

INTERNAL SECURITY THREATS IN THE CENTRAL ASIA REGION



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The peculiar feature of the complex of internal problems consists in long-term character of problems' consequences which may lie on shoulders of the next generations. Hence, it is necessary to undertake urgently active actions on management of the challenges, to put new initiatives, to find the compromise, and the main point is to engage in joint realization of the initiatives.

Keywords: Central Asia, regional security, challenges, management, geopolitics, maintenance, initiatives, multilateral, counteraction, stability.

Security issues of the Central Asia have a peculiar complex background. The region of Central Asia represents strategic geopolitics value. The region is situated on a joint of civilizations; the CAR is a subject of influence for many powers: Russia, the USA, the PRC, Iran, Turkey, the EU, etc.

Central Asian foreign policy vector, alongside questions of regional security maintenance, are one of the major items on the agenda in Kazakhstan's strategy. Kazakhstan actively supports regional integration, which is determined by the group of different factors. Among these factors the important place is occupied by the question of national interests protection with the means of interstate security system. Our country possesses significant geopolitical characteristics, hence Kazakhstan's positions on a number of the important regional and global international issues are correlated with positions of neighbors and leading powers.

Foreign policy initiatives of N.A. Nazarbayev on strengthening regional security due to its constructive content get the positive response from the world community.

The leading position of Kazakhstan invariable underlined on the summits of Central Asia states' heads and on the regional political elites meetings, also on negotiations with the leaders of the world powers, where usually discussed the situation in sphere of regional security, elimination of threats and management of challenges. Such estimations are based on the thought over and effective model of

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political and economic reforming conducted for years of independence, an active position of our country in maintenance of geopolitical forces and interests' balance in the Central Asia region, and also in promotion of peace and stability in the Asia.

The important vectors of the Central Asia states' multilateral cooperation are political and economic relations with such large and influential states, as Russia and China. Taking into account the geopolitical arrangement and the advanced system of transport communications Kazakhstan has become the binding bridge in expansion of interaction among the CA countries.

Now Kazakhstan successfully shows efficiency of the economic model generated in conditions of market relations, and stability of political system. At the same time the achieved result are not considered as the basic purpose, it is only the important stage on the way of building strong and prospering state.

The CA states more clearly feel necessity of efforts consolidation in struggle against common security threats. Joint design of the measures directed on counteraction to wide range of modern challenges is a basis of regional cooperation.

Distribution of stability challenges in the region has got long-term character. They have arisen because of difficulties both political systems transit period, and global geopolitical shifts in the world. The zones of political instability, latent and local conflicts in Afghanistan, Middle East, Transcaucasia, Northern Caucasus, and XUAR of the PRC surround the region.

The common security situation in the region is multifaced, there are a variety of problems which have not only external, but also internal dimension.

In the Central Asia there is a complex of internal problems which don't find the practical solution and continue to become more complicated.

1) Solution of a hydro-power problem is one of the most acute issues in the region. Last years all over the world increased demand not only for hydrocarbons, but also for water resources which are not the goods of international trade. In the countries of the Central Asia deficiency of water accrues faster, than it was expected.

2) Moreover the status of some disputed territories still remains unresolved. Unfortunately there are also interethnic conflicts thereby, the sociopolitical contradictions' aggravation led to escalating interfaith conflicts.

3) Serious risks to regional security are possessed by complex of closely interconnected problems: religious extremism, drug trafficking, illegal migration¹, terrorism, weapons smuggling, etc.

4) Food security is one of the important potential issues in the Central Asia. Food security is an integral part of economic well-being and a basic vector of national security. Thereby the CA states should be capable to satisfy the current and extreme demand.

5) The last is a problem of aggravating ecological situation in the region as in a whole world².

