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«Russia & World: Scientific Dialogue»

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FORWARD

Dear readers!

The fourth issue of the journal "Russia & World: Scientific Dialogue" for 2023 is dedicated to the Central Asia region, whose important role in modern geopolitics is determined by its special significance for intercultural and trade transfers between the countries of Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The region plays a special role in influencing processes in four nuclear powers: Russia, China, India and Pakistan.

This special issue presents articles by authors from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. This is due to the fact that the Editorial Board believes that research into the formation of a more just, polycentric world in this region, developing optimal solutions in the field of international cooperation, conducting joint research and publishing their results are especially important.

Of these, five articles were prepared to the International Academic Mobility Program organized for young scientists from foreign countries by the publisher of our journal, the National Research Institute for the Communications Development. These are articles by Bekmurod Kholmurod ugli Allamurodov (scientific supervisor – Ivan V. Surma, Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Foreign Ministry), Aizat K. Doskozhaeva (scientific supervisor – Alexey S. Kharlanov, Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Foreign Ministry), Saikal Ch. Zhumaliev (scientific supervisor – Dina A. Kiseleva, IRI RAS), Elvira E. Torogeldieva (scientific supervisor – Alexander Sh. Kadyrbaev, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences), Kurbonali Yunuszoda Kholmurodi (scientific supervisor –

Natalya A. Budarina, Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

Political sciences are presented by studies of the problems of interconnectedness of Central Asia and the Caspian region, social causes and possibilities for overcoming the economic and political crisis in Pakistan, as well as, using the example of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, digital diplomacy, resources of the "water economy" of the region and "water wars", activities Central Asian universities and foreign trade between Russia and Tajikistan.

Sociological sciences are represented by articles on issues of Russian identity and attitudes towards Russians in Uzbekistan, ethno-demographic changes in Kyrgyzstan in the 1920–1930s, analysis of educational programs of Germany about Central Asia, foreign experience in the field of ensuring information and ideological security.

The history of international relations and foreign policy is studied based on the activities of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in Central Asia (2002–2022), the history and heritage of ancient cultures of Asia, the role of the intelligentsia of Kyrgyzstan during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945.

The issue opens with a series of seven articles devoted to international, global and regional processes in the sphere of international relations

Bekmurod Kholmurod ugli Allamurodov, in an article devoted to digital diplomacy as a tool for implementing the foreign policy of the countries of Central Asia (using the example of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan), turned to the analysis of this phenomenon and compared,

based on the analysis of statistical data, the use of digital tools by the diplomatic missions of the two countries. The author believes, "...to prevent political trolling, disinformation and the spread of fake messages on social networks, it is necessary to create effective means and mechanisms to protect the population from the penetration of harmful and destructive ideas through the Internet."

Authoritative Russian scientist Vyacheslav Y. Belokrenitsky in an article about the economic and political crisis in Pakistan in the late 2010s – early 2020s examined issues related to the dominance in this country of large hereditary landowners and a narrow group of wealthy industrialists, and the decisive role of the military corporation in governing the state. All this leads to the country lagging behind its neighbors in the region, to its dependence on international financial institutions and external assistance. "The state has one prospect," the author noted, "further integration into the system of regional and world relations. On this path, it is likely that part of the country will transform into a certain space, developed for its own purposes by China and the Arab states of the Middle East, primarily Saudi Arabia. Pakistan, in any case, will find itself at the epicenter of the struggle between the two informal, as they now say leaders of the modern world – the USA and China."

Natalya A. Budarina and Kholmurodi Kurbonali Yunuszoda, based on an analysis of the geographical and commodity structure of foreign trade between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, identified the problems currently arising in mutual trade. They made some practical proposals: "For the development of mutual trade between states, both structural elements will be needed, such as the creation of infrastructure for trade and logistics, wholesale distribution centers and logistics services, as well as the development of the financial sector and others. In addition, policy measures will have an important impact, including improving tariff and non-tariff conditions, strengthening interaction between customs and tax authorities."

Aizat K. Doskozhaeva and Alexey S. Kharlanov consider the resources of the "water economy" as a geopolitical asset of the Central Asian countries in the formation of sovereign development strategies. According to the authors, their fair distribution in the Central

Asian region is urgent and requires coordinated approaches and the use of joint "road maps"; It would be necessary to diversify the risks arising from this resource, creating favorable conditions for the accelerated development of all countries of Central Asia. The authors came to the conclusion: "...management of hydropower resources in the Central Asian region should be considered through a water-energy consortium with the participation of the states of the EAEU, SCO, etc."

Kamola S. Zhuraeva and Sayfiddin A. Zhuraev examined the interconnectedness of Central Asia and the Caspian region. The authors noted that through the study of these regions, one can see the whole range of challenges and threats characteristic of the world system: "...development in conditions of multipolarity and economic confrontation between the West and the East, the growth of civilizational contradictions, the depletion of natural resources, the likelihood of environmental and man-made threats on a planetary scale." In their opinion, "the historic breakthrough in resolving the problems of the Caspian Sea, achieved at the Caspian Five summit held on August 12, 2018 in Aktau (Kazakhstan), creates the preconditions for a serious change in the situation in a number of areas of the economy and geopolitics of the Central Asia and South Caucasus region."

Valentina V. Komleva and Zhanara Taalaibek kyzy, in an article about universities as subjects of international relations in the context of the potential of Kyrgyzstan, showed under what conditions universities can become effective subjects of international relations and help their states increase competitiveness. The authors describe the conditions and indicators of such subjectivity, the mechanisms for integrating universities into international relations. The positive aspects, opportunities, risks and contradictions of introducing these mechanisms into national educational systems have been identified.

