

UDC 330.46
DOI: 10.46493/2663-2675.33(5).2023.45-51

Aleks Trushaj*

PhD in History, Associate Professor

Ismail Qemali University of Vlore

FF3M+PW, 9401 Kosova Str., Vlore, Albania

<https://orcid.org/0009-0005-4251-4530>

Features of the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Abstract. The relevance of this study is related to the need to identify and assess the unique characteristics of the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In this regard, the purpose of this study was to provide a thorough analysis of the foreign policy activities of the Republic of Kazakhstan over the entire period of the country's independence. The main approach to the study of this problem is the historical and systematic method of research, system analysis, comparison method, logical analysis, methods of synthesis and deduction, induction method, and classification method. The paper presents the findings of the conducted study: it describes the geographical prerequisites for the international relations formed by Kazakhstan with a view to creating the logistics links necessary for the national economy. The study proved the importance of the Central Asian region for global energy security and described the country's role in the "New Great Game", conducted a detailed analysis of the latest Concept of Foreign Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan presented by K.-J. Tokayev. The study demonstrated Kazakhstan's deep economic ties with China and Russia and identified the factors of Kazakhstan's dependence on the two regional hegemony. The key events in the country's foreign policy activities over the entire period of its independence were presented in a tabular form. The significance of this study is that it sheds light on the current state of Kazakhstan's foreign policy as a leading state in the Central Asian region, which in the future allows predicting trends in the development of new alliances by Kazakhstan and its closest neighbours

Keywords: multi-vectorism; Eurasian integration; energy dependence; diplomacy; cooperation

Introduction

The Republic of Kazakhstan (RK) is the leading country in Central Asia (CA) in terms of gross domestic product (GDP), making it a good example for other Central Asian states. Until recently, the Republic of Kazakhstan had a friendly partnership with the two local leading powers: Russia and China, but with the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war and the resulting global political and economic crisis, Kazakhstan has begun a gradual move towards rapprochement with China, while not forgetting about cooperation with the United States of America (USA). The multi-vector nature of Kazakhstan's foreign policy is of interest not only in terms of historical and political processes, but also as a leading factor in resolving the issue of spheres of influence in Central Asia.

In her study of Kazakhstan's foreign policy in the field of cooperation development, H. Insebayeva suggested that two main factors have a key influence on the country's behavioural pattern: internal processes (political, economic, and cultural), and the desire to follow the example of leading countries in the international arena. This forms

a hybrid identity for Kazakhstan, which at the same time is not an obstacle to creating an image of a responsible and law-abiding partner (Insebayeva, 2020). Kazakhstan's cooperation with China in the "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI) was investigated by B. Zogg (2019). From the mid-1990s onwards, Kazakhstan's connections with China have deepened, with a significant push coming from the BRI. While China could have pursued the BRI objectives without Kazakhstan, it would have incurred significantly higher costs, risks, and detours. Nevertheless, the lack of transparency regarding BRI initiatives in Kazakhstan has fostered distrust, raising questions about Chinese intentions and the interests of local elites. Labeling all projects as "perfect", a tendency often seen in the Kazakhstani government, without presenting relevant data or conducting thorough assessments, impedes the projects' effective adaptation based on actual needs.

The denuclearisation of Kazakhstan was considered in the study by J.W. Bourdais Park & D. Cheung (2022). The researchers described the problem of a country that once

Received: 12.06.2023, Revised: 30.08.2023, Accepted: 28.09.2023

Suggested Citation:

Trushaj, A. (2023). Features of the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. *Foreign Affairs*, 33(5), 45-51. doi: 10.46493/2663-2675.33(5).2023.45-51.

*Corresponding author



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faced the choice of preserving its own nuclear arsenal or establishing positive relations with influential countries. Having made the choice to give up nuclear weapons, the Kazakh authorities received international security guarantees and integrated into the international economy. Thus, the country's international partners received a clear signal about the vector of Kazakhstan's development as a state that intends to resolve conflicts through diplomacy and non-violent methods of influence.

