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# THEORY AND PRACTICE OF REGIONAL SECURITY: UZBEKISTAN IS THE LEVER OF REGIONAL SECURITY IN CENTRAL ASIA

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## Abstract

The article examines certain issues regarding the theory and practice of regional security. The concepts of region and regional security are defined and their main aspects are touched upon. As a result of the analysis of theoretical and practical materials, the author comes to the conclusion about the importance of regions and subjects of international law, including Uzbekistan, in ensuring regional security in Central Asia.

**KEYWORDS:** Regional security, states, threats, demography, intelligence, Cold War, bipolar system, sustainability theory, ethnic-tribal conflicts, military alliances, diplomatic relations.

## INTRODUCTION

In the process of general development of the security system, with an increase in the level of awareness of regional identity and relative independence, the importance of the regional factor of security is growing. This situation is fundamentally different from the structure of the bipolar system during the Cold War. Consequently, modern security problems are historical in nature and are inextricably linked with regional forms of social systems. Therefore, the concept of "regional security" is currently very relevant. This, in turn, puts on the agenda the need to research a separate category of regional security, which was previously developed only within the framework of the interpretation of universal principles of state, national and Social Security.

Regional security is an important aspect of international relations, focusing on stability, security and cooperation between states in a

particular geographical area. In the context of globalization, the importance of regional security is increasing as the interdependence between states increases. Including, the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev said that "Central Asia is fully experiencing all the negative consequences of the global crisis of trust and escalation of conflicts due to its geopolitical location. I would like to note that the present and future of Central Asia, the well-being of our countries and peoples largely depend on our common efforts, our willingness to work closely, take decisive action and promote the interests of the region together. Issues related to the development of the situation in neighboring Afghanistan, which is considered an important factor in the stability of our region, have fallen to the second level on the international agenda. Therefore, it is emphasized by our foreign policy agencies that it is advisable to develop a strategic

document – the concept of ensuring regional security and stability”[1]. From this we can see that the security of the Central Asian region is important at any time.

### **ANALYSIS OF LITERATURE**

The concept of regional security refers to collective measures taken by states and organizations in a given area to ensure mutual security and stability. It covers traditional security issues such as military threats, as well as non-traditional issues such as terrorism, environmental issues, and health crises. The concept places special emphasis on the cooperation of states in combating common threats and strengthening peace. Today, the concept of “regional security” has been researched by many political scientists. Regional security is defined by political scientist Madaminova as follows: “It is a system of inter-state relations in one region or another of the world, in which states are able to collectively define their form and paths of economic, political and cultural development and to cooperatively influence common risks”.[2] Regional security is a structural and integral part of international security, as well as a form of national security. The unification of states into regional groups is usually done voluntarily as well as for peaceful purposes.

### **MAIN PART**

Regional security is an important component in the country's national security system. In the context of the growth of Global threats - crisis phenomena in the world economy, international conflicts, the emergence of new problems such as global climate change, energy shortages, natural disasters, pandemics, etc. - the need to develop a holistic system of knowledge in the field of regional security is necessitated. This results in the development of the following: theoretical and technical-organizational foundations of ensuring and supporting regional security; scientifically based methods and tools for solving the problems of managing the risks and security of regionally important infrastructures; as well as new technologies created and applied on their basis.[3] These technologies serve to maintain the stability of important objects in the region under the influence of internal and external threats of

different nature and scope.

It should be recognized that a unified theory of generalized regional security for various areas of economic activity and branches of knowledge has not yet been developed. In the scientific and technical literature, verbal expressions predominate mainly in describing regional security as a field of research, while strict formal definitions hardly occur. As practice shows, the agenda of security problems of the functioning of the regional system is directly related to the change in the parameters of the state of the system as a result of the influence of negative internal or external factors on the elements of the system. [4] This leads to crises and emergencies. Therefore, it is impossible to ensure regional security without analyzing the stability and manageability of important facilities and infrastructures in the region. At the same time, in theory, the violation of regional security is determined by the dynamics of the transition of the socio-economic system or its individual important elements from a stable state to an unstable one.

In terms of sustainability theory, regional security is defined as a protective property of the socio-economic system called self-preservation. In this case, a complex of crisis prevention measures is carried out under the influence of internal and external threats, the composition, type and level of which are unknown, on important elements of the system.[5] In an effort to ensure and support the self-preservation of the system, these protective actions ensure adequate distancing of system equilibrium states and development directions from critical situations with a fixed security Reserve (survivability).

Sustainability theory is extremely useful and relevant for a general understanding of regional security theory, its scope, objectives and the range of problems it addresses. Thus, Classical Studies in the field of stability theory study equilibrium states of complex systems and analyze system dynamics in a small vicinity of these states. In this case, stability problems are solved, the development of which occurs as a result of changes in the factors of the external environment, and not the system itself.[6] The study of the nature of the

disturbances that occur in the initial state of the system or its primary input is of particular importance for the protection of important objects of regional systems. Modern studies in sustainability theory instead focus on “structural sustainability” and “rough systems”[7].

Historically, the need to protect socio-economic systems from various threats and the perspective of the science of regional security have existed throughout the entire period of the study of the problems and issues of the security of society and the state. However, regional security as an independent field of research appeared and began to develop relatively recently.

