooperation
Shanghai Cooperation Organization, SCO (members: India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan).	Interstate agreements (e.g., the agreement between the governments of state members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on cooperation in the field of ensuring international information security[a]), conferences, and round tables.
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS; members—Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan).	Interstate agreements (e.g., the agreement on cooperation of the State Parties of the Commonwealth of Independent States in fight against crimes in the field of computer information,[b] Agreement on Cooperation of the CIS Member States in the Field of Information Security,[c] Agreement on Cooperation of CIS Member States in Combating Information Technology Crimes[d]), conferences, and round tables.
Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO; members—Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan).	Interstate agreements (e.g., Agreement on Cooperation of the CSTO member states in the field of information security,[e] conferences, and round tables).

(*Continued*)

13. Christina Ruess, Christian Pieter Hoffmann, Shelley Boulianne, and Katharina Heger. "Online Political Participation: The Evolution of a Concept," *Information Communication and Society* 26, no 4 (2021): 1495–512, http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2021.2013919.

TABLE 1   Some Organizations at the Regional and International Levels in the Field of Protecting Information Cooperation (*Continued*)

Organizations	Mechanisms of Cooperation
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE; fifty-seven members, including Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan).	Interstate agreements (e.g., initial inventory of OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict resulting from the use of information and communication technologies,[f] efforts to reduce the risks of conflict arising from the use of information and communication technologies,[g] conferences, round tables).

Source: Compiled by the author based on Insebayeva,[h] Amici and Cepiku,[i] Golia and Peters.[j]

[a]"The Agreement between the Governments of State Members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on Cooperation in the Field of Ensuring the International Information Security," 2009, https://dig.watch/resource/agreement-between-governments-member-states-shanghai-cooperation-organisation-cooperation-field.

[b]"The Agreement on Cooperation of the State Parties of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Fight Against Crimes in the Field of Computer Information," 2001, https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=4129.

[c]"Agreement on Cooperation of the CIS Member states in the Field of Information Security," 2013, https://docs.cntd.ru/document/420278452?section=text.

[d]"Agreement on Cooperation of CIS Member States in Combating Information Technology Crimes," 2018, https://docs.cntd.ru/document/902140948.

[e]"Agreement on Cooperation of the CSTO Member States in the Field of Information Security," 2017, https://docs.cntd.ru/document/542645728.

[f]"Initial Inventory of OSCE Confidence-Building Measures to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Resulting from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies," 2013, https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/0/a/109648.pdf.

[g]"Efforts to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Arising from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies," 2016, https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/8/9/290396.pdf.

[h]Insebayeva, "On Becoming a Development Cooperation Partner."

[i]Marco Amici, and Denita Cepiku, "Roles, Types, and Definitions of International Organizations," in *Performance Management in International Organizations*, 7–40 (Cham, 2020).

[j]Angelo Golia, and Anne Peters, "The Concept of International Organization," in *The Cambridge Companion to International Organizations Law*, 25–49 (Cambridge, 2022), https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108574242.003.

Central Asian countries are actively pursuing regional integration and cooperation through various initiatives. Regional organizations and forums, like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, serve as important institutional frameworks that provide support for cooperation and conflict resolution among Central Asian countries. Assessing the impact of various mechanisms of information cooperation, both at the global, national, and regional levels, it can be said that all of them equally have a serious impact on the sphere of international relations. Thus, the results of multilateral meetings of official representatives of states are numerous exchanges of all

kinds of information, useful data, as well as secret sources and facts; contacts in virtual (online) format act as a kind of supplement to official meetings but cannot yet fully replace them, although they are also included in the list of mechanisms of information interaction.[14]

In the third millennium, social media play a special role as a key tool kit of new information and communication technologies. The blogs and pages of public authorities and diplomatic services in such networks represent an almost ideal way to quickly exchange information and deliver the right messages to the audience, including international ones. However, the most significant and serious mechanism of information cooperation in the sphere of international relations is the practice of concluding official documents—treaties, agreements, and memoranda—in which the signatories undertake to exchange information that is of strategic interest to all subjects; failure to fulfill their obligations carries serious negative consequences.[15]

Kazakhstan is a legal participant in international relations, a serious and reliable player, and it is obliged to fulfill its responsibilities regarding information policy at the regional and international levels.[16] Treaty-making, as well as the use of new information technologies, particularly in the field of public diplomacy, can be said to be the main mechanisms of information cooperation both in Central Asia and in the Republic. In particular, communication through social networks and new media was particularly effective during the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, when, due to the isolation and associated restrictions, many regional and international events had to be either held online or canceled altogether.[17] However, the results

