

COOPERATION BETWEEN CHINA AND UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation:

The article discusses the further development of political, trade, economic, investment, transport, communication, cultural and humanitarian ties with the People's Republic of China.

Keywords: foreign policy; political communications; diplomatic relations; the Great Silk Road; tolerance; mutually beneficial cooperation.

The study of the history and culture of China in Uzbekistan goes back centuries and is associated with the traditional ties of friendship between the peoples of the two countries. Chinese merchants have been visiting the territory of present-day Uzbekistan since the time of the Great Silk Road. Scholars do not rule out the possibility that individual Chinese entrepreneurs could have arrived in Bactria as early as the dawn of our era. In addition, close trade ties with China contributed to the development of weapons in Central Asia.

The city of Chinaz in the Tashkent region is known to historians by its medieval name Chinanchiket - "Chinese city", where merchants lived. Chinese Buddhist missionaries came here in the 7th-8th centuries.

In the era of Amir Temur and Ulugbek, Chinese masters erected impressive structures, as evidenced by the Chinese pavilion " chitikhona " in Ulugbek's garden near his observatory, an octagonal monument in the Shakhi- Zinda complex on the southern outskirts of Samarkand.

Centuries-old contacts between the peoples of the two countries were especially clearly reflected in the culture of the Fergana people (ornamental art, the originality of Uzbek textiles, and architectural decoration). In this regard, the presence of horseshaped dragons on the portal of the Rustambek madrasah in Khujand (XIX century) is interesting.

In the mid-1920s, the remaining small Chinese diaspora had its own reading club in Tashkent, and conditions were created for both adults and school-age children to receive primary education in their native language. One of the migrants, Wang Ji Ming, taught Chinese at the Oriental Faculty of the Central Asian State University (now the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirza Ulugbek).

Over the past thirty years, relations between Uzbekistan and China have risen to the level of a multilateral strategic partnership in all areas. This is facilitated by the



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established trusting relationship between the head of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping, close interaction between foreign policy and foreign economic departments, contacts between parliamentarians, the business community, academic and expert circles of the two countries.

Uzbekistan and China maintain a high level of political mutual trust, consistently promote trade, economic, investment, scientific, technical, transport, and agricultural cooperation, intensify cultural and humanitarian exchanges between peoples, and have achieved quite impressive results in the joint implementation of the One Belt, One Road initiative.

That is why the development of intercultural dialogue between Uzbekistan and China serves as the basis for preserving and promoting the diversity of cultures, cooperation in the study of cultural and natural heritage, which contributes to the expansion of contacts between the two countries. One of the main directions of the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan is the further development of political, trade, economic, investment, transport and communication, cultural and humanitarian ties with the People's Republic of China.

On January 2, 1992, diplomatic relations were established between two great states -China and Uzbekistan. Since then, January 2 has become our common holiday.

Friendly ties between China and Uzbekistan are rooted in the distant past, in the era of the Great Silk Road. Two thousand years ago, the two peoples established a friendly exchange, mutual study and borrowing between East and West, formed the spirit of the Great Silk Road, which is characterized by peace, cooperation, openness and tolerance. Both countries have made an important contribution to the development of world civilization. The Great Silk Road has become the common wealth of China and Uzbekistan and the knot of friendship between their peoples.

China was one of the first to recognize the independence of Uzbekistan and established diplomatic relations with it. Since then, Chinese-Uzbek relations have adequately endured the changes in the international situation, demonstrate a positive development trend and are replenished with new content in accordance with the requirements of the time.

In 1994, a document of great importance was signed - "Protocol on the basic principles of relations and on the development of mutually beneficial cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the People's Republic of China." In 2004, a Joint Declaration on partnerships, further development and strengthening of friendship and cooperation between Uzbekistan and China was signed.



