

FACTORS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND GERMANY

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Abstract: This article analyzes the main factors that led to the establishment of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Germany. Uzbekistan's attainment of state independence, its integration into the international community, its aspiration to develop cooperation with European countries, as well as Germany's foreign policy interests in Central Asia are examined as key conditions shaping diplomatic relations. In addition, the mutual interest in developing political dialogue and economic and cultural cooperation is substantiated as a decisive factor in the formation of stable diplomatic relations between the two states.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, Germany, diplomatic relations, independence, foreign policy, international cooperation, European countries, Central Asia, political dialogue.

After gaining independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan paid particular attention to establishing equal and mutually beneficial relations with the international community as one of the priority directions of its foreign policy. In particular, the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Federal Republic of Germany, one of the leading states of the European Union, became an important component of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. Germany's position as a politically, economically, and culturally developed country, as well as its interest in the Central Asian region, created a solid foundation for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two states. Within this context, a scientific and theoretical analysis of the main factors that influenced the establishment of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Germany is of particular relevance. The strategy, principles, and main directions of Uzbekistan's foreign policy, as well as the foundations of Germany's foreign policy, are analyzed. The advantages of the European vector are substantiated, and it is confirmed that the establishment of cooperation with Germany played a significant role in Uzbekistan's economic and cultural development during 1991–2021.

It should be noted that the Law "On the Foundations of the State Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan" [1], the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan [3], the "Concept of Foreign Policy Activity" [2], and the "Action Strategy" [4] defined the strategy, principles, and main directions of Uzbekistan's foreign policy.

The main objectives of Uzbekistan's foreign policy course include strengthening state independence and sovereignty, protecting national interests, ensuring security and stability in the region, forming a favorable foreign policy environment for the country's sustainable development, and enhancing the state's international authority [5]. One of the key priorities of foreign policy is the development of mutually beneficial cooperation with leading European states, first and foremost Germany, including the expansion of trade, investment, and financial cooperation; the transfer of high technologies; and the strengthening of mutually beneficial

relations in science, technology, education, ecology, healthcare, and culture [6]. This is not accidental, as Uzbekistan's vital interests are closely linked with Germany as a leading country in this region.

Cooperation with Germany enables Uzbekistan to exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest and to strengthen its positions. In the economic sphere, Germany's advanced level of economic development and its superiority in technology and innovation, as well as its investment potential, make a substantial contribution to Uzbekistan's economic development. In this regard, Uzbekistan aims to make effective use of German credits and investments and to widely introduce German equipment and modern technologies into various sectors of the economy. In the field of science, the utilization of Germany's achievements is also envisaged as a means to enhance the country's scientific potential.

At present, Germany's foreign policy is based on three main pillars: classical diplomacy, economic policy, and cultural diplomacy. Germany considers itself an important bridge connecting Western and Eastern Europe and regards the deepening and expansion of integration processes among European Union member states as one of the priority directions of its foreign policy.

In addition, the following are regarded as key current directions of German foreign policy activity: strengthening the role and significance of authoritative international organizations such as the United Nations in global affairs and ensuring Germany's active participation within these organizations; further enhancing pan-European cooperation within the framework of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; developing transatlantic cooperation, including within NATO; expanding partnership relations with neighboring EU countries as well as with regions such as the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and the CIS; and striving to promote and protect human rights worldwide [7].

Germany has also developed a specific system for implementing a "soft power" policy in its foreign relations. Non-governmental organizations, as well as foundations affiliated with political parties, constitute the majority of the executors of this "soft power" policy. These organizations pursue goals such as promoting the German language and culture, developing scientific and economic ties, and favorably presenting German products, services, and educational institutions in the international arena [8].

Germany views the Central Asian region as a key factor in pursuing its strategy and geopolitics in Asia, with Uzbekistan occupying a central position within this strategy. The Republic of Uzbekistan differs from other Central Asian states in that it does not share direct borders with the world's leading powers, which constitutes a geopolitical advantage.

On the other hand, Uzbekistan shares borders with all five Central Asian countries, which enables it to play a balancing role in interstate relations within the region. In addition, the factors underlying the high importance of Central Asian republics in Germany's foreign economic policy are also analyzed.

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