

# Friendship of Peoples as a Historical Factor in the Development of Modern Interstate Relations Between Russia and Uzbekistan

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**Abstract:** The article examines the historical ties between the peoples of Russia and Uzbekistan both in a bilateral and multilateral format within the CIS, their historical unity during the Great Patriotic War, in the post-war period and today. “Friendship of peoples” is considered as a socio-political value and economic foundation of international relations between Russia and Uzbekistan. The author shows that the historical potential of “friendship of peoples” as a post-Soviet phenomenon has not been sufficiently studied. In some countries, the elites are underutilizing the historical potential of “friendship of peoples” as a post-Soviet phenomenon. Understanding the significance of the “friendship of peoples” is a test of state maturity in the conditions of the modern multipolarity of the world.

**Keywords:** friendship of peoples, V. Putin, Sh. Mirziyoev, Russia, Uzbekistan, Stalingrad, cooperation, historical memory, good neighborly relations.

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## Introduction

The study is devoted to the current state of relations between Russia and Uzbekistan. Both countries, together with China, India and other friendly states, are actively participating in the creation of a new world order.

The idea of the study is as follows: 1. to reveal the features of the manifestation of the thesis of the President of Russia V. Putin in modern conditions:

The strength of Russia is in the free development of all peoples, in diversity, harmony of cultures and languages, in the dialogue of Orthodox and Muslims, followers of Judaism and Buddhism<sup>1</sup>.

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1      Thoughts on Russia: The President on the Most Important. Moscow: Tsentrpoligraf, 2016:16.

## 2. to identify the features of the role of Russia in the post-Soviet space:

The Russian Federation is the legal successor of the USSR Union on its territory, as well as the legal successor of membership in international organizations, their bodies, participation in international treaties, as well as in respect of obligations and assets of the USSR Union outside the territory of the Russian Federation provided for by international treaties<sup>2</sup>.

The former Soviet republics took into account the historical and legal realities. The Eurasian Economic Union was created – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Belarus (which is also building a Union State with Russia). But for Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, the reality that developed after the collapse of the USSR became a severe test of state maturity.

The Republic of Uzbekistan withstood severe tests of state maturity and began not only to restore ties with Russia interrupted in 1991, but also to strengthen them in every possible way. Both states are currently strengthening thanks to the joint activities of the presidents of the two countries, V. Putin and Sh. Merziyoyev. The process of integration is going on in all areas: politics, economics, culture, this is an example for other states of Central Asia, which makes an invaluable contribution to the creation of a new world order (15). And the experience of the Republic of Uzbekistan in this process, in our opinion, is leading in comparison with such states of the region as Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (16).

The purpose of the study is to consider the deep historical foundations and conditionality of the common path of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan in the current complex system of international relations.

## Materials and methods

To study the problem, the author used the following sources: the Constitution of the Russian Federation, documentary, statistical data, published memoirs and texts of speeches by contemporaries of the events, primarily the work of Academician E. M. Primakov. A special place is occupied by treaties regulating relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The main scientific methods were: historical-genetic, comparative-historical. The author proceeded from the fact that in the historical ties between the peoples of Russia and Uzbekistan in the 20th century of post-Soviet history 1. we are connected by the sacred history of the Great Patriotic War, 2. the past manifested itself in the dramatic events associated with

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2 The Constitution of the Russian Federation: New Edition. With the Amendments Approved During the all-Russian Vote on July 1, 2020. Moscow: Phoenix, 2021:19-20.

the collapse of the USSR, since many people both in Russia and in In Uzbekistan, and in other republics, they hoped that life would still get better. President of the Russian Federation V. Putin emphasizes that people were promised a common currency, a common economic space, and a common armed forces, but all this remained only promises, there was no big country. And subsequently, people were simply passed from hand to hand, just like a bag of potatoes<sup>3</sup>.

Without understanding the historical component of Russia's succession to the legacy of the former USSR, it is difficult to understand the foundations of modern relations between Russia and Uzbekistan.

