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Cultural relations of Uzbekistan with central Asian countries at the modern level

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Abstract

This article covers the cultural relations and cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Central Asian countries during the years of independence. The processes of globalization require that the peaceful dialogue of different cultures be more important. Culture is an active disseminator of national and transnational political interests, a source of inter-civilizational competition, and special emphasis is placed on the fact that cultural ties have a significant impact on strengthening mutual integration. The author also focuses on external relations in the field of culture and describes in detail the work of the international community to preserve the unique examples of world spiritual heritage.

Keywords: Central Asia, Uzbekistan, cultural ties, cooperation, integration, international cultural programs

Introduction

In today's modern geopolitical processes, the issue of cooperation between states remains relevant. Cooperation between states is one of the basic principles of international law, the normative essence of which is the obligation of states to cooperate in order to solve common secular problems [3: 193–194]. Its relatively bright practical expression can be seen in modern international cultural cooperation, which covers a set of rules governing the issues of mutual integration in the field of culture [5]. Culture is a separate sphere of public life, and the processes of globalization require more peaceful dialogue of different cultures. Culture is an active disseminator of national and transnational political interests, a source of inter-civilizational competition.

Main Part

Cultural relations are one of the most humane relations and therefore one of the most effective means of foreign policy. It creates favourable conditions for friendly and peaceful interstate dialogue. After all, art and science are the heritage of humanity as a whole, they transcend borders and national barriers. The path to culture and participation in cultural life is something that complements each other. Culture has always been and will remain the basis for cooperation between people of different ethnic groups, one of the effective means of spiritual development of the state and society [2: 163].

In the context of globalization, humanitarian cooperation, which is a priority, is growing. It is through humanitarian cooperation that States and organizations gain confidence in the international arena and create their own positive image. This work involves promoting their culture by establishing cultural centres, working with their compatriots and recruiting foreigners. Realizing the importance of cultural and humanitarian cooperation, major countries have made significant investments in this area.

The main directions of international cooperation in the field of culture are - support of creative activity, training and retraining of cultural workers, joint production and exchange of cultural values and cultural treasures, restoration of unique historical and cultural monuments, new technologies, technical means, introduction of equipment, etc. In addition to the above, mutual recognition of academic documents, diplomas, academic degrees and titles; development of sports and tourism; cooperation of libraries, archives and other cultural institutions; promotion of artistic and cultural values of other countries; provision of information about conferences, scientific meetings and symposiums; significant organization

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of youth leisure; exchange of specialists; mutual business trips and internships of scientists; improvement of foreign language learning; creation of information and cultural values; organization of the event [2: 163].

The intensification of international relations between the Central Asian states is due to the fact that they have gained independence and the ability to independently determine their foreign policy priorities. These countries are interested in active cooperation with regional and global international organizations. The United Nations occupies a special place in that regard. In particular, in 2007, on the initiative of the five Central Asian countries, the Security Council established the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia in Tajikistan. The main objective of the Centre was political instability in the region, where the Central Asian States had to work together to combat international terrorism and extremism, drug trafficking, organized crime and environmental degradation. [8: 164–171].

In modern conditions the image of the state depends not only on its economic policy in the international arena, but also on its cultural and humanitarian cooperation in foreign policy. International humanitarian cooperation includes cooperation between states on culture, science, information, sports, tourism and other issues [6: 485]. In general, knowledge of the language, customs and culture of another nation creates a positive perception of other national cultures, and through the formation of tolerant attitudes towards other nations strengthens mutual trust and friendship between people. Therefore, cultural ties also play an important role in the system of cooperation between the countries of the region, as well as in economic, scientific and technical relations. One of the peculiarities of international cultural and humanitarian cooperation is that in this process practically the entire society is of interest, i.e. “From above” - the state itself and “from below” - from civil society [1].

