

# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND NEIGHBORHOOD POLICY OF UZBEKISTAN AND TAJIKISTAN

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## **Abstract**

The peoples of Central Asia are united by centuries-old spirit of brotherhood, common history, spiritual and cultural values, common language and mentality. In other words, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan have always supported each other like the five fingers of one hand. The sustainable development and prosperous future of our peoples with a common historical heritage are inseparable. In the foreign policy of modern Uzbekistan, concrete measures have been taken in recent years to further strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation, long-term and multifaceted partnership with all countries of the world. Neighborhood policy, economic and cooperation relations are widely covered.

**Keywords:** Cultural and literary ties, mutual relations, strategic partnership, cultural and humanitarian exchange, friendship and cooperation, "Road Map", artistic translation, socio-historical traditions, trade and economic relations, interregional cooperation, culture and art.

## Introduction

Uzbek-Tajik relations - the living conditions, customs and way of life of the Tajik and Uzbek peoples are very close. As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov noted, the Uzbek and Tajik peoples are two peoples who speak two languages. It is known from history that these two peoples have united in the past, fighting for their freedom and liberty, creating immortal architectural monuments and masterpieces of art. Over the centuries, many Tajik and Uzbek artists have worked as teachers and students.



The friendship and cooperation between two great figures, Jami and Navoi, is a bright page in the history of Tajik and Uzbek literary and cultural ties. Mashrab, Turdi, Nodira, Furqat, Zavqi, Anbar Atin, Asiri, Ayni, Hamza and others continued the traditions of Zul-Zaynism started by Jami and Navoi. Hamza not only wrote ideologically advanced poems in Tajik, but also performed with his drama troupe in cities and districts of Tajikistan. Sadriddin Ayni wrote the novel "Slaves" in Uzbek and played an important role in the development of the culture of the two peoples, both in Tajik and Uzbek, with his artistic and scientific works. In the late 1920s, Hamza's "Boy and Servant", K. Yashin's "Gulsara", F. Zafari's "Halima", Khurshid's "Farhod and Shirin", later S. Abdulla's "Tahir and Zuhra", Uygun and I. Sultan's Alisher Navoi ", Tuygun's" Love "and other plays were staged. At the same time, Tajik playwrights S. Ulugzoda's "Pearl Shamchiroq", S. Ghani's "Wedding", G. Abdullo's plays, such as Sharq Sadosi, have been staged in Uzbek theaters.

Literary translation is also important for the development of Tajik-Uzbek cultural and literary ties. 8-volume work of Sadriddin Aini, "Devon" by A. Lohuti, almost all works of Mirzo Tursunzade, "We came from the Pamirs" by Mirshakar, "Golden village", "Love of the mountain girl", "Daughter of fire" by J. Ikromi, "Twelve of Bukhara" S. Ulugzoda's "Yoshligimiz tangi", "Vos'ye", R. Jalil's "Po`lod va Gulro`", "Sho'rob", F. Niyazi's "Vafo" and other poetic and prose works were published in Uzbek. At the same time Hamza, A. Qodiri, F. Gulom, Oybek, A. Qahhor, Ghayratiy, H. Olimjon, Sh. Works by Rashidov, Zulfiya, A. Mukhtor, R. Fayzi, S. Abdulla, E. Vahidov, A. Oripov, G. Jurayeva, B. Boykobilov and others have been translated into Tajik and published in Tajikistan. Poets and writers living in Tajikistan and working in the Uzbek language in the development of Uzbek-Tajik literary and cultural relations: Ashirmat, M. Tolqin, M. Oston, O`. Jamol, J. Toshmatov, Z. Do'stmatov, K, Mamajonov, Sh. Sattor, A. Usmon, H. Kurbanova, S. Nishonova, J. Ergash, U. Umarov, A. Zuhur and others also contributed.