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14. Prithvi Gaur Sanjeevkumar, and Latika Gupta, "Social Media for Scholarly Communication in Central Asia and Its Neighbouring Countries," *Journal of Korean Medical Science* 36, no 4 (2021): e36, https://doi.org/10.3346%2Fjkms.2021.36.e36; Oleksandra Voityk, and Nataliia Mazii, "Problems and Prospects of Strategic Planning of Regional Development," *Democratic Governance* 1, no. 27 (2021), https://doi.org/10.33990/2070-4038.27.2021.239190.

15. Mohammed Saaida, "The Impact of International Organizations on Global Governance," *Science for All Publications* 1, no. 1 (2023): 1–4; Halyna Dzyana, and Dzyanyy Rostyslav, "Public Administrative Activity in the Conditions of Contemporary Uncertainty: Information and Communication Aspect," *Democratic Governance* 1, no. 31 (2023): 37–51, https://doi.org/10.23939/dg2023.01.037.

16. Högselius Per, "The Hidden Integration of Central Asia: The Making of a Region through Technical Infrastructures," *Central Asian Survey* 41, no. 8 (2021), 223–43, https://doi.org/10.1080/02634937.2021.1953963.

17. Saltanat Oralova, "The Main Trends in the Formation of the Internet Space and Information Society in Kazakhstan," *Economics: The Strategy and Practice* 17, no 1 (2022): 50–61, https://doi.org/10.51176/1997-9967-2022-1-50-61; Daniel C. O'Neill, and Christopher B. Primiano. "Kazakhstan's Quest for Status: A Secondary State's Strategy to Shape Its International Image,"

of virtual meetings show their effectiveness, which suggests that they may become one of the basic mechanisms of interaction between states in the near future. This is especially relevant for Kazakhstan, as the Republic has developed and updated modern information strategies and plans because of the challenges and requirements of modern global development.[18]

Main Participants in Information Cooperation in Central Asia

The information component of domestic and foreign policy activities is one of the main functions of most of the constituent elements of state development. Diplomatic services, media organizations and groups, official authorities, as well as many other actors are engaged in, among other things, information provision and facilitate data exchange. Thus, traditionally, information cooperation at the country level is provided mainly by employees of diplomatic departments—embassies, consulates, and other representations.[19] For example, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan M. Nurtleu, guided by the paragraphs of Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 1118 "Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan,"[20] fulfills the following functions:

- represents the Republic in the context of contacts with representatives of other states and international organizations.
- implements the country's foreign policy course, informing the leadership of the main results of its activities.

Journal of Eurasian Studies 15, no. 1 (2023). https://doi.org/10.1177/18793665231173000; Baurzhan Bokayev, Zulfiya Torebekova, Marta Abdykalikova, and Zhuldyz Davletbayeva, "Exposing Policy Gaps: The Experience of Kazakhstan in Implementing Distance Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic," *Transforming Government: People, Process and Policy* 15, no 2 (2021): 275–90, https://doi.org/10.1108/TG-07-2020-0147.

18. "Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 145 'On Approval of the Information Doctrine of the Republic of Kazakhstan'," 2023, https://akorda.kz/ru/ob-utverzh-denii-informacionnoy-doktriny-respubliki-kazahstan-2025248.

19. Aadil Ahmed Shairgojri. "Impact Analysis of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on Diplomacy," *Journal of Learning and Educational Policy* 2, no. 5 (2022): 16–21, http://dx.doi.org/10.55529/jlep.25.16.21; Natalia. Frolova, "Theoretical Principles and Components of Public Policy," *Democratic Governance* 1, no. 27 (2021), https://doi.org/10.33990/2070-4038.27.2021.239245.

20. "Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 1118 'Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan'," 2004, https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P040001118_.

- studies the international situation, issues of global character, analyses, and forecasts future directions of the department's work and submits reports on the situation to the President.
- disseminates information on key foreign policy events and diplomatic activities and transmits the course of foreign policy to the national society.
- organizes various information and media events in the sphere of international relations.
- manages the general course in the sphere of information services and protection of citizens in other states.