J. Sullivan (2022) discusses the threat to Kazakhstan's national security from Russia and the need to promote Kazakhstan's narratives in the Central Asian region. In his research, the author found that the withdrawal of the US military from Afghanistan in 2021 helped to strengthen Moscow's position in the foreign policy arena. This and the Taliban's extremist rule create a need for more vocal action by the authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The role of Kazakhstan's oil and gas resources in the country's foreign policy was investigated in the study by T. Kamaljanova & P. Gaur (2020). The authors conclude that the Kazakh authorities consider the energy sector as a method of achieving their own goals in the foreign policy arena: using oil and gas to put pressure on some states and support other countries to strengthen their own positions and maximise economic and political benefits. The historical background of the development of the modern foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan is considered in the study by O. Demenko (2021). The author argues that the lack of a national policy on covering the negative events of the Soviet and imperial periods has greatly influenced current relations with Russia and the West.

This study aims to describe the trends in the foreign policy activities of the Republic of Kazakhstan, identify the preconditions and motives of the country's leadership's actions in the foreign policy arena, and predict the consequences of these actions for the Central Asia region.

Materials and Methods

The specific features of the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan are a topic that requires a historical and systematic approach, which has been used to identify the key events for the foreign policy department of the state. This study was theoretical in nature and focused on identifying motives and trends in the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Proceeding from the need to use valid research methods, this study was conducted using the following methods: system analysis, comparison method, logical analysis, synthesis and deduction methods, induction method, and classification method.

Foreign policy in the current economic and political realities of the world is a phenomenon consisting of several equivalent and interrelated elements, which is why the study of this topic required a comprehensive approach. Thus, consideration of the specific features of the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan as indicators of the true tasks set by the state leadership for the foreign policy department in terms of a system consisting of several interdependent components that influence both each other and the entire system is the most effective approach to investigating this phenomenon. Systemic

analysis was chosen as one of the methods of this study because its use helped to identify historical, geographical, and economic factors that influenced the development of the current foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It was also used to analyse the Foreign Policy Concept of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020-2030. The comparison method was used to compare the foreign policy activities of the Republic of Kazakhstan aimed at the countries of the global West and East. The comparison method was used to identify the essential differences in the theses put forward by Kazakhstan in its communication with representatives of various countries and the initiatives it takes part in. A logical analysis was used to identify terms and concepts important for further research. It helped to provide precise definitions of the following terms: Eurasian integration, "New Great Game", which further simplified the determination and identification of the facts of the influence of third-party players on the affairs in the Eurasian region, and helped to interpret Kazakhstan's influence on the vector of foreign policy activities of other Central Asian countries over the past three decades. The method of synthesis was used to combine the information on the ideas of Eurasian regionalism used by Kazakhstan and the real activities of Kazakhstan in the international arena. Using the method of deduction, a basic statement was formulated, which underlay all further reflections, namely, that the main prerequisites for the development of the specific features of Kazakhstan's foreign policy at one time were the need for economic development and the desire to establish new political ties without losing the old ones. The method of induction in this study is one of the methods used to determine the degree of influence of the two regional leaders (China and Russia) on the political and economic activities of Kazakhstan. The classification method in this paper was used to compile the table.

Results

The main task of the diplomatic service of any country is to protect the national interests of the state. The Republic of Kazakhstan is no exception in this case. The year 1991 was not only the year of the collapse of the Soviet Union, but also became the starting point for the transformation of international conflicts into economic and ideological struggles. Central Asian countries have become key players in the global competition for resources, as they have considerable energy reserves, which are crucial for many countries. After gaining independence, Central Asian countries became the target of Russia's stringent policy. Furthermore, the United States has consolidated its influential position in the region as a leading power in the unipolar world by fighting Islamic terrorism. China has increased its demand for energy resources, which has led to its interference in Central Asian affairs due to the large amount of energy resources that the region possesses (Birkeland *et al.*, 2021).

