



# **THE ROLE OF POLITICAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND TURKEY IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES**

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**Annotation.** History clearly testifies that today the Turkic peoples are true brotherly peoples not only in terms of ethnic origin, but also in spirit. Despite all the twists and turns of historical development, these brotherly nations have been gaining their place in the rapidly changing world.

In this article, the role of Uzbekistan and Turkey in the improvement of the organization of Turkic states is explained on a scientific basis. Also, attention is paid to the processes related to the political and cultural relations of the member states of this organization.

The article also focuses on the issues related to the creation of favorable and attractive conditions for the expansion of trade relations between the Turkish states within the organization, and the measures for the rapid development of cooperation in the field of tourism with the Turkish states.

The scientific article serves as a necessary guide for researchers and researchers studying issues related to the organization of Turkic states.

**Key words.** Turkic peoples, Turkic states, cultural relations, tourism, mutual cooperation, strategy, summit, strategic cooperation, culture, civilization, development, universal culture.

## **Introduction.**

Before researching the scientific theoretical foundations of the study of political and cultural relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey, we think it is appropriate to pay attention not only to the history of political and cultural relations between these two brotherly nations, but also to the history of socio-political and cultural relations of all Turkic-speaking peoples.

The Organization of Turkic States (TDT) was established on October 3, 2009 on the basis of the "Nakhchivan Agreement". The General Secretariat was located in Istanbul. [1.] Uzbekistan joined it as a full member at the seventh summit held in Baku on October 15, 2019. At the eighth summit of the organization held in Istanbul on November 12, 2021, its name was changed to the Organization of Turkic States.

The concept of the Turkish world for the period up to 2040 was also confirmed at this summit. President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoev proposed to hold the first summit of the Organization of Turkic States in 2022 in Uzbekistan. The offer was accepted, so the next ninth summit of the organization was held in Uzbekistan in November 2022.

The ancient history of the Turkic peoples dates back to millennia BC. Ancient Turkic states such as the Turkic Khanate, the Karakhanids, the Ghaznavids, the Seljuks, and the



Khorezmshahs were considered the most powerful kingdoms of their time. Great representatives of this region made a great contribution to the development of universal culture and civilization. For example, great thinkers such as Muhammad al-Khorazmi, Abu Nasr Farabi, Ahmad al-Farghani, Abu Rayhan Beruni, Ibn Sina, Jalaluddin Rumi, Alisher Navoi, Mirza Ulug'bek wrote glorious pages in our common history.

It should be noted that due to the harmony of language, religion and values of mutual cooperation of the ancient Turkic peoples, they connected with each other as friends and brothers and established mutual political and cultural relations.

For example, Jalaluddin Rumi, recognized as a poet of the people, wrote while living in the city of Kunia, Turkey. In his works, he revealed the spiritual culture, high spirituality and thinking of the Turkic peoples with great skill. Alisher Navoi in his work entitled "Nasayimul Muhabbat" quotes Mavlana Jalaluddin Rumi's statement that "I am one with seventy-three sects." [2.] Such information indicates that the ancient Turkic peoples approached each other's culture and values on the basis of high love, and political and cultural relations were based on friendship and brotherhood.

Turkic-speaking peoples have established trade and cultural relations and cooperated with each other since ancient times. For thousands of years, the regions where they lived served as an ancient trade and brotherhood bridge between East and West, North and South. On the eve of the 21st century, the idea of forming a regional organization of Turkic-speaking peoples was born, following historical traditions. Taking this into account, high-level meetings of Turkic-speaking countries were organized. Conditions were created for the opening of new aspects of political and cultural relations between these brotherly nations.

The rise of political and cultural cooperation between Uzbekistan and Turkey to a new level is directly related to the formation of the organization of Turkic states.

It should be noted that in 1992 a high-level meeting of the presidents of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan was held in Ankara. In 1993, the organization of culture of Turkic-speaking peoples - Turksoy was established. This meeting can be called the first stage of cooperation between the Turkic countries. It can be said that the second stage was completed in 2009 with the establishment of the Cooperation Organization of Turkic States in Nakhichevan.

The goals and tasks of the organization were to strengthen mutual trust, friendship and close neighborliness among Turkic-speaking countries, to establish mutually beneficial cooperation, to support peace in the region and the world as a whole, and to implement global tasks of strategic importance, such as ensuring security.

The historic summit of the leaders of the Turkic states in Istanbul in 2021 can be said to have started the third stage of the Organization's formation. This structure brought the economic, political and cultural cooperation between the member countries of the Council of Turkic States to a high level.

On November 11, 2021, the first summit of the Organization of Turkic States, formed instead of the Turkic Council, will be held in Samarkand. Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan are members of the organization. Hungary and Turkmenistan have observer status. Fifteen other countries have set themselves the goal of cooperation with the Organization of Turkic States in various fields. [3.] The holding of this logical conference in Samarkand was recorded in history as the first summit of the newly named Organization of Turkic States of our brother nations.



The structure of this regional organization brought mutually beneficial cooperation between its member states to a qualitatively new level and further increased its position and prestige in the international arena. The total number of peoples living in Turkic-speaking countries now exceeds 160 million. The territory of the member states of this council is about 4 million square kilometers.

Council of Turkic States United Nations and its structures, regional structures such as European Union, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Council for Cooperation and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, Organization of Economic Cooperation and Visegrad Group is strengthening relations with.