Representatives of the media sphere—journalists, reporters, and experts of information agencies—are engaged in transmitting information directly from its source (politicians, leading personalities, celebrities) to the ordinary citizen, trying to transform it minimally, keeping all elements in their original form. There are many media organizations in Kazakhstan— national, regional, and international (e.g., the Kazakhstani international news agency Kazinform, the Kazakhstani internet publication Zakon.kz).[21] Their function is mainly to provide the society, which is a direct consumer, with the most relevant information of political, economic, social, cultural, and other directions. The general situation in the state often depends on the level of professional and personal qualities of media workers.[22]

Deputies, officials, governors, mayors, and other representatives of public authorities also occupy an important place in information cooperation at different stages of interaction (Central Asia is characterized by a high level and depth of regional cooperation in all spheres of state and public cooperation).[23] For example, issues of regional cooperation on water resources are of utmost importance and priority in all Central Asian states. The activities of the Interstate Bilateral Water Commission of Kazakhstan and

21. Maltabarov et al., "Digital Transformation of the Countries of the Central Asian Region"; Bharti, "Central Asia as a Region in International Relations."

22. Elnura Assyltayeva, Sharip Ishmukhamedov, Zhenisbek Tolen, and Zhangeldi Agybay, "The Influence of Mass Media on the Formation of Civic Identity: The Example of Kazakhstan (Content Analysis)," *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 2023, https://doi.org/10.1080/10509208.2023.2259260; Sagyngaliy Aidarbayev, "Origins and Modernity of the Political and Legal System of Kazakhstan," in *On the Asian and European Origins of Legal and Political Systems*, 33–53 (Peter Lang, 2018).

23. Drina Intyaswati, Eni Maryani, Dadang Sugiana, and Anter Venus. "Social Media as An Information Source of Political Learning in Online Education," *SAGE Open* 11, no. 2 (2021), https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440211023181.

Kyrgyzstan on the Chu and Talas River basins are characterized by high efficiency and fruitful results.[24] Thanks to good cooperation, not least in terms of information exchange, the most acute problems have been solved and relations between the two countries have been resolved.

Specific Projects and Initiatives in Central Asian Countries

Cooperation between the Central Asian states takes place at various levels and in all kinds of directions and vectors: social sphere, economic and political sector, defense initiatives, and tourism development. Thus, bilateral and multilateral contacts between the countries have intensified in recent years, initiated by representatives of the younger generation, for whom the rapid and effective exchange of useful information is an integral part of their lives.[25]

One of the most successful and promising modern projects in Central Asia is the cultural and humanitarian initiative—Central Asia Tourist Brand—a scientific and educational program whose main goal is, first, to intensify cooperation between the countries of the region in the information space.[26] In particular, the president of Kazakhstan K. Tokayev at the V Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States in Dushanbe, which took place in September 2023, proposed to start a systematic expansion of the zone of application of digital solutions, as well as the expansion of cooperation in the field of education.[27] In addition, at the IV Consultative Meeting of Central Asian Heads of State in Cholpon-Ata, which took place in July 2022, K. Tokayev proposed the creation of joint high-quality media projects (e.g., launching regional channels, news portals, and intensifying cooperation between news agencies in Central Asian countries).

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24. Zulfiya Suleimenova, "Water Security in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus," *Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal* 27, no. 1 (2020): 75–93.

25. Yenchun Jim Wu, Mark Goh, and Yingping Mai, "Social Innovation and Higher Education: Evolution and Future Promise," *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* 10 (2023): 283, https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-023-01759-y; Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic Studies, "Assessment of the Level of Co-operation of Central Asian Countries," 2023, https://imrs.uz/publications/articles-and-abstracts/evaluation_cooperation.

26. "Tokayev Invited His Colleagues to Jointly Promote the Tourism Brand 'Central Asia,'" 2023, https://ru.sputnik.kz/20230914/tokaev-predlozhil-kollegam-sovmestno-prodvigat-turisticheskiy-brend-tsentralnaya-aziya--38456372.html.

27. "Address by the President of Kazakhstan at the Consultative Meeting of Heads of Central Asian States," 2023, https://www.akorda.kz/ru/vystuplenie-prezidenta-kazakhstanana-konsulta-tivnoy-vstreche-glav-gosudarstv-centralnoy-azii-672341.