It was discovered that China and other neighbouring countries, which are fighting economic and political instability and terrorism, create conditions for Kazakhstan's political and economic stability. This is ensured by the availability of vast energy resources and the construction

of pipeline projects aimed at meeting China's massive energy demand. These projects are vital for Kazakhstan, but they also increase Kazakhstan's dependence on China's needs, as Kazakhstan may be at a disadvantage if demand decreases, or new fields are discovered in other countries.

Kazakhstan is in the centre of Eurasia and borders Russia and China. Intensification and diversification of the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan is a necessary strategy for the country's leadership because of the logistical and communication difficulties arising from its geographical location: the Republic of Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country without direct access to the World Ocean (Borbasov & Zhunussova, 2021). This is related to Kazakhstan's control over Russia in international trade and foreign transport. Historical factors, such as the policies of the Russian Empire and the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) towards Kazakhstan's lands, as well as the presence of the Baikonur Cosmodrome and nuclear weapons when Kazakhstan was part of the Soviet Union, have made Kazakhstan cautious and sensitive in its foreign policy with Russia, its closest neighbour (Kopack, 2021). As a result, the country has limited opportunities for foreign trade and strong competitors in the domestic market. To reduce the impact of these factors on the country's economy, the Government of Kazakhstan has developed and is implementing a comprehensive strategy. Within the framework of this strategy, Kazakhstan aims to develop its transport infrastructure, specifically, to promote the development of international transport corridors that pass through the country. For example, the creation of the Western Europe-Western China transport corridor and the development of the country's transit potential. Kazakhstan is actively working to diversify its foreign economic relations and attract foreign investment. To develop the country's export potential, the government is focusing on developing domestic production and strengthening trade relations with other countries.

Moreover, an essential component of the strategy to reduce the impact of the lack of access to the world's oceans on Kazakhstan's economy is to increase the country's competitiveness in the global marketplace. In this context, the state is actively developing its own technological potential and promoting innovation. Other areas of development under study and considered by the Government of Kazakhstan include the development of transit routes through the country, including the opening of new border crossing points with neighbouring countries and the signing of new trade agreements with regional partners. Kazakhstan continues to develop its own transport facilities, including roads, railways, and airlines, which helps to reduce dependence on other countries in the transport sector and support the stable development of the country's economy.

After formulating internal reforms, the Kazakh government sought to balance its foreign and domestic policies, maintaining relations with Russia, the European Union, China, and other states in the region. The government prefers to develop economic relations, which is important for a country that has become a stable state in terms of domestic and foreign strategy, including energy policy. Kazakhstan

has weakened Russia's pressure by focusing on developing its economy through rapid integration into the global economy, specifically through hydrocarbon production and diversification of pipelines in the region through various export networks (Khvostenko *et al.*, 2019).

The importance of the Central Asia region has increased substantially in recent years and has become a large chessboard for local and external players. This geographical entity comprises five "stans" – Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan – and the Caspian Sea region, with recent oil and natural gas discoveries promising big changes in the area of untapped hydrocarbon reserves in Central Asia. The Central Asian region offered great opportunities and became attractive to countries experiencing an energy crisis as a new potential supplier of hydrocarbons from outside OPEC (The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries). The "New Great Game" that is unfolding before our eyes means a fierce struggle for energy security and a revision of energy suppliers. The most interested and aggressive participants in the "New Great Game" are the United States, China, the European Union, Japan, Israel, Iran, Pakistan, and India, and the main motive for taking part in this political struggle is to manage hydrocarbon reserves (Pradhan, 2020).