## Results

The peoples of Russia and Uzbekistan, under the leadership of the popularly elected presidents V. Putin and Sh. Mirziyoyev, are building their future on a solid foundation of the positive experience of the past and on the undoubted successes of the present. First of all, we note the policy of historical memory of the years and results of the Second World War. On June 24, 2020, a parade was held on Red Square in Moscow dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War. Along with Russian military personnel, many countries, including Uzbekistan, took part in it. President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev was among the statesmen at the festive celebrations. Such a representative participation of fraternal Uzbekistan in commemorative events is the deepest tribute to the heroic participation of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War, when representatives of all nationalities of the Soviet Union came out to defend the common Motherland. Despite the fact that the fighting took place far beyond the borders of Uzbekistan, every Uzbek family experienced its hardships and suffering.

Uzbek warriors, together with warriors of other peoples of the USSR, fought stubbornly for their homeland. Great moral support for the Uzbek front-line soldiers and other soldiers of the Soviet Army was the letter of the Uzbek people, signed by 2412 thousand people and published in the Pravda newspaper on October 31, 1942. In the Republic, the 389th, 12th, 162nd and 69th rifle divisions, the 21st and 44th cavalry divisions, the 90th and 94th separate rifle brigades, the 128th Guards Turkestan Mining rifle division, etc. For courage and heroism shown on the fronts of the Great Patriotic War, 120 thousand representatives of Uzbekistan were awarded orders and medals, and 280 of them were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union (9:128-129). Huge work has been done to restructure the national economy of Uzbekistan for a military version. More than 90 collective farms and state farms were evacuated to Uzbekistan. In 1941-1943. Uzbekistan received over 1 million evacuees, including 200,000 children. In 1941-1943 about 240,000 people were placed and provided with jobs in Tashkent alone. By decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the Council of People's Commissars of the Uzbek SSR, the People's Commissariat of Education of Uzbekistan created in October 1941 central children's evacuation center, then

<sup>3</sup> Putin V.V. Russia, Looking to the Future. A Weighty Word from The President. Moscow: Tsentrpoligraf, 2018:130-131.

republican, regional, city and district commissions for the placement of evacuated children (3:739). People's concern for children manifested itself in different ways. Tashkent blacksmith Shaakhmed Shamakhmudov and his wife Bakhri Akramova adopted fourteen children. Many Soviet people followed their noble example. Pravda Vostoka, for example, reported that in Tashkent alone, 643 families and 69 collectives took evacuated children for upbringing. In June 1942, 30 wagons with food, clothes and shoes were sent to the children of heroic Leningrad from the students of Uzbekistan. Such facts have become the norm of life (8:103).

In the autumn of 1941, 31 higher educational institutions and 7 military academies were evacuated to Uzbekistan from the western regions of the country, 17 of which were located in Tashkent. Among them were the Kiev Industrial Institute, the Kharkov Transport Institute, the Moscow Institute of Architecture and Textiles, the Leningrad Conservatory, etc. During the war, with the help of the central structures, the Uzbek branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, in accordance with the decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR of October 27, 1943, was transformed into the Academy of Sciences Uzbek USSR. During the war years, prominent scientists worked here: academicians B.D. Grekov, V.V. Struve, Corresponding Members of the USSR Academy of Sciences M.A. Chatelain, S.V. Bakhrushin, V.I. Picheta, A.Yu. Yakubovsky and many others (1:7-8, 23, 26). Many artists changed their pencil and brush for a rifle and a machine gun, becoming among the defenders of the Motherland – the Hero of the Soviet Union S. Abdullaev, N. Gerasimov, I. Kochetov, B. Hamdami, S. Malevich and many others (1).