As a result of K. Tokayev's initiative, more and more gender-specific information projects have started to appear in the region. For example, the so-called women's media projects, which touch on the everyday life and professional development of the female population, look very interesting and promising. The most significant regional information projects include:[28]

- "What is your strength, sister?" (a series of video interviews on the difficulties of women's self-determination in Central Asia against the background of globalization and the preservation of traditional beliefs).
- exhibition "Bishkek Feminnale" (presentation of artistic works by women from the region—films, paintings, sculptures, design items).
- projects "Don't pass by" and "The House Where Unforgotten Pain Lives" (devoted to the problems of domestic violence and ways of solving them).
- project Booms.tj (recommendations on professional and personal development of girls and women in Central Asian countries).

Journalists and other media and information professionals are also among the main participants in this area of interaction; the development of international relations and the support of friendly and open contacts between different states directly depend on their professionalism and the quality of their work. The Declaration of Alma Ata on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Asian Media was adopted, and since then, various regional information events have been organized within the framework of this document.[29] In honor of the thirtieth anniversary of the declaration, the Turkic-speaking Journalists Foundation held the II Media Forum of Turkic-speaking journalists, where they shared ideas on professional development and exchanged experiences in journalism education.[30] The main issues raised at the forum were the international principles of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of information, and freedom of the press; promotion of national and regional seminars and media training programs.

28. Anna Sukhacheva, "Women's Media Projects in Central Asia," 2020, https://newreporter .org/2020/10/13/zhenskie-mediaproekty-v-centralnoj-azii/.

29. "Declaration of Alma Ata on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Asian Media," 1993, https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000149256.

30. UNESCO, "Media Forum of Turkic-Speaking Journalists Celebrates Alma-Ata Declaration +30," 2022, https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/media-forum-turkic-speaking-journalists-celebrates-alma-ata-declaration30; Geoffrey Hobbis, Marc Esteve-Del-Valle, and Rashid Gabdulhakov, "Rural Media Studies: Making the Case for a New Subfield," *Media, Culture & Society* 45, no. 7 (2023): 1489–500, https://doi.org/10.1177/01634437231179348.

Since the problems of radicalization of society and the threat of terrorist attacks in the region are particularly acute, ways and means of solving these problems are on the agenda not only of the state but also of nongovernmental organizations. For example, the Kazakh organization Internews holds regular seminars on media literacy and countering extremism in Central Asia. It also discusses countering disinformation, weakening the influence of extremist groups, and engaging the region's youth in sports initiatives; the project is based on "Promoting stability and peace in Central Asia through increased media literacy, effective reporting and regional cooperation."[31]

The digitalization of Central Asian states is well underway: innovative mechanisms and information technologies are now an integral part of virtually every element of public administration in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and neighboring states. Therefore, projects and initiatives to protect information and databases are key during meetings of both top leaders of the region's countries and specialists from individual sectors. However, the situation in the cybersecurity sector of the Central Asian states is in a rather difficult position; several aspects of data protection require revision to their implementation (Table 2).

Table 2 shows that Kazakhstan is the only regional country that performs pretty well. Meanwhile, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan rank at the bottom, highlighting severe data protection deficiencies. As Kazakhstan and its neighbors increase their information cooperation, these gaps may jeopardize diplomatic and commercial relations if sensitive data is not properly secured. Addressing Central Asian cybersecurity weaknesses is thus critical for Astana's regional integration goals as well as its desire to serve as a connectivity hub connecting European and Asian digital domains. Strengthening regional cybersecurity capabilities and policy frameworks through collaborative efforts must be prioritized. This will foster the trust and dependability required to reap the benefits of stronger Central Asian ties in a variety of political, social, and commercial contexts.

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31. Maltabarov et al., "Digital Transformation of the Countries of the Central Asian Region"; Zhaina Abylgazova, Akynbekova Altyn, Alimzhanova Aikerim, Nurmanova Marzhan, and Bakenova Rizagul, "Problems of Developing Media and Information Competence of Future Journalists on the Basis of Case Technologies," *Asian Journal of University Education* 19, no. 2 (2023): 436–46. https://doi.org/10.24191/ajue.v19i1.22227.

TABLE 2 Rating of States According to the Global Cybersecurity Index, 2020

Country	Points*	Place in the Ranking
USA	100	1
Great Britain, Saudi Arabia	99.54	2
Estonia	99.48	3
Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain	98.52	4
Russia, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia	98.06	5
Lithuania	97.93	6
Japan	97.82	7
Canada	97.67	8
France	97.6	9
India	97.5	10
Kazakhstan	93.15	31
Uzbekistan	71.11	70
Kyrgyzstan	49.64	92
Tajikistan	17.1	138
Turkmenistan	14.48	144

Note: *—includes the following indicators: legal measures, technical measures, organizational measures, development potential, and international cooperation. The overall score is given by summing up all indicators.

