

**DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTERNAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL
GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION OF CENTRAL ASIA AND UZBEKISTAN**

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Abstract: The article describes the strengthening of Uzbekistan's position in the international arena during the years of independence, the consistent development of its foreign economic policy. Our republic is actively integrating with foreign countries in the areas of trade, economic, investment and technological cooperation. Foreign economic relations are one of the components of the economy of Uzbekistan, which has a positive impact on the national economy through export-import operations, attracting foreign investments, and cooperation with international financial institutions. The article discusses in detail the export and import processes of our country with the CIS countries.

Keywords: economy, politics, CIS, Central Asia, export, import, Europe, Asia, SCO.

Central Asia is a region located in the central part of Asia, including the countries of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan. Central Asia is located at a strategic crossroads between Europe and Asia, at the crossroads of transport routes. The presence of rich natural resources - mineral resources (gas, oil, uranium, cotton, gold, coal, etc.) increases the global economic importance of the region. At the intersection of the interests of major powers - Russia, China, the USA, Turkey, Iran, India and other countries are trying to expand their sphere of influence in Central Asia. Foreign economic and political geographical position of Uzbekistan. In terms of the specific features of Central Asia's foreign economic relations. An internal regional state - Uzbekistan has no access to the sea. Uzbekistan pursues a multi-vector foreign policy: that is, it seeks to establish balanced relations with different centers of power. Active in regional organizations: CIS, SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization), OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation), TURKSOY, Uzbekistan's diplomatic activity is expanding. Stability in Afghanistan is one of the important directions of Uzbekistan's foreign policy.

Since gaining independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan has paid special attention to strengthening peace, stability, security around its territory and improving economic relations with neighboring countries. From the first days of the presidency of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the principle of "Central Asia is the main priority in Uzbekistan's foreign policy" has been implemented in practice. As a result, a completely new political environment has been created in our region, relations based on mutual trust and good neighborliness have been strengthened. Special attention is being paid to the consistent formation of reliable transport and transit corridors that will deliver foreign trade cargoes of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the main markets in the world and the region.

To date, the Republic of Uzbekistan has established economic relations with about 140 countries around the world, and much higher efficiency can be achieved through economic cooperation with the countries of Central Asia. Among the common factors characteristic of the countries of

the region, which contribute to the consideration of Central Asia as a priority direction in Uzbekistan's foreign policy, the following can be distinguished:

- the geographical location of the countries of the region, and in particular, Uzbekistan's location in the center of the region and its border with all of them;
- the similarity and proximity of national, cultural, religious and socio-economic values;
- the presence of common transport and energy communications;
- the rational distribution of water resources in the region;
- the commonality of environmental, security and stability issues in the region.

As can be seen from the above, strengthening economic cooperation between the countries of Central Asia is of positive importance in all respects. That is why the countries of Central Asia have lived in close proximity for centuries. From time immemorial, economic and trade relations have been widely established between these countries. According to 2021 data, Kazakhstan ranked first in Central Asia in terms of area, GDP size, and foreign trade turnover. It is followed by Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. It is clear that Kazakhstan, the leader in Central Asia, is an economically developed country. The reason why Kazakhstan is a leading country is its high investment attractiveness, production of more finished products, and abundance of natural raw materials. Uzbekistan is next in line. The main reason for this is that Uzbekistan has a relatively large number of natural resources (gold, cotton, gas), a high number of working-age people. Other countries also differ from each other in their natural resources and other characteristics. Experts estimate that a new stage in Uzbekistan's economic cooperation with the countries of Central Asia began in 2016. The volume of Uzbekistan's trade with the countries of Central Asia increased by 2.6 times in 5 years, from \$ 2.5 billion in 2016 to \$ 6.3 billion in 2021. Uzbekistan's exports to the countries of Central Asia increased by 2 times - from \$ 1.3 billion to \$ 2.7 billion, and imports by 3.2 times. \$ 1.2 billion. Up to \$ 3.7 billion. During 2016-2021, the volume of trade with the countries of Central Asia increased by 1.7 times more than the total volume of Uzbekistan's foreign trade with world countries, in particular, exports increased by 1.4 times, and imports by 2 times. The share of Central Asian countries in the total volume of Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover increased from 10.2 to 15.1 percent, in exports from 10.8 to 16 percent, and in imports from 9.6 to 14.5 percent. In addition, 2021 was a record year in terms of the volume of trade with each country of Central Asia separately. Over 5 years, the volume of trade with all Central Asian countries increased: with Kazakhstan - 2 times, to \$ 3.9 billion, with Kyrgyzstan - 5.7 times, to \$ 952 million, with Tajikistan - 3 times, to \$. 605 million, Turkmenistan - 4 times, up to 882 million dollars.

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