Doctors, paramedics, and nurses went to the front along with the military units formed on the territory of Uzbekistan. Let's name some of them: O. Gulmirzaev, Maryam Yusupova, A.M. Shakirov (7:139-140). More than 113 military hospitals were located in Uzbekistan, over which 750 enterprises, institutions, collective farms, and state farms patronized. In 1942, disabled people were registered, they were provided with material assistance, most of them were employed. Particular care was shown for orphans and wounded soldiers evacuated to Uzbekistan. Military hospitals are mainly located in Tashkent and Samarkand (20 each), 42 in the Fergana region (10). Academicians N. Anichkov, V. Osipov, V. Voyachik, V. A. Shamov, professors S. A. Novotelnikov, A. Lebedinsky, V. Dainikov, V. Broderzon, S. Yu. Minkin, M. Entin, F. M. Folkler, etc. During this period, there was an urgent need for nurses. In July 1941, courses for nurses were organized, where they were trained on the job for 2-6 months. For the period 1941-1945 8054 nurses and 22658 paramedics were trained. In December 1941, the Odessa Research Institute of Ophthalmology was evacuated to Tashkent. The Institute was headed by the famous surgeon Vladimir P. Filatov (1875-1956), who was later awarded with the "Certificate of Honor" of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR. In pursuance of the decision of the State Defense Committee of the USSR, the Council of People's Commissars of the Uzbek SSR decided to place evacuation hospitals in the Republic. The most qualified and specialized hospitals were located in Tashkent and Samarkand, they had highly qualified medical personnel - professors, associate professors, specialists working at medical universities and research institutes. Specialized hospitals were created in Tashkent - by the end of the war, 45.3% of all beds in the evacuated hospitals of the republic were located here. Mortality in evacuated hospitals was very low (1.18%), and 91.3% were returned to military units and workplaces. As of December 1, 1941,

evacuation hospitals in Tashkent had 25.8% of all beds in the Republic, and by the beginning of the first quarter of 1943, almost half of all beds (49.6%) were concentrated in them (19:147–148).

All this is known and remembered by the peoples of Russia and Uzbekistan. Today there are borders between our countries. But there are events that have forever remained in the historical memory of the peoples of Russia and Uzbekistan. First of all, this is the Battle of Stalingrad. February 2, 2023 marks the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Battle of Stalingrad. On July 15, 2022, the President of the Russian Federation signed a Decree on the establishment of the Organizing Committee for the preparation and holding of events in connection with the anniversary. This emphasized the status of the Volgograd region as a region of national importance. Dmitry Medvedev, Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, has been appointed Chairman of the Organizing Committee. The workers of the Khorezm region sent more than 6 tons of meat and 27 heads of cattle, sheep, about 2 tons of poultry meat, 11 thousand eggs, over 5 tons of rice, 400 kg of meat, 1140 sheepskins, 1368 kg of wool, etc. to the Stalingrad front. Turakurgan district of this region was sent grain for 1,600,000 rubles. Stalingrad soldiers received gifts from other regions of Uzbekistan. In the Stalingrad direction, the 90th and 94th separate rifle brigades, formed in Ferghana and Kattakurgan, fought as part of the 21st Army of the Stalingrad Front. Uzbek warriors also fought in other formations. Only from the Namangan region over 10 thousand people participated in the Battle of Stalingrad. A newspaper in the Uzbek language was published on the Stalingrad front. Kh. Huzmatov personally destroyed 117 enemy soldiers and officers by the beginning of the counteroffensive near Stalingrad. Other Uzbek snipers also distinguished themselves: M. Madamanov, Tashpulatov, K. Saitov, I. Tashmatov, Z. Ganieva. Heroism and courage were shown by the Uzbek soldiers of the 77th Guards Rifle Division - R. Akhadov, K. Khudaibergenov, A. Amanov, M. Khalilov and others. More than 2,730 people were awarded the medal For the Defense of Stalingrad. Among them I.A. Trupov, K. Tapirov, K. Sherdanov, Kh. Khuzhaev, T. Khuzhanafasov, D. Karimov and others. M. Dzhaharov was awarded the Order of Alexander Nevsky, and K. Elmuradov was awarded the Order of the Red Banner (20:647). The Battle of Stalingrad ended victoriously on February 2, 1943. The losses of the Nazi troops were over 800 thousand people, 32 divisions and 3 brigades were completely destroyed, and 16 divisions suffered heavy losses. During the liquidation of the encircled grouping from January 10 to February 2, 1943, over 91 thousand people were taken prisoner, including 2500 officers and 24 generals (2:115). The Uzbek people made their worthy contribution to the great Stalingrad Victory (4).