Source: compiled by the author based on Salykov et al.,[a] Alibekova and Bapiyeva,[b] International Telecommunication Union.[c]
[a]Salykov et al., "Factors and Trends in the Development of the Space Industry in the Context of the Digitalization of the Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan."
[b]Alibekova and Bapiyeva, "Digitalization Processes and Their Impact on the Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan."
[c]International Telecommunication Union, "Global Cybersecurity Index 2020," 2021, https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/str/D-STR-GCI.01-2021-PDF-E.pdf.

Organizations such as TSARKA (*Tsentr Analiza i Rassledovaniya Kiber Atak* – Cyber Attack Analysis and Investigation Center) (Kazakhstan), the Public Foundation "Civil Initiative for Internet Policy" (Kyrgyzstan), as well as the CyberSTAR project of the SecDev Foundation, and others, are

dealing with information security issues.[32] Addressing the security problems of information cooperation in the process of bilateral and multilateral interactions in the region are the key tasks of the above-mentioned participants in the information sphere. Joint initiatives of the United States Agency for International Development in the region (e.g., Regional Development Cooperation Strategy) are aimed at improving the literacy of the population on gender equality, combating radicalization, extremism, terrorism, countering religious, ethnic, and other disadvantages; the information component of the policy is the main instrument of activity.[33]

Thus, in order to ensure security guarantees for the exchange of information and classified data in the course of international cooperation at the national, regional, and global levels, in 2017, the Republic of Kazakhstan developed the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 407 "On approval of the Cybersecurity Concept (Cyber Shield of Kazakhstan)," the implementation of the tasks of which will contribute to the continued modernization of the Kazakh society within the framework of the Global Programme on Cybercrime.[34] Also, tasks in the field of protection of the information component of international communication are outlined in national documents of the Republic such as Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 1534 "On the Draft Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On the State Programme "Information Kazakhstan—2020" and making an addition to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 19 March 2010 No. 957 "On approval of the list of state programmes," Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 280 "On the Foreign Policy Concept of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020–2030," Decree of

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32. Central Asian Bureau for Analytical Reporting, "Expert Meeting: Cybersecurity in Central Asian Countries. What Is Being Done to Improve It?," 2022, https://cabar.asia/ru/ekspert-naya-vstrecha-kiberbezopasnost-v-stranah-tsentralnoj-azii-chto-delaetsya-dlya-ee-uluchsheniya.

33. USAID, "Regional Development Cooperation Strategy (RDCS)," 2020, https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/2023%20Update%20External-RDCS-RDMA-Dec-2025_0.pdf.

34. "Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 407 'On Approval of the Cyber Security Concept (Cyber Shield of Kazakhstan)'," 2017, https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P1700000407; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "Global Programme on Cybercrime."

the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 145 "On approval of the information doctrine of the Republic of Kazakhstan."[35]

A similar document was presented in Uzbekistan: Communication Strategy: Uzbekistan defines the vectors of development and improvement of the information component of domestic and foreign policy activities of the country and forms the main tasks for the near future.[36] Also, Turkmenistan has developed the concept of developing digital economy in Turkmenistan for 2019–2025, the goals of which are the growth of business and investment activity, introduction of advanced methods of public administration, protection of information and personal data, transparent cyberspace, media freedom, universal transition of the state to digital information, and communication technologies.[37]

Analyzing some joint projects and initiatives conducted within the region, it is possible to formulate the following aspects that shape Kazakhstan's current foreign policy course and the vector of its strategic interests. First, the main profile subjects of state administration—in both the internal and external spheres—put the main emphasis in their information activities on public diplomacy: the popularization of the brand "Kazakhstan" as a safe and comfortable country, attractive for tourists, and convenient for investors comes to the forefront of the main interests and aspirations of the responsible authorities. In addition, elements of modern democratic freedoms such as gender equality, protection of rights, and freedoms of representatives of national minorities, respect for different religious movements contribute to bringing Kazakhstan closer to the norms of the developed democratic world, improving this sphere according to the standards of the EU.

Also, transparent operation of media resources, freedom of the press, unimpeded exchange of information, and data security are the key characteristics

35. Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 1534 "On the Draft Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On the State Programme 'Information Kazakhstan—2020'"; Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 280 "On the Foreign Policy Concept of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020–2030"; Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 145 "On Approval of the Information Doctrine of the Republic of Kazakhstan."