The problem of an existing water infrastructure was caused by the fact of its construction within the framework of the USSR period, the system was intended to satisfy demand of all CA republics, in fact borders between them were administrative. All countries of the region have incurred economic losses because of water problems. In a long term prospect the issue of water use in the region would aggravate by the high rates of population growth, there are also two potential reasons, which could led to deterioration of the situation: the first is economic development of Afghanistan, located in the upstream of Amudarya, the second is PRC's plans on water drainage from rivers Irtysh and Ili.

According to the World Bank experts, creation of an compensatory mechanism within the regional regime for cooperation in sphere of common hydro-power resources usage, is more economically expedient than separate policy of the states on own water security maintenance. The most important contraventions consist in difference of the interests. One countries require water for irrigation needs (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan), other – for hydro-power needs (Kirghizia, Tajikistan).

All countries of the region have an unique characteristics. Tajikistan possesses huge stocks of hydro-power resources. The country occupies the eighth place in the world on potential hydro-power reserves; it shares about 4 percent hydro-power potential of the Earth. The unique hydrological feature and advance of Kirghizia is comprised by the fact that water resources are almost completely formed in own territory of the country.

The Central Asia states are interested in conflicts minimization in the field of hydro-power potential development and steady fair regulation in usage of trans-border river sources. However each the CA region state aspires unilaterally solves a water security problem. The water security issue in the Central Asia consists in less extent in shortage of water resources, more in inability of the countries to find a compromise.

Territorial claims potentially can considerably destabilize security environment in the CA. As the international practice shows, disputable boundary questions arise usually when in a country appears serious economic or political difficulties, and due to switching public attention on external problems it is possible to distract population from more essential internal issues or when disputable territories appear rich mineral resources.

Uzbekistan has territorial claims to Kazakhstan, among disputable territories there are not only lands populated with ethnic Uzbeks, but also areas rich in mineral resources. Besides, Kazakhstan has the biggest territory in the region, and Uzbekistan – the highest population density. Growing population in future may begin search for new territories.

Between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan there are also exist unresolved issues on coast and water area of the Aral Sea. There is a geological

¹The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://carnegieendowment.org/ieeb/2012/06/21/central-asia-s-migrant-headache/c41a> (дата открытия 24.10.2013).

²Makubayev Y. Kazakhstan and regional security. <http://cvsi.kz/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Kazakhstan-and-regional-security.pdf> (дата открытия 15.07.2013).

data that these territories may be reach in oil and gas. The border on considerably shoaled sea generally remains only nominally limited, thus Tashkent is not going to concede the areas capable in the near future to bring essential economic profits.

The set of territorial problems exists between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Because of the Soviet frontier division, ethnic Tajiks appeared in territory of Uzbekistan, and Uzbeks – Tajikistan. Rather specifically, if not rigidly, during Soviet times was drawn the frontier line between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, and also between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (especially on Pamir). There are many disputable moments in territorial delimitation of Turkmenistan with not only Uzbekistan, but also with Azerbaijan across the Caspian Sea.

However, it is necessary to emphasize, that the problem has only potential character, but we shouldn't forget about it, the question of disputable territories is quite solved with constructive initiatives and through the diplomatic tools. Very prominent experience possesses example of Kazakhstan in settlement of territorial disputes with the PRC.

Counteraction to terrorism is one of the priority directions in ensuring national security of the country. Kazakhstan condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and supports acceptance of collective efforts of the world community in fighting against this phenomenon.

Kazakhstan strictly fulfills requirements of the UN Security Council resolutions and annually represents the National report on the done work in Counter-terrorism committee of the United Nations. The RK supported creation and took active part in activity of the International counterterrorist coalition. Kazakhstan has joined to fourteen international universal tools on fight against terrorism.