The common victory of the peoples of the Soviet Union in the Great Patriotic War creates the fundamental foundations for strengthening friendship and cooperation between countries. The proof is the relations between Russia and Uzbekistan.

Diplomatic relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan were established on March 20, 1990, and on May 30 an agreement on the foundations of interstate relations, friendship and cooperation was concluded. The Strategic Partnership Treaty of June 16, 2004 and the Treaty of Allied Relations of November 14, 2005 set out priority areas for the development of the Russian-Uzbek partnership in the military-political, trade-economic and humanitarian spheres.

Top-level political contacts are regularly carried out. Since the mid-2000s, the presidents of the Russian Federation have been visiting Uzbekistan with state (January 2009), official (June 2012) and working (June 2004, June 2011) visits. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I. A. Karimov visited Russia with official (November 2005, February 2008, April 2010, April 2013) and working (April 2004, June 2005, May 2006) visits. The leaders of the two countries also meet within the framework of multilateral international events.<sup>4</sup>

A new period in relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan began with the coming to power in Uzbekistan of Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev, a prominent Uzbek statesman and political figure. From December 12, 2003 to December 14, 2016, Sh. M. Mirziyoyev was the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan. From September 8 to December 14, 2016, he served as Acting President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Since December 14, 2016, Sh. M. Mirziyoyev is the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan<sup>5</sup>.

On October 24, 2021, in the presidential elections in Uzbekistan, President Sh. Mirziyoyev received a mandate to further implement his economic and political course, the provisions of which were set out in his election program. In the next five years, the republic, whose economy is the fastest growing in Central Asia, is waiting for the next economic reforms. Their effect will largely depend on the objective conditions associated primarily with the pandemic. The President's social program, if implemented, can help mitigate the negative consequences of market reforms.

Mirziyoyev's foreign policy reflected the new geopolitical situation in Central Asia, the situation in Afghanistan and Turkey. The development of relations between Uzbekistan and Russia testifies to the desire to maintain a balance in relations with leading foreign policy players. It can be stated that today the President of Uzbekistan has a strong position both within the country and abroad (6:97-114).

The trade turnover between Russia and Uzbekistan is growing: in the first nine months of 2021, it amounted to \$5 billion, and by the end of the year – \$7 billion. On November 19, 2021, President of Russia V. Putin met with President of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev, who noted a breakthrough in bilateral relations, emphasizing that there were no such indicators in the trade turnover between the two countries before. The head of the Republic of Uzbekistan also noted the results of the intensive work of the Intergovernmental Commission headed by the prime ministers of both states. Sh. Mirziyoyev summed up the results of three large forums that were held on the eve of the state visit: following the results of the interregional forum, projects worth \$14 billion are already being developed, more than 35 agreements have been signed following the results of the educational forum. Over the past three years, 11 new Russian

4 Uzbekistan Took Part in the 5th Ministerial Meeting "Central Asia – Russia". Available from: <https://mfa.uz/ru/press/news/2022/uzbekistan-prinyal-uchastie-v-5-y-ministerskoy-vstreche-centralnaya-aziya-rossiya---31341>; Bilateral Relations between Uzbekistan and Russia have been Brought to the Level of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Available from: <https://mfa.uz/ru/press/news/2022/dvustoronnie-otnosheniya-uzbekistana-i-rossii-vyvedeny-na-uroven-vseobemlyuschego-strategicheskogo-partnerstva---32323>

5 Mirziyoyev, Shavkat Miromonovich. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Available from: <https://tass.ru/encyclopedia/person/mirzieev-shavkat-miromonovich>

universities have started operating in Uzbekistan. Now there are 15 of them, taking into account the recently opened branch of Pirogov University. Cultural-humanitarian, military-technical, transport cooperation is actively developing.