36. European Union, "Communication Strategy: Uzbekistan," 2021, https://internews.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Commstrat_UZ_ENG.pdf.

37. "The Concept of Digitalisation: Creating Infrastructure for the Development of Electronic Technologies," 2020, https://tdh.gov.tm/index.php/tk/post/22577/kontseptsiya-tsifrovizatsii-sozdanie-infrastruktury-dlya-razvitiya-elektronnykh-tekhnologii; "Turkmenistan Is Carrying Out Comprehensive Work in the Field of Digitalization," 2018, https://ukraine.tmembassy.gov.tm/en/news/26214.

to which the Republic aspires in the context of modern information cooperation at the international level. The fight against terrorism and extremism and the development of a free, secure, and law-abiding society are the main tasks in Kazakhstan's state strategy. In the twenty-first century, cybersecurity and protection of classified information have been added to the main tasks of the modern state in the sphere of national security. In addition, the Kazakh authorities intend to update the regulatory framework of the sector. For example, legislation in the field of information is currently being revised in order to improve it in accordance with the challenges of the new millennium; changes are also being made to the policy of the activities of media resources—both in Kazakhstan and in individual countries in the region and in Asia as a whole.

Considering all aspects and components of information interaction in Central Asia in the context of its influence on the foreign policy course and interests of the Republic of Kazakhstan, it is possible to conclude that this area of cooperation is at a fairly acceptable level. However, there are some gaps that should be filled by improving and updating several elements and processes of this direction. Thus, the following recommendations are proposed:

- develop a universal cyber code for the protection of information data, control of relations in the sphere, and unification of contacts of all subjects of this direction.
- create a unified set of norms and rules for correct and legal use of new information and communication technologies in the conditions of global transformation processes.
- update and modernize the communication infrastructure and global data space.
- maintain high-level bilateral and multilateral contacts on the issues of information cooperation and communication.
- update national legislation in the spheres of information cooperation, information protection, and cybercrime.
- raise the level of qualification and professional training of advisory personnel—diplomatic officials, media representatives, and government officials.
- strengthen the intensity of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the information sphere through the conclusion of new agreements.
- create and launch a greater number of joint regional and international projects and initiatives.
- develop and implement new programs and projects in the spheres of information cooperation and cybercrime.

Discussion

Considering the factors related to determining the role and influence of information cooperation in Central Asia on the interests and foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan through the prism of strengthening the use of new information and communication technologies in different spheres of public administration, primarily in international cooperation, several conclusions were made. First, it is important to note that, after studying various scientific works and papers on the direction of interstate relations and focusing directly on the exchange of data between the subjects of international relations, it was found that this topic is very relevant and widely discussed at different levels of public interaction. The mandatory use of information tools for quick and timely contact between representatives of the top leadership of not only Central Asian countries but also other states has been accepted as a mandatory measure for establishing strong and reliable bilateral and multilateral cooperation.[38]

Researchers from Kazakhstan have paid special attention to the study of peculiarities, trends, and distinctive features of Astana's information dialogue with representatives of neighboring states. Aspects of Kazakhstani cooperation in the context of information security through cooperation with international organizations and participation in various projects and initiatives were also very intensively considered. Specialists from China, the United States of America, Germany, and other countries comprehensively analyzed the world experience of international relations with a focus on identifying the information factor in establishing official cooperation between the participants in this process. Based on the conclusions of the authors and the results of the presented work, it is possible to voice the assumption that a thorough study of the opportunities, prospects, as well as positive and negative aspects of interstate cooperation and formation of the foreign policy course of the state on the basis of the use of new information technologies will be extremely relevant for the vast majority of countries, including the Republic of Kazakhstan. As the country strives to develop, to keep pace with the global world community, to follow modern generally accepted trends, the introduction of innovative mechanisms of information interaction, digitalization of all spheres of public administration,

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38. Olga Zelinska, and Natalia Galaziuk, "International Negotiation Process as a Tool of Diplomacy," *Economic Forum* 1, no. 3 (2023): 68–72, https://doi.org/10.36910/6775-2308-8559-2023-3-9.

data protection, and security of information exchange is already among the main directions of the Republic's policy, although the future improvement of activities requires a number of reforms and transformational changes.