In short, the greatest practical value of humanitarian cooperation among States is that they work together on security issues that allow States to develop further, in particular to address contemporary challenges such as terrorism and extremism together. For example, it is no coincidence that one of the activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which brings together the Central Asian countries, is humanitarian cooperation. The charter of the organization stresses the need to “expand cooperation in science and technology, education, health care, culture, sports and tourism” among its members [7].

In general, priorities for cooperation between the countries of the region and the outside world in the field of international cultural and humanitarian relations have been defined in a short period of time. In particular, it is noted that the international cultural cooperation of Uzbekistan is developing day by day, as well as expanding its geographical coverage. After gaining independence, new directions in cultural and humanitarian cooperation between Uzbekistan and the world have emerged. These include ethnocultural traditions and efforts to restore and preserve identity; restoration, protection and study of cultural and natural heritage [1: 14].

Today 7,476 tangible cultural heritage sited in Uzbekistan are under state protection, including 4,308 archaeological sites, 2,079 architectural sites, 694 monumental works of art

and 395 landmarks. At the same time, 2.5 million objects of museum heritage and collections have been preserved [4].

Since independence, a number of legal frameworks have been established to regulate relations related to the protection of historical, spiritual and cultural heritage sites in Uzbekistan. In particular, the Act of 29 August 1998 on the export and import of material resources of 30 August 2001 on the protection and use of cultural heritage sites and the Act on the protection and use of archaeological heritage sites. The Law “On introducing amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in connection with strengthening the protection of tangible cultural heritage” or increasing responsibility for violations [4]. According to these laws, objects of historical, spiritual and cultural heritage cannot be denationalized, privatized or exported, and these objects are stored in state museums, archives and libraries. Violators of the rules for the preservation and use of historical, spiritual and cultural heritage will be held administratively and criminally liable. In particular, the Presidential Decision approving the concept for the further development of national culture, 2018-2022, on international cooperation in the cultural sphere:

- Strengthening and expanding cooperation with international cultural and artistic organizations and foreign cultural, research and expert institutions.
- Elaboration of joint creative programmes and research plans for the development of various areas of art, culture and science in cooperation with leading foreign educational and scientific circles.
- To take measures for inclusion in the lists of tangible and intangible cultural heritage of common examples typical for Central Asia, in cooperation with other countries.
- To establish a UNESCO Centre for Supporting Practical Traditional Crafts in the Pacific and Central Asia, based on the great achievements of traditional crafts in Uzbekistan;
- Training of cultural workers in the social and cultural sphere through training of cultural workers, short and long-term training, internships and traineeships using the resources of the state system of professional development [10].

Thanks to constructive policy, based on historical friendship among five countries of the region 2019 became a year of cooperation among countries of Central Asia. There are all bases for development of relationships and friendship in the region. The summit of leaders of the countries of Central Asia, conducted in Tashkent (November, 2019), is a bright example of this fact [9].

Cooperation programs. Cultural ties between countries in the region are often bilateral, and inter-State programmes play an important role. It is true that most of these programmes are not directly related to cultural cooperation, but in addition to economic and political issues, cultural and humanitarian relations are also addressed.

Relations between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan have a solid contractual basis, and more than 170 bilateral documents have been signed in various fields. The most important documents are the Agreement on Eternal Friendship between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan (1998) and the Agreement on Strategic Partnership (2013).

It defines the main principles and priorities of bilateral cooperation in political, trade and economic, transport and communication, water and energy, environmental, cultural and humanitarian, military and technical and other spheres. Ministry of Culture and Sports of Uzbekistan and Ministry of Culture and Information of Kazakhstan adopted the program of cooperation in culture for 2013-2015. In line with the program, which came into force on 14 June 2013, a number of action plans were developed.

Conclusion

In general, it is important for Uzbekistan to strengthen cultural ties with Central Asian countries, and during the years of independence Uzbekistan has played a special role in strengthening friendly relations among the peoples of the region. Because thanks to culture, mutually beneficial relations are established, knowledge and experience are exchanged. This will have a positive impact on the spread of cultures of nations, peoples and nations, the rapprochement of brotherly nations, the gradual expansion of cultural values and the achievement of effective results.

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