According to Sh. Mirziyoyev:

Today there is a completely different level of relations between us. In-depth integration is going on in all directions: previously there were projects when they were negotiated between regions, and today there are projects that give added value. For example, large projects are successfully developing in metallurgy<sup>6</sup>.

The Head of Uzbekistan during this meeting also noted that this is a good opportunity to discuss interregional, bilateral, security issues, the issue of Afghanistan, to make serious decisions for the future.

A significant role in the development of the economy of Uzbekistan is played by agriculture, which is supported by investments: there is support from both the state and external partners. Agricultural products from Uzbekistan to Russia are diverse. In 2020, the Russian Federation was the largest importer of Uzbek vegetables and fruits: approximately 355 thousand tons of products were shipped. Russia is ready to increase cooperation in this area in the future (17).

Important are the issues of labor emigration from Uzbekistan to Russia. It is developing and it is necessary to solve some problems, including the need to liberalize small and medium-sized businesses in order to create jobs, tax and labor benefits for firms and entrepreneurs that ensure the opening of new vacancies in the labor market (16: 267–270).

The value basis of the cultural cooperation between Russia and Uzbekistan is the legacy of the Central Asian Renaissance. This legacy was studied by Russian and Uzbek scientists as part of large-scale joint scientific and educational projects. It had a significant impact on the development of education, science and cultural life in both countries, and became a unique semantic axis of interaction between their intellectuals and peoples. Therefore, cooperation between the two countries is historically and value-based and is built on value-semantic components. Deepening cooperation in the humanitarian sphere can effectively improve the communication space for partnership between both countries (11).

Let us pay attention to the study of modern Russian-Uzbek cooperation, undertaken in a collective monograph, published in two editions – in 2020 and 2021. It reveals the state and prospects for the development of economic and socio-cultural ties between the two countries, the state of the joint implementation of national projects and national programs. From the Russian side:

1. increasing the competitiveness of the Russian financial market as part of the implementation of the state program;
2. the main problems of organizing the educational process in the conditions of the modern information environment in the framework of the implementation of the national project Education;

<sup>6</sup> Vladimir Putin Held Talks with the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in the Kremlin. Available from: <http://special.kremlin.ru/catalog/countries/UZ/events/67142>



### 3. national projects as drivers of regional development.

From the side of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

1. the development of higher education institutions is a guarantee of the progress of society and an increase in the competitiveness of the national economy;
2. the concept of development of the agricultural sector in the Republic of Uzbekistan;
3. Prospects for the socio-economic development of the agricultural sector (10).

The Republic of Uzbekistan is a full member of international organizations. Let us focus our attention on the two largest of them – the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The country joined the CIS on December 21, 1991. On this day, in the city of Alma-Ata, a Declaration was signed, which stated that “with the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ceases to exist”. The Almaty Declaration was signed by the heads of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. I. Karimov put his signature for the Republic of Uzbekistan.

A contemporary of the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, created in 1991 after the collapse of the USSR, was E.M. Primakov, an outstanding political and statesman, academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In his book “Meetings at the Crossroads” (2015), he analyzes “Problems of the CIS»” in a separate section, where he notes:

The formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was dictated rather by the desire to dull the sharpness of the negative internal reaction – the external one was basically the opposite – to the collapse of the great state ... Significant amounts are saved by maintaining unified systems of transport, energy, communications, production and cooperative relations between a number of enterprises, rejection of the continuous arrangement of “internal” borders in the Commonwealth (13:342).

Earlier, in his other book “Thoughts aloud” (2011), E.M. Primakov, in the section “Commonwealth with a difficult fate”, determined the direction of development of the CIS:

There was an objective interest in integration within the CIS... I would like to remind you that in September 1993 in Moscow, at a meeting of the prime ministers of the CIS countries, a document was adopted on the establishment of an Economic Union on the formation of a common economic space, the free movement of goods, services, labor, on the coordination monetary, tax, customs, foreign economic systems. The prime ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan put their signatures (12:77–78).