Turning to the motives of the Kazakh authorities in implementing and pursuing a multi-vector strategy in foreign policy, it is worth considering the political and economic realities of 1991, when the Republic of Kazakhstan declared its independence. The emerging split in society and the desire of the elites to maintain their position led the country to establish partnerships with Russia as a representative of the "old and familiar reality", as well as with China, India, the European Union (EU), and the United States as promising trading partners, which helped improve the living standards of the population of Kazakhstan. It is in these circumstances that Kazakhstan has formed its own concept of Eurasian regionalism, the main purpose of which is to strengthen Kazakhstan's position in the international arena and preserve its territorial and national integrity (Heller, 2022).

Eurasian regionalism, to which the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan is subordinated, has changed its characteristics over time to meet the demands of other states in the Central Asian region. Thanks to relations with Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan's Eurasian regionalism has become more individualistic and has adopted a policy of non-interference. The ideas of regionalism, originating in Europe and Asia, have gradually found their way to post-Soviet countries and have spread to China and the EU. Consensus-based Eurasian regionalism enables participating countries to challenge the legitimacy of each other's actions and strengthen the principles of their sovereignty based on equality. Notably, the idea of multi-speed and multi-level Eurasian regionalism did not originate in Russia, but in Central Asia. By challenging the norms of regional leaders, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have made a considerable contribution to the development of Eurasian regionalism (Karabayeva, 2021).

Kazakhstan is one of the key players in Eurasian integration, to which it devotes significant efforts and

resources. The country is a founding member and active member of the Eurasian Economic Union and a co-founder of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Kazakhstan has developed bilateral and multilateral relations with the CIS countries (Commonwealth of Independent States), China, Turkey, the European Union, the United States, and other countries (Gurcan, 2020).

Within the framework of its Eurasian integration, Kazakhstan is working to strengthen economic cooperation and expand trade and economic ties with partner countries. The signing of the Free Trade Agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union and Iran, Vietnam, Serbia, and Singapore, as well as the launch of negotiations with Egypt on similar agreements, are important achievements of Kazakhstan in this area. Within the framework of its Eurasian integration, Kazakhstan is also working to harmonise its legislation with the EAEU member states, improve its infrastructure and promote cross-border relations. Kazakhstan actively cooperates with other countries and regional organisations to strengthen security and stability in the region. Over the past decade, Kazakhstan has made great strides towards integration with the CIS and Russia.

The goals and objectives set out in the Foreign Policy Concept of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020-2030 are generally aimed at strengthening the country's independence and sovereignty, preserving the independence of its foreign policy direction and creating international and regional stability. These goals reflect the country's strategic interests and its geopolitical position in the region and the world. Through its foreign policy, the Republic of Kazakhstan seeks to strengthen its leadership position in the Central Asian region, demonstrate its responsibility as an active member of the international community and increase the competitiveness of its economy. The concept of Kazakhstan's foreign policy envisages maintaining friendly, predictable, and mutually beneficial relations

with foreign states, as well as developing comprehensive cooperation with interstate associations and international organisations. Particular attention is paid to strengthening the unity of the multinational people of Kazakhstan and turning the practical interests of Kazakhs and national business into the main area of the country's foreign policy.

There are several tasks set by the Kazakh leadership to achieve its goals. The first task is to strengthen international peace and cooperation. This can be achieved by improving the effectiveness of global and regional security and cooperation, as well as the sustainable development of this area. To this end, it is planned to formulate and implement innovative approaches to the main issues of foreign policy at the bilateral and multilateral levels, considering the promotion and protection of the state's long-term strategic interests. The second task is to step up efforts to create a politically stable, economically stable, and secure space around Kazakhstan. These actions will also have a positive impact on the country's global goals. The third task is to intensify "humanitarian diplomacy" and promote the country's positive image in the international community. For this, it is necessary to establish a system of effective relations with the Kazakh community on foreign policy issues, as well as to ensure the protection of national rights and legitimate interests of individuals and legal entities.