In the presented work, the idea was voiced that the prevalence of "soft power" in digital age policies and the empowerment of various actors in international relations using information and communication technologies promote access to information and universal control over it. This judgment supports the view of A. A. Shairgojri, who argued that well-planned and organized use of such technologies can empower diplomatic services, especially in small and developing countries, and help them cope with the growing challenges by unleashing their full potential.[39]

Analysis of international developments shows that in the twenty-first century, with the advent of new information technologies, such as social media, the level of engagement in political situations and debates—both among politicians and diplomats and among representatives of public and nonstate organizations—has increased significantly. A group of researchers, among them Ruess et al., have also taken a similar position, arguing that in an era of digital development, digitalization, and widespread informatization of society and the state as a whole, it is important to take into account all aspects of such intensive participation, as the involvement of too many actors in the information process can harm and distort the very essence of data transfer, which is especially important in international relations.[40] This study supports the scholars' view and emphasizes the need to consider the diverse structure of information processes as well as the possible hazards connected with the engagement of several players in data transfer, which is consistent with broader trends observed in the twenty-first century.

Central Asia is a specific region that combines different traditions, religions, and historical features, as well as foreign policy aspirations, strategic goals, and areas of cooperation. At the same time, the level and depth of regional cooperation are two of the main features of this territory. Furthermore, the Central Asian countries, being strategic partners in virtually all sectors of socioeconomic and political interaction with each other, seek to further strengthen this type of cooperation, using the platforms of

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39. Shairgojri, "Impact Analysis of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on Diplomacy."

40. Ruess et al., "Online Political Participation."

international organizations as the main tool of information cooperation.[41] This factor, presented in this article, repeats Bharti's idea about the geostrategic importance of the region for the world's international players, among which China and Russia are the main ones.[42] At the same time, the author believed that the importance of Central Asia for the United States of America is not of such high priority that the region should be considered separately from the rest of the Asian continent.

The COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak and the associated isolation, which caused various restrictions and accelerated the mass introduction of digital technologies in all spheres of society and the state, accelerating the use of information and communication technologies at an unprecedented rate, were considered in this article as one of the factors that influenced the strengthening of information exchange between states through online communication. Jun et al. have previously voiced such factors, calling the emergence of such critical situations on the planet a natural process, which is a clear signal for the beginning of the next transformation of the globalization model of social and political development; at the same time, the experts pointed out the second-rate and secondary importance of the idea of using the old traditional information mechanisms, which were widely used in the twentieth century.[43]

During the study, it was established that after declaring independence in 1991, the Republic of Kazakhstan began to actively develop an independent domestic and foreign policy, shape the international vectors of its strategic interest, and determine the key areas of interstate cooperation. Thanks to such intensive activity, Astana has become a regional leader and a rather strong global player, not least due to successful and effective information cooperation at the regional level. D. C. O'Neill and C. B. Primiano reached similar conclusions, stating that the successful use of public diplomacy techniques, namely, a focus on developing the brand of "Kazakhstan" as a peaceful, lawful, and democratic state with a benevolent society and transparent

41. Chinara Adamkulova, and Tynaliev Kanat, "Influence of Tax Revenues on the Economic Growth of the Country," *Proceedings on Engineering Sciences* 5, no. S2 (2023): 431–38, https://doi.org/10.24874/PES.SI.02.019; Gani Karassayev, Yensenov Kanat, Naimanbayev Bekmurat, Oskembay Alya, and Ermukhanova Hadisha, "History of Regional Relations in Foreign Political Activity of the Republic of Kazakhstan (1991–2014)," *Journal of the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine* 28, no. 3 (2021): 119–28, https://doi.org/10.37635/jnalsu.28(3).2021.119-128.

42. Bharti, "Central Asia as a Region in International Relations."

43. Seunghwa Jun, Jongsur Park, and Jeong Yoon Kim. "Digital Transformation Landscape in Asia and the Pacific: Aggravated Digital Divide and Widening Growth Gap," *ESCAP Working Paper Series*, 2022, https://repository.unescap.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12870/4630/ESCAP-2022-WP-Digital-transformation-landscape-Asia%20Pacific.pdf.

legislation, has contributed to Astana's emergence as a Central Asian leader capable of competing with some global players in a number of sectors.[44]

Having analyzed the scientific literature that was selected and used as a basis for the preparation and conduct of the presented study on the topic of information cooperation of Central Asian countries and the impact of this process on the formation of the foreign policy course and strategic goals of the Republic of Kazakhstan, it is worth concluding the following nuances: the subject of studying the application and proper use of information and communication tools and mechanisms in the process of conducting international affairs and the creation of strong and fruitful cooperation in the field of information and communication in the field of international relations and the creation of strong and fruitful relations among the countries of Central Asia.