E.M. Primakov also refers to other documents that created the conditions for the integration process within the CIS. On April 15, 1994, an agreement on a free trade zone was signed (13:342).

The trend towards increased multifaceted integration in the CIS has intensified over the years. The main document regulating relations in the CIS system is the charter adopted on January 22, 1993 by a number of Commonwealth member republics.



Within the framework of military cooperation, Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan signed on May 15, 1992 in Tashkent the Collective Security Treaty. It was later joined by Belarus, Georgia and Azerbaijan. The parties to the treaty declared their readiness to exercise the right to collective defence. This agreement was a consequence of the concerns of the CIS countries about the growth of Islamic extremism in Central Asia. The reconstruction of a unified air defense system was agreed in February 1995 (Azerbaijan and Moldova did not join). Russia in this treaty acts as the coordinator of the air defense system, and political decisions remain with the leadership of the republics. In 1995, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Uzbekistan signed an agreement on the joint defense of the borders of the CIS (7:199–200). In 2002, a decision was made to transform the Collective Security Treaty into a full-fledged international structure - the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which received observer status in the UN General Assembly. Initially, it included only six states – Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Finding itself in a situation of possible destabilization in the country and aggravation of relations with the United States, Uzbekistan also joined the CSTO (13:78–79).

Trends noted by E.M. Primakov, continue to develop. On October 7, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin, at an informal CIS summit in St. Petersburg, called for a more energetic transition to national currencies in mutual settlements and discussed measures to resolve conflicts between states in the post-Soviet space. The summit was attended by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, Prime Minister of Armenia Nikolai Pashinyan, President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, President of Kazakhstan Kasym Zhomart Tokayev, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Putin called the CIS countries his closest friends and allies, with whom Russia has “relationships of true strategic partnership.”

On October 13, 2022, Astana hosted the annual full-format summit – a meeting of the Council of the CIS Heads of State, dedicated to the issues of integration cooperation, where a package of documents was approved.

Both in St. Petersburg and in Astana, issues of developing trade and investment partnerships within the CIS, intensifying joint work to increase the stability of economies, in particular, through building up bilateral and multilateral cooperation ties, and ensuring technological sovereignty, were discussed.

According to the President of Russia V. Putin:

Economic cooperation between our states is consistently expanding. Last year, Russia's trade with the CIS countries increased by more than 30 percent, to \$96 billion, and grew by another seven percent in the first half of this year<sup>7</sup>.

Russian President V. Putin called for a more energetic transition to national currencies in mutual settlements between the Commonwealth countries:

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7 Development of Investment Partnership and Transition to National Currencies in Mutual Settlements. What the Leaders of the CIS Countries Discussed at an Informal Summit in St. Petersburg. Available from: <https://rg.ru/2022/10/09/ot-strelny-do-astany.html>

As a matter of fact, we have been doing this for many years already, and this is in no way tied to any political situation whatsoever. In general, this will help strengthen the financial sovereignty of our states, develop domestic capital markets, and deepen regional economic integration<sup>8</sup>.

The most important areas are the development of cooperation in the field of combating terrorism and extremism, crime, drug trafficking and corruption. On April 26, 1996, in Shanghai (PRC), the heads of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan signed an agreement on building confidence in the military field in the border area. On this basis, a political association called the Shanghai Five was formed, its main task is to ensure stability along the borders of the former Soviet republics and China. On July 5, 2000, the organization was transformed into the Shanghai Forum. On June 14, 2001, at the summit in Shanghai, Uzbekistan joined the association. On June 15, 2001, the heads of six states adopted a declaration on the establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. On June 7, 2022, the organization's statutory document, the SCO Charter, was signed (entered into force on September 19, 2003). On June 9, 2017, at the summit in Astana, the membership of India and Pakistan in the organization was officially approved. Since that time, the SCO has united the space from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean and from the Arctic to the Indian Ocean, and now occupies 61% of the Eurasian continent. What is the mystery of the SCO? The answer can be found in the SCO Charter, which laid the foundations for a new type of international association, where each state has a full voice, and all decisions are made by consensus. "The SCO states have enormous human and economic potential, but perhaps the more important measure of the authority of the Organization is the Shanghai spirit" – the spirit of mutual understanding and true partnership, the spirit of civilizational cooperation, the dialogue of cultures (21:7, 11).