One of the main tasks is to strengthen international peace and cooperation, increase the effectiveness of global and regional security and cooperation, and develop this area in the international arena. To this end, it is planned to develop and implement innovative approaches to foreign policy, considering the long-term strategic interests of the state (Tokayev, 2020). Kazakhstan's foreign policy has been quite intense and multifaceted over the past three decades. Table 1 presents the key events in Kazakhstan's foreign policy since the country's independence.

Table 1. The key events in Kazakhstan's foreign policy in 1991-2022

Year	Event
1991	Kazakhstan declares independence from the USSR
1992	Kazakhstan's accession to the United Nations (UN) Signing of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation with Russia
1994	Signing of the Budapest Memorandum, according to which Kazakhstan renounced nuclear weapons
2001	Joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
2002	Signing of an agreement with Russia to establish a joint venture, KazRosGas
2013	Conclusion of an agreement between Kazakhstan and China on cooperation within the framework of "One Belt, One Road"
2014	Participation in the launch of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)
2017	Switching from Cyrillic to Latin alphabet
2020	Adoption of the new Foreign Policy Concept of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020-2030 by President K.-J. Tokayev
2022	Signing an agreement on border demarcation with Uzbekistan

Source: compiled by the author of this study

These developments reflect the major influence of foreign policy on the development of Kazakhstan, which is constantly striving to strengthen relations with its neighbours and other countries in the world. In recent years, Kazakhstan has been actively working to develop its foreign economic relations and diversify its economic

partners, specifically by developing trade relations with the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, and the United States. On the one hand, Kazakhstan seeks to develop partnerships with the European Union and NATO by signing the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the European Union. On the other hand, Kazakhstan is developing economic

relations with Asian countries, specifically with China and Russia, by becoming a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation. Kazakhstan continues to take an active position in international organisations and initiatives as a member of the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. In general, Kazakhstan's foreign policy is focused on maintaining stability and peace in the region, promoting economic development and supporting international cooperation.

Discussion

The role of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Central Asian region was studied by S. Insebayeva (2023). The paper describes in detail such a factor of influence on Kazakhstan's foreign policy as the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme, which is considered by the leadership of Kazakhstan as a reference model in the field of foreign aid. The author also addressed the development of anti-Western, anti-Chinese, and anti-Russian sentiments among the elites and population of the state, which at this stage of the country's foreign policy development has in a sense shaken its ability to counteract the influence of major players on the world stage. Trying to simultaneously resist the influence of the West, China, and Russia is exhausting for Kazakhstan. The information reviewed indicates that both the government and the people of Kazakhstan are striving to form a positive image and a "legitimate" foreign policy without being tied to the opinions of China, India, Russia, the EU, and the US. This may, however, be a difficult goal to achieve in practice given the realities of the Central Asian region, which is heavily influenced by China, India, and Russia.

G. Shakhanova & D. Gardik (2020), in their study on the position of Central Asian countries in the situation of opposition to the Chinese initiative "One Belt, One Road" and the Russian project "Eurasian Economic Community", conducted interviews with representatives of the Kazakh elite to assess attitudes and narratives regarding the implementation of the above-mentioned initiatives and their impact on the country's actions in the foreign policy arena. Having analysed the interviews, the authors of the study conclude that the Kazakh elite is more interested in the One Belt, One Road initiative, arguing that it is more financially beneficial for the country. Dissatisfaction was expressed with Moscow's intrusive position, which treats Kazakhstan as its own province, refusing to negotiate on equal terms. As a result of the interviews, only one of the sixteen respondents expressed a negative or neutral opinion on China's initiative. Thus, Kazakhstan's political elite is interested in a mental separation from Moscow in favour of partnership and mutually beneficial relations with international partners. To confirm this hypothesis, it is worth expanding the sample of respondents and evaluating the results of the interviews in the dynamics, considering the political situation on the international scene.