The discussion held in Almaty revolved around the potential benefits of regional cooperation and integration.[45] During the Institute of World Economy and Politics roundtable, experts explored the significance of recent events, such as the Cholpon-Ata summit and the Treaty of Friendship, Good-Neighbourliness and Cooperation for Development of Central Asia in the twenty-first century. While there is a desire for increased regional integration, it is crucial to acknowledge both external and internal concerns. Geopolitical transformation, conflicts, pandemics, and the presence of extremist groups in Afghanistan all present significant challenges. Additionally, there are various information-related risks, including data privacy and security, misinformation and disinformation, unequal access to information, information overload, and cyberattacks, that need to be addressed. It is essential to maintain flexibility in comprehending the region and to pursue a multi-vector foreign policy approach. While this study primarily focuses on cybersecurity concerns, it is important to agree with the experts and consider the potential threats holistically.[46]

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44. O'Neill and Christopher, "Kazakhstan's Quest for Status."

45. Assel Satubaldina, "Central Asian Cooperation: Experts Outline the Benefits and Risks," *The Astana Times*, 2020, https://astanatimes.com/2022/08/central-asian-cooperation-experts-outline-the-benefits-and-risks/.

46. Seyit Kerimkhulle, Dildebayeva Zhulduz, Tokhmetov Akylbek, Amirova Akzhibek, Tussupov Jamalbek, Makhazhanova Ulzhan, Adalbek Alibek, Taberkhan Roman, Zakirova Alma, and Salykbayeva Alua, "Fuzzy Logic and Its Application in the Assessment of Information Security Risk of Industrial Internet of Things," *Symmetry* 15, no. 10 (2023): 1958, https://doi.org/10.3390/sym15101958; Sarsenhali Abdymanapov, Muratbekov Manas, Altynbek Seylbek, and Barlybayev Alibek, "Fuzzy Expert System of Information Security Risk Assessment on the Example of Analysis Learning Management Systems," *IEEE Access* 9 (2021): 156556–65, https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2021.3129488.

The main task that Astana is already facing is the development of modern and up-to-date normative documents that would regulate relations in the information sphere, both at the state level and in Central Asian cooperation and communications on a global scale. The key factor in this process should be the rapprochement of countries in terms of cooperation on information security issues and raising the qualifications and improving the professional qualities of all representatives of the information and media sphere—diplomats, politicians, journalists, and so on. It is important to not only use modern tools of information interaction, such as social networks, but also consider the advantages of traditional communication—official meetings and signing of interstate agreements.

Conclusions

This research uniquely approaches information cooperation in Central Asia by assessing both the tangible infrastructure and informal relations enabling integration and situating connectivity within the wider geopolitics shaping partnerships in the region. In the process of studying information and communication interaction between the Central Asian countries and identifying the role and place of this type of cooperation for the formation of the foreign policy course of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the designation of its strategic interests, the following determining factors were found. First, it was found that the information component of interstate cooperation between the Central Asian states is at a serious enough level; mechanisms and tools of this type of cooperation are widely used at all levels of national, regional, and international contacts. However, at the same time, both in the region as a whole and in Kazakhstan in particular, there are several problems related to the legal status of this sphere, for example, issues of legislative regulation. In addition, it was found that the higher the level of regional involvement in information and media projects, joint initiatives, and alliances, the better and clearer the foreign policy concepts of the Central Asian countries. For Kazakhstan, a recognized leader in the region is a key aspect in the list of foreign policy interests. An important aspect that has a serious impact on the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan is its participation in initiatives and projects launched under the auspices of various international organizations;

through Astana's interaction with such entities, the state is able to actively and adequately respond to global changes and fully meet the transformational challenges of the modern world in the international political arena.

Future research on information collaboration in Central Asia and its wider global ramifications can build on this study. It examines both the official and informal relationships that enable cooperation across fields, including security, trade, and diplomacy, as well as the physical infrastructure of connectivity that supports cooperation. Additionally, the study places information networks within the larger geopolitical processes that are forming interstate alliances in the area. Ultimately, the research converges on specific policy recommendations to further shared goals via enhanced cybersecurity and information flows inside and between Central Asian governments and international allies.

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