This socio-historical tradition took on a new meaning after the two countries gained national independence. Uzbekistan has played a significant role in stabilizing the military-political situation in Tajikistan and finding a positive solution. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A. In September 1992, Karimov sent a letter to the UN Secretary-General, drawing the attention of the international community to the problems of Tajikistan and calling for a peaceful solution. Uzbekistan has been an official observer in the implementation of the peace process and agreements in Tajikistan. The legal framework of bilateral relations consists of 111 interagency and interstate agreements and treaties. The Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighborliness and Cooperation was signed on January 4, 1993. [3]



The capital of Tajikistan opened a diplomatic mission in Uzbekistan in 1998 at the mission level, and the Treaty of Eternal Friendship of June 15, 2000 is one of the main documents defining the direction of relations.

The official visit of IA Karimov to Dushanbe on June 14-15, 2000, and the visit of E. Rakhmonov to Tashkent marked the beginning of a new stage in Uzbek-Tajik relations. In the summer of 1998, the Days of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan were held in Uzbekistan. The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in Tashkent was opened in 1995, and the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Dushanbe in 2000, which serves to coordinate interstate political, economic, cultural and spiritual ties. Recently, trade and economic relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan have developed. The share of Tajikistan in the foreign trade turnover of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2003 increased by 24.7% compared to 2002 and amounted to 2.2%. [2]

## **Development of Mutual Relations**

With the election of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Uzbek-Tajik relations, as well as relations between Uzbekistan and its neighbors in Central Asia, have created a new era of potential. Mirziyoyev and Emomali Rahmon have met several times since September 2016, in 2017 flights between the two capitals were resumed, the Galaba-Amuzang railway was restored, the A-377 international road was opened on the Samarkand-Penjikent section. About 10 checkpoints on the Tajik border reopened In March 2018, Mirziyoyev paid a historic visit to Dushanbe, where he signed 27 bilateral agreements in the fields of trade, economy, investment, finance, transport and transit, agriculture and water. signed and energy, taxes, customs, tourism, education and science, health, culture, interregional cooperation, security and the fight against crime, and the resumption of Uzbek gas supplies to Tajikistan. After the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev Miramonovich, relations between its neighbors in Central Asia have improved. The potential for improving relations has been put into practice. [1]

He noted that by 2021 there were many meetings between the two countries, which strengthened the ties of friendship, good neighborliness and strategic partnership between our countries and enriched them with concrete content.

During the meeting, the sides discussed issues related to the promotion of priority projects and cultural and humanitarian exchange programs in various sectors of the economy on the basis of the "road map" adopted, and signed mutually beneficial agreements and treaties.

Only on June 11 of this year, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited the Republic of Tajikistan, met with the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and then accompanied him to the Arbob Palace of Culture near Khojand. There was a meeting with representatives of the public, intellectuals and luminaries of the Sughd region.

The leader of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon noted that the political will of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev created an atmosphere of trust and friendship between the two countries.

- Can you imagine that the problems that had accumulated before would be solved in such a short time ?! International organizations did not believe it either. Today, there are no unresolved issues between our countries, there is mutual trust. The initiator and "architect" of such relations is the esteemed Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev, - Said Emomali Rahmon.

In recent years, 17 checkpoints have been opened at the state border, and the people of Tajikistan are grateful for this.

Expressing deep respect for the participants, the head of our state spoke about the value of friendship between our peoples and the development of cultural and humanitarian ties.

- Thanks to the good neighborliness and eternal friendship between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in recent years, we are achieving great results. Of course, we know and appreciate the invaluable contribution of you, the saints, the public and intellectuals of the two countries in achieving such success, - said Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

It is no coincidence that an important part of the visit of the President of Uzbekistan is taking place in Khojand. This ancient city is equally valuable to the Uzbek and Tajik peoples. It has been one of the centers of the Great Silk Road for centuries and has played an important role in the cultural life of our region.