R. Isaacs (2020) studied the model of multi-vector foreign policy of Kazakhstan. In an environment where the country could be economically absorbed by a stronger player, Kazakhstan has chosen a strategy of hedging its

contacts with Russia and China. Such a balanced policy has allowed Kazakhstan to maintain the status quo of its own multi-vectorism and receive economic benefits from both Russia (EAEU) and China (BRI), as well as from the United States, which provides financial support to the country to keep the most developed state in Central Asia from finally joining one of the local dominant powers. The multi-vector strategy of Kazakhstan described in this paper, on the one hand, reflects the reluctance of China and Russia to engage in an open conflict for the redistribution of influence in the Central Asian region, and on the other hand, it may indicate that the Kazakh authorities do not consider local hegemony as a reliable partner. Nevertheless, at the moment, there is a redistribution of spheres of influence between Moscow and Beijing in favour of the latter, as evidenced by Astana's actions in its unwillingness to open close contact with Moscow after 24 February 2022 and its strategy of action similar to China's in response to Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine.

A. Aujanova (2022), while studying the issue of Eurasian integration in the focus of Kazakhstan's foreign policy, concluded that the multi-vector nature of the country's foreign policy has become an objective necessity. This multi-vector approach contributed to the successful development of the country, which easily attracted Western, Eastern, and Northern investments, helping Kazakhstan to fulfil its ambitions to become a leader among Central Asian states, set innovative trends in the region and create its own spheres of influence. A. Aujanov's (2022) study is based on the idea that Kazakhstan acts as a link between Asia and Europe, which imposes certain responsibilities on the country's leadership, which can be manifested in taking the initiative in digital change, attracting new markets, etc. Currently, the challenges facing the concept of Eurasian integration are more complex than after the collapse of the USSR, when the Eurasian region was just forming in its current form, and the necessary actions for the Kazakh foreign ministry require increasingly more effort. Given that all the "simple" steps towards Eurasian integration have already been taken, the question of the feasibility of Kazakhstan's efforts to ensure a sustainable pace of Eurasian integration in the face of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine stays relevant.

K. Masabayev (2022) study on China's foreign policy risks for Central Asian countries argues that Kazakhstan's multi-vector policy is now at the end of its life, as the high degree of confrontation between Russia and the countries of the "collective West" as a result of Russia's military actions in Ukraine requires Kazakhstan to choose a side. As Kazakhstan has already distanced itself from Russia to some extent, it will have to make a choice between the West and the East as global political tensions escalate. Thus, the people and authorities of Kazakhstan are facing a choice not only of an economic partner, but also of an ideological one: a step towards closer cooperation with China would be a sign that Kazakhstan is tacitly supporting Russia in its aggression and would also help to entrench authoritarianism in the country. Joining the US-led Western Coalition would mean supporting democratic forces and would help create the first Western enclave in

the Central Asian region comparable to Japan (but not Taiwan or South Korea), which is geographically close to Russia, North Korea, and China.

The position of Kazakhstan in the international arena in relation to the Russian-Ukrainian war is considered in the study by L. Abdrazakova & J. Zhabina (2022). The quotes of state political figures presented in this paper suggest that the Kazakh authorities do not intend to recognise the independence of the so-called Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics (L/DPR), as well as the Russian status of Crimea. Having read the speeches of Kazakh ministers and President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, one can conclude that the issue of Ukrainian sovereignty, like many others, is not an obstacle to Kazakhstan's multi-vector policy. While not recognising Moscow's desire to appropriate Ukrainian territories, the Kazakh authorities are not joining the anti-Russian coalition but are instead pursuing a wait-and-see strategy to support the winner of the conflict at the end of the war, while receiving economic preferences. An example is Astana's support to Moscow in supplying sanctioned goods.

Based on the reviewed studies, Kazakhstan's multi-vector policy still is the main foreign policy strategy of the state, but every year it requires increasingly more efforts from the country's leadership to maintain a balance. Previous studies have also highlighted the aspirations of Kazakh politicians to a Western model of interaction in the international arena. Meanwhile, the people of the Republic of Kazakhstan are showing a mood of extreme individualism, which may later affect the country's foreign policy.