All of the above was confirmed in September 2022, when the Republic of Uzbekistan hosted the heads of the SCO member states in Samarkand. This summit, which was the first face-to-face meeting in three years, brought together 15 world leaders in Samarkand. Special attention was riveted to the Samarkand meeting: in the context of sanctions pressure, the withdrawal of some foreign companies from the Russian market and the reduction in the supply of technological imports from unfriendly countries, a significant expansion of Russia's economic ties with the SCO countries is a necessary and logical step.

Business from the SCO countries plays a significant role in the Russian economy. According to the Center for Strategic Research, the products of at least 7 thousand companies from member countries, partners and observers of the organization are represented in Russia, while directly or indirectly (through dealers, distributors, etc.) these companies create jobs for at least 1 million Russians. The largest number of jobs (about 75%) is created by Turkish business. In the mass consciousness, until recently, business from some SCO countries was associated with simple consumer products (for example, clothing, textiles and food). Indeed, today in Russia the bulk of the businesses from the SCO countries are small enterprises that manufacture and supply such products, primarily from China. At the same time, if you look at the largest companies from the SCO countries in the Russian market, the picture will turn out to

be completely different. According to our estimates, among the eighty such largest companies that form about 80,000 jobs in Russia, two-thirds produce and supply technologically complex products that are difficult to produce in Russia due to a lack of technology, raw materials, and lack of professional competencies. First of all, we are talking about microelectronics, household appliances, automotive products, and the pharmaceutical industry and building materials.

In Samarkand, in addition to the importance of economic ties between the SCO countries, other topical issues were also discussed. On the first day of the meeting in Uzbekistan, Russian President Vladimir Putin held bilateral meetings with the leaders of Iran, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan. And special attention was focused on the talks between the Russian President and Chinese President Xi Jinping. In the Kremlin, this contact was called long-awaited. This is the second personal meeting of the heads of state during the coronavirus pandemic and the first since the start of Russia's special operation in Ukraine. The leaders are focused on joint energy projects, development of economic cooperation and, of course, the international situation around Ukraine, Taiwan, US provocations. V. Putin noted:

The world is changing rapidly, but only one thing remains unchanged: the friendship between China and Russia, our good relations of strategic comprehensive partnership, and we continue to strengthen these relations," V.V. Putin at the beginning of the meeting<sup>9</sup>.

The Russian President emphasized that the foreign policy dialogue between Russia and China plays a key role in ensuring global and regional stability. Both countries stand for the formation of a just, democratic and multipolar world order. "Attempts to create a unipolar world have recently acquired an absolutely ugly shape and are absolutely unacceptable for the vast majority of states on the planet", – the Russian leader is sure<sup>10</sup>. In turn, Xi Jinping said that China is ready, together with Russia, to set an example of a responsible world power and play a leading role in order to "bring such a rapidly changing world to the trajectory of sustainable and positive development"<sup>11</sup>. Speaking about the international situation, Putin stressed that Russia highly appreciates China's balanced position in connection with the Ukrainian crisis. "We understand your questions and your concerns in this regard", – Putin noted and promised his Chinese counterpart to clarify the position on this issue<sup>12</sup>. The Russian President also said that Russia condemns the provocations of the US and its satellites in the Taiwan Strait. "For our part, we will firmly adhere to the One China principle in practice, – he promised<sup>13</sup>. Economic cooperation between Russia and China is developing. Thus, according to forecasts for the end of 2022, the countries will significantly increase the volume of trade, V. Putin is sure. He recalled that the leadership of the two countries set the task of bringing the trade turnover to \$200 billion, and believes that this goal will be achieved soon. "Multifaceted ties between our countries are actively developing, last year the