The courage of the great commanders who fought shoulder to shoulder against the enemy - Khorezm Shah Jaloliddin Manguberdi and the glorious son of Khojand Temur Malik - is engraved in the memory of our peoples. Later, during the reign of the Timurids, Shaybanids and khanates, Khojand became an important fortress and developed.

Today, there is a center of Uzbek spirituality and enlightenment in Khojand, and a scientific school at the local university that trains specialists in Uzbek philology.

In Uzbekistan, along with all nationalities and ethnic groups, great attention is paid to the preservation and development of Tajik culture. One million six hundred thousand Tajiks live in our country and make a worthy contribution to the



development of our country. Among them are well-known scientists, entrepreneurs and farmers, teachers and doctors, leaders at various levels.

Fifteen Tajik national cultural centers are contributing to strengthening interethnic harmony in our country. Tajik-language newspapers and magazines are published, as well as television and radio broadcasts. Education in 255 schools is in Tajik. A number of universities have such faculties and departments. Admission to these routes will double this year.

In recent years, 130 citizens of Tajik descent have received high state awards in our country.

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan pay great attention to the study and mutual enrichment of cultures and arts of the two peoples. The documents signed during the visit of the President of Uzbekistan provide an opportunity to do so. In particular, the Agreement on Cultural and Humanitarian Cooperation envisages a number of projects aimed at strengthening the spiritual ties between our peoples and uniting our youth around common interests.

It was noted at the meeting that the world is changing rapidly and new security threats are emerging in our region.

"We must appreciate and strengthen the great blessings of peace and stability, friendship and cooperation, and instill in young people a sense of respect for national and universal values," said the President of Uzbekistan. "Only by uniting our efforts can we achieve the common goal of ensuring peace and tranquility for our peoples and a prosperous life for future generations." I am confident that you, esteemed representatives of the creative and scientific spheres, with your rich knowledge and life experience, initiative and zeal will make a worthy contribution to strengthening the friendship of our peoples, said the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev Miramonovich.

Both sides expressed interest in strengthening interstate cooperation in combating current security threats, as well as in accelerating the stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are united in their determination to work together within the region to achieve common prosperity and development.

Tajikistan supports Uzbekistan's new regional policy. The participation of President Emomali Rahmon in the First Summit of Central Asian Leaders in Astana in March this year was a confirmation of this. In addition, Tajikistan will adopt the UN General Assembly resolution "Strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in Central Asia", regular meetings of heads of railway agencies of the SCO member states. and fully accept the initiatives put forward by Shavkat Mirziyoyev to hold a joint address of the SCO leaders to the



youth, as well as to hold the second OIC Summit on Science and Technology in Uzbekistan in 2020.

In conclusion, it should be noted that in the recent past, historic steps have been taken towards good neighborliness. In particular, the socio-economic, cultural and literary relations between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan deserve the praise of strategic partnership. This, in turn, will once again give the state of Uzbekistan its place among the countries of Central Asia, not only in Central Asia but also in the world, and will have its own place in foreign policy and its own independent position in foreign policy. led to I think that the ties of friendship between these two independent states will not lose their strength over the centuries.

It is no exaggeration to say that in recent years, bilateral relations have undergone tremendous changes. They are felt by millions of people in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. This is a new model of Uzbek-Tajik relations, which is reflected in the new environment. It is even more important that all efforts and practical work are in full accordance with the interests and aspirations of our peoples.

From the first days of our presidency, the ice of our relations has melted, and our peoples have found each other again. Over the years, the mood of those who have been deprived of the opportunity to visit relatives, friends and loved ones has also changed. The achievements of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in these 4-5 years can be easily cited as an example for other countries. This is acknowledged by international experts.

## Conclusion

The results of the official visit have laid a solid foundation for the development of mutually beneficial relations between the two brotherly states and peoples, the achievement of new concrete results in the expansion of multifaceted partnership. This marks the beginning of a new era in our relationship.

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