Conclusions

With the collapse of the USSR, Kazakhstan gained its independence and began to establish ties in the international arena. The geographical location of the country has left a substantial imprint on Kazakhstan's foreign policy: the proximity of two hegemonic countries (China and Russia) forced Kazakhstan to consider the vector of its neighbours' development from the very beginning. Therefore, one should not forget about the prerequisites for the

development of the foreign policy institution of the Republic of Kazakhstan: the historical continuity of the autocratic tradition, national composition, Islamic religion, and economic interests. These factors can be considered the main ones in the formation of close ties between Kazakhstan and the rest of Central Asia, namely Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, as the proximity of cultures, languages, religions, and political systems served as a fruitful basis for the creation of a "coalition" to counter China and Russia, which would prevent the absorption of Central Asian countries individually.

The study found that the main motivations in Kazakhstan's foreign policy are to ensure national security, strengthen economic and political relations with countries around the world, and recognise Kazakhstan in the international arena. One of the key features of Kazakhstan's foreign policy is the balancing act between Western and Eastern vectors of development. Kazakhstan takes an active position in the international arena on renewable energy, combating the consequences of nuclear tests and reducing the nuclear threat, fighting terrorism and extremism, reducing the number of weapons, protecting human rights, and other global issues.

Until the beginning of 2022, the multi-vector approach described above showed a positive side, but changes in the balance of power, redistribution of spheres of influence and increased confrontation that provoked Russia's actions require Kazakhstan to revise its strategy in the international arena.

It is recommended that future studies of Kazakhstan's foreign policy focus on the prospects for energy cooperation with China, which will help to predict or prevent Kazakhstan's excessive economic dependence on China's hydrocarbon consumption.

Acknowledgements

None.

Conflict of Interest

None.

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Алекс Трушай

Кандидат історичних наук, доцент

Університет ім. Ісмаїла Кемалі у Вльоре

FF3M+PW, вул. Косова, 9401, м. Вльоре, Албанія

<https://orcid.org/0009-0005-4251-4530>

Особливості зовнішньої політики Республіки Казахстан

Анотація. Актуальність даного дослідження пов'язана з необхідністю виявлення та оцінки унікальних характеристик зовнішньої політики Республіки Казахстан. У зв'язку з цим, метою даного дослідження стало проведення ґрунтовного аналізу зовнішньополітичної діяльності Республіки Казахстан за весь період незалежності країни. Основним підходом до вивчення даної проблеми є історико-системний метод дослідження, системний аналіз, метод порівняння, логічний аналіз, методи синтезу і дедукції, метод індукції, метод класифікації. У статті представлені результати проведеного дослідження: описані географічні передумови формування міжнародних зв'язків Казахстану з метою створення логістичних зв'язків, необхідних для національної економіки. У дослідженні доведено важливість регіону Центральної Азії для глобальної енергетичної безпеки та описано роль країни в «Новій великій грі», проведено детальний аналіз останньої Концепції зовнішньої політики Республіки Казахстан, представленої К.-Ж. Токаєвим. Дослідження продемонструвало глибокі економічні зв'язки Казахстану з Китаєм і Росією та визначило чинники залежності Казахстану від двох регіональних гегемонів. У табличній формі були представлені ключові події у зовнішньополітичній діяльності країни за весь період її незалежності. Значення цього дослідження полягає в тому, що воно проливає світло на сучасний стан зовнішньої політики Казахстану як провідної держави в Центральноазіатському регіоні, що в майбутньому дозволяє прогнозувати тенденції розвитку нових союзів Казахстану та його найближчих сусідів

Ключові слова: багатовекторність; євразійська інтеграція; енергетична залежність; дипломатія; співробітництво