<sup>9</sup> Putin has Strengthened a Strategic Alliance with China. Available from: <https://ura.news/articles/1036285396>

<sup>10</sup> Putin: attempts to create a unipolar world have acquired "ugly outlines". Available from: <https://www.gazeta.ru/politics/news/2022/09/15/18571081.shtml>

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

trade turnover increased by 35 percent and exceeded \$140 billion”<sup>14</sup>, – V. Putin stated. According to him, “over the first seven months of this year, the volume of mutual trade increased by another 25 percent”. Deputy Prime Minister A. Novak told journalists about energy projects with China. The Deputy Prime Minister expects to reach final agreements with China on the Power of Siberia-2 gas pipeline in the near future. Putin spoke about new projects in gas supplies, the Pakistan Stream at a meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. Diversification of economic relations in various areas was discussed at a meeting with the Presidents of Kyrgyzstan S. Japarov, Turkmenistan S. Berdimuhamedov and Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev<sup>15</sup>.

Russian President V. Putin said at the SCO summit in Uzbekistan that irreversible changes are taking place in world politics and the role of new centers of power is growing. The expansion of the SCO, the fight against unilateral sanctions, security and the transition to national currencies were the main topics of the Samarkand meeting. Following the summit, Vladimir Putin held a press conference and spoke about the prospects for the SCO and the course of the special operation in Ukraine.

As a result of the summit in Samarkand, the SCO leaders adopted a joint declaration in which they advocated:

- a more just multipolar world order;
- inadmissibility of unilateral application of economic sanctions, except for those adopted by the UN Security Council;
- gradual increase in the share of national currencies in mutual settlements;
- expansion of the SCO;
- further non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world and continuation of nuclear disarmament;
- inadmissibility of interference in the affairs of states under the pretext of countering terrorism. The SCO countries condemn terrorism and intend to actively eliminate the conditions conducive to it;
- the need to further strengthen international cooperation in combating the spread of the coronavirus;
- settlement in Afghanistan to strengthen the security of the SCO countries;
- cooperation in the field of literature, music, cinema<sup>16</sup>.

## Conclusion

Uzbekistan's relations with different states are rising to a new, higher level. But Uzbekistan maintains the closest cooperation with Russia, although history has established borders between our states.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Geopolitics. The Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Samarkand was a New Atep towards a Multipolar World. Eastern SCO. Aysel Gereikhanova, Igor Dunaevsky, Sergey Tikhonov, Samarkand-Moscow. Rossiyskaya Gazeta. 2022. September 16 (No. 208 (8856)).

<sup>16</sup> Geopolitics. Vladimir Putin Spoke at the SCO Summit and Answered Journalists' Questions. The SCOWay. Aysel Gereikhanova. Samarkand. Rossiyskaya Gazeta. 2022. September 19.No. 209 (8857))

Russia is the legal successor of the USSR not only on its own territory. It also bears obligations within the framework of the international treaties concluded by the USSR. And this makes a significant contribution to the development of interstate relations in the post-Soviet space.

In this activity, Russia proceeds from taking into account the free and harmonious development of cultures, languages, religions of all peoples living on the territory of states that emerged after the collapse of the USSR, which was then their common homeland.

Taking into account the historical ties between Russia and Uzbekistan, both states have come to the understanding that friendship of peoples as a post-Soviet phenomenon can and is becoming a socio-political value for these countries and the foundation for the development of bilateral relations. This is the historical significance of the contribution of the two countries within the framework of the CIS to building a new world order.

Full-fledged cooperation and integration of Russia and Uzbekistan in all areas, the growing trade turnover between them creates added value in increasing dynamics, from which the welfare of the citizens of the two countries grows.

The results of joint cultural and humanitarian cooperation revealed its unique potential. It lies in the historical and value rootedness of relations between the peoples of the two countries, in the presence in the friendship of peoples, as in a unique Soviet phenomenon, of its deep values and meanings. This creates significant opportunities for the free, diverse and harmonious development of cultures, languages and religions not only in the Central Asian region, and contributes to strengthening the new world order and international security.

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