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The development of relations with China is based on the Joint Declaration on Establishing a Strategic Partnership of June 6, 2012 and the Joint Declaration on Further Developing and Deepening Bilateral Strategic Partnership Relations of September 9, 2013. In the same year, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward an initiative to build the Silk Road Economic Belt, which received a positive response and support from the Uzbek side. Mutually beneficial cooperation within the framework of this project is moving dynamically and has entered the mainstream of accelerated development.

At present, Chinese-Uzbek relations are at the highest stage of development. For example, Chinese President Xi Jinping and President of Uzbekistan Sh. M. Mirziyoyev reached new agreements on deepening traditional friendship, expanding mutually beneficial cooperation and jointly promoting the construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt, and identified areas for further development of partnership.

The interests of both countries are met by the practical implementation of decisions and agreements reached during the state visit of the President of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev to Beijing on May 11-13, 2017, as well as within the framework of participation in the international forum "One Belt, One Road" on May 14-15, 2017.

In general, cooperation between China and Uzbekistan brings fruitful results . China and Uzbekistan continuously strengthen mutual political trust, respect the development path of the other side, support each other's efforts to protect sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and develop bilateral relations based on equality and mutual respect. No matter what difficulties they face, the peoples of the two countries will always walk "hand in hand", "shoulder to shoulder".

The parties share the same or similar positions on a number of important international and regional issues, jointly strive for peace, stability and prosperity. China and Uzbekistan maintain close ties within the UN, SCO and other multilateral structures, protect common interests and make a positive contribution to achieving security and progress throughout the world.

Beijing and Tashkent are constantly deepening cooperation in various fields on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. Thus, the trade turnover between the two countries has increased 70 times. The total amount of Chinese investments and loans attracted to the economy of Uzbekistan exceeds \$7.6 billion. Thus, if in 2004 there were 78 enterprises with the participation of Chinese capital in Uzbekistan, at present there are about 700 enterprises. China has been Uzbekistan's largest investor for several years in a row and ranks second among its trading partners.

Joint strategic projects such as the China-Central Asia gas pipeline, the Kungrad soda plant and the Dekhkanabad potash fertilizer plant, the Angren-Pap electrified railway



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line and the Kamchik tunnel , the modernization of the Angren thermal power plant, etc. are being successfully implemented. The industrial park is expanding with Chinese investments " Peng-sheng " on the basis of the branch of the free economic zone "Jizzakh" in the Syrdarya region. It contains the largest investment projects of private Chinese capital in the non-resource sector in Uzbekistan. More than 1,300 local jobs have been created here, and the annual value of production has already exceeded \$90 million. In the park, the Chinese company ZTE built the first line for the production of smartphones in Central Asia.

Relations in the cultural sphere are also being consistently built up. In recent years, Days of Uzbek cinema have been held in China, presentations of the tourist potential of Uzbekistan. International Music Festival "Shark taronalari"(" Melodies of the East"), held every two years in Samarkand, is very popular. The Chinese New Year concert, Chunjie celebrations and other events have become important channels for bringing the peoples of the two countries closer together. In addition, historians are working together on archaeological research and restoration of historical monuments, making great efforts to restore the appearance of the Great Silk Road.

The Academy of Sciences of the People's Republic of China has established the first research center for complex drugs in Central Asia in Uzbekistan. All this testifies to the successful development of cooperation between the two countries.

At present, Chinese-Uzbek relations are at a new starting point in history. Broad horizons of cooperation are opening before us. The Chinese side is ready, together with the Uzbek partners, to fully implement the agreements reached by our leaders, increase cooperation on a wide range of issues, strengthen traditional friendship and achieve even greater success for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries.

Today, the importance of the role of public diplomacy, which, relying on public relations, is becoming increasingly important in the system of international relations, is becoming obvious. Since there are institutional frameworks and a regulatory framework for the implementation of such an ambitious project of an interregional nature, the main task facing the stakeholders is to make the mechanism for implementing public diplomacy work effectively, within the framework of a well-coordinated partnership.

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