Organizations which activity has terrorist character are forbidden on the territory of Kazakhstan. The national list of forbidden terrorist and extremist organizations includes 16 foreign structures. There are: "Al-Qaeda", "Asbat al-Ansar", "Muslim Brotherhood", "Boz gourde", "Zhamaat of Mujahideens of Central Asia", "Islamic movement of Uzbekistan", "Islamic party of East Turkestan", "The Kurdish national congress", "Taliban", "Lashkar-i-Tayba", "Hizb-ut-Tahrir", "Tabligi Jamia" and "Society of social reforms", "AUM of Sinrikyo", "Organization of liberation of East Turkestan", "Dzhund-al-Halifat (Soldiers of the caliphate)".³

The great value is given to development of the regional cooperation presented by the activity of the Anti-terrorist center of Commonwealths of Independent States, Regional anti-terrorist structure of the SCO, and also within undertaken measures in the sphere of fight against terrorism and extremism of the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

In 2010 Kazakhstan presided in the OSCE having an extensive experience in military-political area and high potential for its implementation in specific actions. Within military-political measurement more than 60 actions were carried out. Conference on terrorism prevention took place on October 14-15, 2010 in Astana. The main result of the conference in Astana is the declaration, which confirmed adherence and commitment of the OSCE state-parties and the partner-states to business of fight against terrorism⁴.

Kazakhstan joined the international system to combat drug trafficking by ratifying all major UN conventions in this field: Single Convention on

³Официальный сайт МИД РК. http://mfa.gov.kz/ru/#/foreign-policy/aktualnyie_voprosyi_vneshney_politiki_kazahstana/protivodeystvie_novym_ugrozam_i_vyizovam/borba_s_terrorizmom_i_ekstremizmom_v_kazahstane/ (дата открытия 24.10.2013)

⁴OSCE Astana Declaration: Towards a Security Community. Conference Materials / Responsible editors B.K. Sultanov, N.N. Zarudna – Almaty – the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of Kazakhstan. 2013. – 32 p.

Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988⁵.

Ministry of Internal Affairs through the framework of multilateral agreements interacts with law enforcement agencies of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Azerbaijan and other CIS countries, on the basis of more than 50 intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements shall cooperate with other foreign partners. Kazakhstan was twice elected a member of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (2000-2003 and 2008-2011.)⁶.

Reaffirming its commitment to promote the UN activity in countering the drug threat, Kazakhstan has provided all necessary conditions for the establishment on its territory the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) to combat drug trafficking. It is one of the most important joint projects of participants of the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation in the control of illicit production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors.

During the recent years, Kazakhstan's migration balance has clearly improved⁷. A phenomenon on the regional scale is the reemigration to Kazakhstan Russians who several years earlier decided to return to Russia and Kazakhs who have so far lived outside of Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is an attractive job market for its neighbors and nothing seems to indicate that the situation could change in the nearest future. Labour migration alleviate social tensions in such countries as Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Admittedly food security is one of the most important potential issues in the Central Asia⁸. The problem has connections with issue of water security. Thus it is necessary to point out, that the Republic of Kazakhstan satisfies demand for wheat and a flour of neighboring countries.

Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan are traditional importers of the Kazakhstan's grain. Moreover, Kazakhstan has a problem in the sphere of wheat export therefore it affects on food security environment in the Central Asia.

About 925 million people are undernourished in the world and Central Asia is no exception. People living in Central Asia are severely impacted by fluctuations in food prices. The primary concern related to food security in the region is the relatively high level of poverty faced by Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (47.2 percent and 31.7 percent, respectively), and in a lesser extent Uzbekistan. Central Asian populations suffer from both short and long term food insecurity⁹.

There are four main components of food security:

- 1) Availability. There is a reliable and consistent source of quality food.
- 2) Access. People have sufficient resources to produce and/or purchase food.
- 3) Utilization. People have the knowledge and basic sanitary conditions to choose, prepare, and distribute food in a way that results in good nutrition.
- 4) Stability. People's ability to access and utilize food that remains stable and sustained over time¹⁰.

We thought fit to underline, that the Republic of Kazakhstan for last three years when the question on wheat deliveries aggravated all over the world, has contributed much for the Central – Asian republics.