Therefore, the concept of "regional security" means:

- the security of the administrative-territorial unit within the state (national security and its maintenance in a certain area);

- the security of a part of the world that is similar in socio-political system, geographical, cultural, national and other aspects.

In our opinion, regional security in a broad sense implies the freedom of international relations in a certain area from military and economic threats, external interventions, and attacks on the sovereignty and independence of regional states. Interdependence of the interests of countries in a certain region is recognized as a characteristic feature of threats to regional security. Therefore, threats in the field of security are inextricably linked with each other and become stronger as the relations between the countries of the region become tense.

Regional security is a component of international security, it is manifested as an international legal system of peacekeeping and includes the collective efforts of members of the regional community to eliminate threats inside and outside the region.

The following main aspects of regional security are known:

- Political (cooperation of the countries of the region to ensure stability, prevent conflicts, strengthen diplomacy and resolve disputes peacefully);

1. Military (defense contracts, exchange of information on existing military threats, coordination of actions to prevent military aggression);

2. Economic (cooperation in the direction of ensuring economic stability, preventing economic crises that may affect the security of the region);

3. Social and environmental (protection against problems related to migration, crime, natural disasters and environmental hazards).[8]

Regional security is affected by the location of power centers within the region, where the interests of the world community and the participants of the order intersect. Interdependence of regional and international security forms common features of development.

The functioning of the regional security system directly depends on the activity of special associations and organizations of countries with relevant institutional bodies. The lack of a specific security system in the newly formed regions is covered by the conclusion of mutual agreements between the states of the region or the security systems of regional organizations that are close in various aspects.[9]

The security system is often threatened by conflicts due to socio-economic, political and other problems of the countries of the region. The security of the region is also affected by its geopolitical situation, which depends on various factors (historical, economic, strategic, territorial-geographic, etc).[10] Therefore, countries in different parts of the world are trying to ensure the security of the region to which they belong. They unite in various regional unions and try to solve the problems related to a particular region.

Despite the fact that Uzbekistan's rational foreign policy in Central Asia is effective and in line with the interests of all countries in the region, the issue of forming a complex system of security interdependence in the region remains unresolved. There are several reasons for this.

First of all, the role and participation of Afghanistan in the complex interconnection system of the region remains abstract. Afghanistan, theorist B.

For Buzan — a separate security complex between Central and South Asia,[11] for Western theorists and experts — part of central and South Asia, for Russian researchers-part of Central Asia, and for most scientists of Asian countries (depending on the cultural and geographical location of this country) is a country that belongs to the South Asian region.

Secondly, they do not have a single and unanimous opinion on integration between the countries of Central Asia. The slowness of the states of the region in creating a single integrative space.

Today, Uzbekistan is trying more than ever to ensure peace and stability in Central Asia. In particular, it is premature to talk about the security and stability of the region without solving the instability and ethnic-tribal conflicts in Afghanistan, which is a neighbor of the Central Asian region. The sustainable development of Central Asia is directly related to the stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan. As the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted, “It is impossible to talk about a peaceful and prosperous Central Asia without solving the problem of Afghanistan”.[12]

The leadership of Uzbekistan has taken a number of initiatives to ensure peace and stability in the region. The first of them, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in his speech at the 72nd session of the UN on September 17, 2017, stated that “stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan is an important condition for ensuring not only regional, but also global security”.[13]

Secondly, the leadership of Uzbekistan put forward initiatives of unification and cooperation regarding the security of Central Asia at the Summits held within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Thirdly, the representatives of Tashkent are conducting an active foreign policy today and have developed a number of proposals of a practical nature at the meetings of the Advisory Council of the Heads of Central Asian States.

It can be seen that Uzbekistan is active in matters of regional security and integration. Literally, we can see Uzbekistan as a unique “leader” in ensuring

the security of the Central Asian region.

## **RESULTS**

The concept of “regional security” has been extensively studied in world science. Many political scientists have published their definitions and concepts regarding this concept. Having analyzed these in depth, we considered it permissible to give the following definition.

Regional security refers to measures, policies and cooperation frameworks established by states and organizations within a certain geographical area to ensure the security, stability and well-being of this region. It covers a wide range of issues, including military alliances, diplomatic relations, economic cooperation, and conflict resolution mechanisms.

## **CONCLUSION**

Regional security is important in maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in a given geopolitical space. It will develop cooperation between neighboring countries, allowing them to jointly solve common threats such as terrorism, organized crime, and territorial disputes. By promoting dialogue and cooperation, regional security frameworks increase trust and understanding, and reduce the likelihood of conflict and misunderstanding.

The political, military and similar processes taking place in the world clearly demonstrate the interdependence and indivisibility of security. In particular, it is confirmed once again that the security of a particular region or state is directly related to the security of the international community. In the context of interdependence, security threats often go beyond national borders. Therefore, in the formation of security policy in one or another region, especially in Central Asia, international actors and regional subjects of international law, regardless of the level of their aspirations and political directions, are forced to take into account the interests of the countries of the region first.

From this point of view, taking into account the historical reality, geographical location, traditional balanced domestic and foreign policy, growing economy, as well as the ever-strengthening

demographic and intellectual potential, Uzbekistan occupies a central place in the Central Asian region. and it is noteworthy that it serves as a guarantee in the formation of prospects for maintaining the balance of power and ensuring regional security.

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