Vladimir V. Kochetkov, Alexey A. Medvedkov, Elena A. Kuzmenko, Omar M. Nessar, based on the results of a scientific discussion held by the National Research Institute for the Communications Development (NIIRK) in partnership with the Russian Military Historical Society in September 2023, presented the article "Water wars" as a source and instrument of international conflicts." The authors draw attention to an important international

political trend: currently the “water-based” contradictions between Jordan, Israel and Syria; Turkey and Syria; Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. “The struggle for fresh water supplies,” the authors conclude, “has become an important component of many international conflicts over the last hundred years. In such a short historical period, competition for water resources has become even more intense than competition for energy resources.”

Issues of a changing society in the context of the study of social structure, social institutions and processes, and political sociology are discussed in four articles.

The section opens with an article by Anton V. Vasilenko “Russia and Uzbekistan: Russian Identity and Attitude towards Russians.” It is devoted to the results of a study of the communication regime of the Republic of Uzbekistan in relation to the Russian Federation in the situation of modern changes in the world order. The main conclusion is as follows: “Both official resources and the media of the Republic of Uzbekistan definitely broadcast friendly, positive communication towards Russia, Russians, the Russian language and Russian identity, even in the conditions of political turbulence in recent years. Uzbekistan has been and remains a reliable partner and ally of our country, and it is important not to miss this positive line of our relations and build them on mutual respect, partnership and the common historical memory of the two peoples.”

Saikal Ch. Zhumalieva conducted a comparative analysis of statistical data on ethno-demographic processes in the most representative regions of Kyrgyzstan. The author draws attention to the ethno-demographic changes in Kyrgyzstan in the 1920–1930s and their impact on the future fate of the country. She comes to the relevant conclusion that “the policy of resettlement, the migration of different ethnosocial groups of the population influenced intercultural communications. They were accompanied by the complication of interaction and mechanisms of intercultural adaptation of representatives of different ethnic communities and groups, the comprehensive study of which seems to be an urgent task.”

Elena A. Kuzmenko in the article “Central Asia as a Macro-Region in the Light of Educational Programs of Germany: Regional Dominants of Study” turned to the political-

geographical understanding of the boundaries of the macro-region of Central Asia through an analysis of higher education programs at German universities. The relevant conclusion is that “the career opportunities of graduates of such programs in everyday work (both scientific and non-scientific) are determined by the interests of business and the objectives of German foreign policy; both business and foreign policy have specific projects, strategies or targeted programs. Thus, the autonomy and independence of the educational process and further scientific and practical activities of graduates and young scientists turn out to be ephemeral.”

Khairulla P. Umarov analyzed foreign experience in ensuring information and ideological security. The leading countries of the world began to pay attention to information wars for ideological struggle since the early 1960s. And already in the 21st century, with the development of information technology and social networks, methods of conducting information wars have expanded. The author’s conclusion is important: “An analysis of information and ideological security in Uzbekistan shows that there is no comprehensive system for organizing spiritual and educational processes, insufficient organizational, practical and scientific research work is being carried out to protect the national interests and basic values of the population (and primarily youth) from informational, ideological and political threats, lack of coordination of government organizations, civil society institutions and the public, social cooperation between the media and the private sector is not established at the proper level.”

The history of international relations and foreign policy in relation to modern times is presented in three articles.

Albert V. Beloglazov reviewed the activities of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in Central Asia (2002–2022). The author has identified the contribution of the CSTO to ensuring security in Central Asia and characterized the peacekeeping activities of the Organization. The author answers the question why the CSTO did not deploy a peacekeeping mission at the request of Kyrgyzstan during the unrest in 2010, but responded to a similar request from Kazakhstan during the January events of 2022. The author believes that “Central

Asian countries do not always consider the CSTO the main instrument for ensuring regional security, which is reflected in their foreign policy concepts. The Organization suffered image losses in 2010, after refusing to help Kyrgyzstan in the interethnic Kyrgyz-Uzbek conflict in the south of the country. Nevertheless, peacekeeping has become an important element of the Organization’s activities. Having practiced the conduct of peacekeeping operations in numerous exercises, in 2022 in Kazakhstan the CSTO, for the first time in twenty years of existence, was able to clearly demonstrate its feasibility, efficiency and effectiveness.”

The article by Vadim P. Larin was the most controversial; the opinions of the members of the editorial board and reviewers were different. The editors considered it original, decided to publish the results of his research and hope for feedback from experts in this field. The article is devoted to the origin of the symbol “dragon” from the zoonym “crocodile” in the ancient cultures of Southern China and Vietnam. The warm climate at the mouth of the Yangtze and on the coast of the East China Sea, according to the author, determined the large number of alligators in the kingdom of Yue, which was the reason for this geographical name. The author hypothesized that the ancient ethnonym and toponym “Yue” 越, (modern – “Vietnam”) come from the Chinese zoonym “crocodile” – 鳄鱼 èyú.

Elvira E. Torogeldieva with her article “The Intelligentsia of Kyrgyzstan during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945” concludes the special issue of the magazine. It is dedicated to the formation of the Kyrgyz intelligentsia during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945. The author writes that to accelerate the replenishment of the intelligentsia of the republic by party and Soviet bodies, the method of promotion was used. The article is devoted to the analysis of the reasons for the occurrence of the phenomenon and its specification, its significance. The author concludes that “the problem of intelligentsia in the republic with the outbreak of the war and the conscription of numerous of its representatives into the Red Army became extremely acute. There was a great shortage of specialists in all sectors of the national economy and culture. In order to accelerate the replenishment of many groups of intelligentsia by the party and Soviet bodies, the method of promotion was used, especially the promotion of women to leadership and organizational work.”

Dear readers!

The editorial board of the journal hopes that the materials of the issue will arouse your interest and that you yourself will become one of our authors in the future.

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