The problems of environmental degradation and climate change are actual issue in every region of the world, and the CA is no exception. The basic threats and problems in environmental protection sphere are:

- 1) Consequences of nuclear tests on the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site.
- 2) Ecological balance infringement in the Caspian Sea in view of poaching and hydrocarbonic deposits exploitation.
- 3) Drying of the Aral Sea. Desertification of the lands.
- 4) Pollution and exhaustion of trans-border rivers' water resources.

Our President has designated new approaches of global ecological crisis resolution through the partnership of civilizations. One of mechanisms of such partnership can become Astana Initiative "The Green Bridge". The main purpose of the initiative is assistance to partnership development of the European, Asian and Pacific countries on promotion of "green economy", and also partnership of state and private sector, public and international organizations.

Partnership program "Green Bridge" includes three main components:

- 1) Drawing up program and projects coordination and management mechanisms, including financing and technologies transfer mechanisms.
- 2) Development of investment and strategic tasks package on promotion of "green economy" of the countries, subregions and regions.
- 3) Signing of an Agreement on issue of program realization among the interested parties: states, international institutions, private sector, and other members of the program¹¹.

Thus Kazakhstan has taken an active position in sphere of environmental protection, realizing not only current ecological threats, but also necessity of immediate measures acceptance. Furthermore, instruments of program realization are also clear.

Summing up, we have to make a conclusion, that feature of the listed complex of internal problems consists in long-term character of problems' consequences which may lie on shoulders of the next generations. Hence, it is necessary to undertake urgently active actions on management of the challenges, to put new initiatives, to find the compromise, and the main point is to engage in joint realization of the initiatives. The most prominent and far-sighted are N.A.Nazarbayev's ideas about creation of joint Euroasian security system, and also the concept of indivisible cooperative security. In the projects are incorporated all necessary components of successful and effective work in the future, instruments of multilateral dialogue, the account of mutual interests and aspiration to consensus achievement, which according to the international experience, are inseparable from stable and peace development of any region.

¹⁰Mikhailushkin P. ELEMENTS, Components and criteria of ensuring food security of the country. Scientific Journal «КубГАУ». №92(08). 2013. 14 p.

¹¹Программа партнерства «Зеленый мост». <http://gbpp.org/ru/about-green-bridge-partnership-program/> (дата открытия 24.10.2013).

⁵Владимир Парамонов. Портал «Центральная Евразия». Угрозы безопасности Центральной Азии и основные сценарии развития региона. <http://ceasia.ru/forum/ugrozi-bezopasnosti-tsentralnoy-azii-i-osnovnye-stsenarii-razvitiya-regiona.html> (дата открытия 24.10.2013).

⁶Официальный сайт МИД РК. http://mfa.gov.kz/ru/#/foreign-policy/aktualnyie_voprosyi_vneshney_politiki_kazhastana/protivodeystvie_novyim_ugrozam_i_vyizovam/borba_s_nezakonnym_oborotom_narkotikov_v_kazhastane/ (дата открытия 24.10.2013).

⁷Aldashev A. and Dietz B. Determinants of internal migration in Kazakhstan. <http://mpa.ub.uni-muenchen.de/34922/> (дата открытия 24.10.2013).

⁸Тукумов Е. Центральная Азия: новые вызовы безопасности и перспективы регионального сотрудничества http://www.np.kz/2013/08/30/centralnaja_azija_novye_vyzovy_bezopasnosti_i_perspektivy_regionalnogo_sotrudnichestva.html (дата открытия 24.10.2013).

⁹The status and challenges of food security in Central Asia. Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. UN Official Paper. Budapest. April 2011. 14 p.

Thus, we thought fit to outline three levels of effective counteraction to security threats:

- 1) Interstate level means an adequate management of national security and stability threats through internal tools and leverages.
- 2) The regional level is necessary for coordination of the CA countries joint efforts in struggle against the threats in economic, social, political, ecological spheres.
- 3) The third level – external, it includes institutional, trans-regional and global levels. It should provide security through activity coordination of international organizations and first of all the CSTO, CICA, SCO. For security preservation it is necessary to maintain strategic cooperation with China and allied relations with Russia, constructive interaction with the USA, the EU countries and such organizations as the OSCE and NATO.

In maintenance of social and political stability, economic growth in the Central Asia as a basis of regional security preservation the most essential are the following directions of Kazakhstan's foreign policy activity:

- 1) Formation of effective system of regional and national security. Assistance to settlement of conflict situations in zones adjacent to the CA countries, especially in Afghanistan.
- 2) Preservation of political and macroeconomic stability in the region, stability of national political systems on the basis of strengthening of a democratic institutes role, social and economic development and increasing a level of population life quality.
- 3) Management of geopolitical and geoeconomical problems. Active occurrence of the CA states' economies in global trade and economic relations and adaptation of national economic models to mechanisms of the global market.

Certainly, in regional security issues Kazakhstan follows especially pragmatic reasons which essence is reduced to the following: stability

in any country can be provided only with creation around it so-called «security zone», hence the regional cooperation in realization of collective measures on stability maintenance in the Central Asia and in the world is especially important.

Ю. Б. Макубаев: Орталық Азия аймағында қауіпсіздіктің ішкі қауіп-қатерлері.

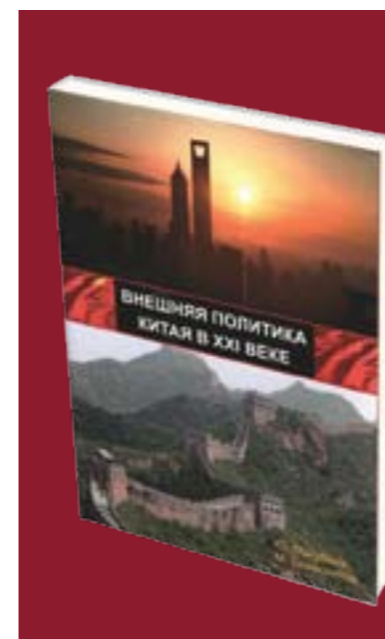
Ішкі сипаттағы аймақтық мәселелер кешенінің ерекшелігі сол, олардың шешілмеген зардаптары ұзақ мерзімді сипатқа ие болып, бірнеше ұрпаққа артылатын жүк болатындығында. Осыған орай, осындай шақыруларды басқару бойынша белсенді әрекеттерді кідірмей қабылдау, жаңа бастамаларды ұсыну, ымыраластық жолдарын табу, ал бастысы осы бастамаларды бірлесіп жүзеге асыру керек.

Түйінді сөздер: Орталық Азия, қауіпсіздік, Қазақстан, аймақ, тұрақтылық, қауіп-қатерлер, проблемалар, реттеу, бастамалар, уақыт сыни-қатері.

Ю. Макубаев: Внутренние угрозы безопасности в централь-ноазиатском регионе.

Особенностью комплекса региональных проблем внутреннего характера является тот факт, что последствия их нерешенности могут иметь долгосрочный характер и лечь на плечи не одного поколения. Следовательно, нужно безотлагательно предпринять активные действия по управлению данными вызовами, выдвинуть новые инициативы, найти компромисс, а главное заняться совместной реализацией данных инициатив.

Ключевые слова: Центральная Азия, безопасность, Казахстан, регион, стабильность, угрозы, проблемы, урегулирование, инициативы, вызовы.



НОВЫЕ КНИГИ

Макубаев Ю. Б., Есимсеитов М. К. Внешняя политика Китая в XXI веке: новые реалии мирового порядка. Астана. 2012. – 511 с.

Книга посвящена одному из наиболее актуальных явлений в современной международной системе – росту геополитического влияния Китая. КНР приобрела значительный экономический и дипломатический вес, который сделал ее влиятельным игроком во всех точках земного шара. Цель данной работы заключается в расширении восприятия сложной внешнеполитической мотивации КНР, с фокусом на всем диапазоне формирующих ее факторов.