The organization has such structures as the Council of Leaders of Turkic-speaking States, the Secretariat of the Turkic Council, the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States, the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Committee of Senior Officials, and the Council of Elders.

They also planned to establish cultural relations between the Turkic-speaking peoples, to organize festivals of traditional handicrafts, and meetings aimed at demonstrating samples of practical art. Issues related to tasks such as supporting these events, financing them, and protecting intellectual property rights have also been resolved. A number of structures, such as the Turkish Culture and Heritage Foundation, the Turkish Academy, which unites the centers of history and ethnology, language, literature and terminology, art and culture, socio-economic research, international research centers, and the Union of Turkish Universities, have begun to implement these important works. In particular, on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the idea of establishing an international award named after Alisher Navoi for those who have contributed to the unity of the Turkic world will be put forward.

Cooperation in the political, cultural and trade-economic, investment, transport-logistics and cultural-humanitarian spheres is being carried out intensively within the framework of this organization, which was formed on the basis of the common language and common values of the Turkic-speaking countries. In particular, important agreements on investment, development of e-commerce, facilitation of mutual trade, improvement of transport and logistics transit procedures have been developed and will be implemented.

It should also be mentioned that the "Turkish World - 2040" plan was developed by this organization and the program was unanimously adopted by the member states. It envisages free movement of goods, capital, services and technologies between member states, systematic improvement of the investment environment, standardization of customs procedures, reduction of tariff and notary barriers, creation of a single electronic trade area, implementation of information technology and technology park cooperation programs.

The organization is also creating relevant benefits for citizens of member states. For example, citizens of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have the right to stay in Turkey without a visa for up to 90 days. Also, Turkish citizens have the right to stay in Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan for 90 days, and in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan for 30 days without a visa.

This integration will create an opportunity to further expand trade relations in the Caucasus and Central Asia through a network of transport and energy corridors. At the same time, measures are being taken to implement large transport and communication projects, to enter the markets of Europe, China and South Asia, and to use the potential of the new Baku-Tbilisi-



Kars railway. In general, the total gross national product of the member countries of the Organization of Turkic States is 1.5 trillion dollars, their total import is more than 420 billion dollars, and the volume of mutual product supply is 21 billion dollars.

Important events of the Organization of Turkic States are being held in Uzbekistan. In particular, a business conference of the Businessmen's Council of Turkic-speaking countries was held in Tashkent, where more than 500 businessmen from Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Hungary participated along with Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan's total trade with neighboring countries has doubled.

It can be said that the signing of the decision by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoev "On measures for the rapid development of cooperation in the field of tourism with Turkish countries" further developed cultural relations with the brotherly nations and brought tourism to a new level.

The "Modern Great Silk Road" tourist program in the field of tourism has been developed with Turkish countries and is being consistently implemented. About 60 percent of the tourists coming to our country are from three Turkic countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey.

Especially cultural relations have developed somewhat. For example, the forum "Handicrafts of Turkish peoples", "The role of Samarkand paper in the world science and international economy", exhibition and scientific conference on the topics "The importance of Margilan silk fabrics in the international market of the Middle Ages", "Dombira and Qobiz", "Chanqovuz and Sibizga" It is planned to hold events such as the "Turkish-speaking International Youth Festival". It is expected that more than 5 million tourists from the member states of this organization will enter our country and provide them with tourism services worth about 1.3 billion dollars.

On the side of the Organization of Turkic States, the city of Koqan was declared the "Tourism Capital of the Turkic World", and the city of Khiva was declared the "Cultural Capital of the Turkic World". In connection with these relations, international scientific conferences on "World Civilization of Central Asia" were held in Khiva, "The role of the Khanate of Kokan in the formation of statehood and cultural heritage of Turkic peoples" in Kokan. Also, the 38th plenary session of the Permanent Council of Ministers of Culture of the member states of the Organization of Turkic States was held in our country.

In order to establish cultural relations between member countries of the Organization of Turkic States, in 2019, the summit of the Council of Turkic States was held in Khiva, Uzbekistan, and the city of Khiva was recognized as the capital of the Turkic Council. Because the city of Khiva is one of the ancient cities in Central Asia, in 1999 the 2500th anniversary of the city of Khiva was widely celebrated under the leadership of UNESCO.

Khiva is a city rich in historical and cultural monuments that are the common heritage of the Turkic world: Ichan-Qala (Inner City), Juma Mosque, Kunya-Ark Fort, Muhammad Amin Khan Madrasah, Stone Yard, Pahlavon Mahmud Mausoleum, minarets (Kalta-Minor, Murad-Tora and etc.), Khorezm Ma'mun Academy is one of them.

The Organization of Turkic States also pays great attention to the protection and support of human rights, freedoms and legitimate interests. In this regard, the Association of National Institutions for Human Rights and the Ombudsmen of Turkic States were established in Bursa, Turkey. This association introduces the activities of ombudsmen and national human rights organizations of Turkic countries. In this, knowledge and experience in the field of human rights are exchanged, joint seminars are organized, and prepared projects are executed.



Based on the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the International Institute of Central Asian Studies was established in Tashkent on July 15, 2021, with the aim of developing international cooperation in the field of science and culture, spreading cultural and scientific information, and expanding Uzbekistan's spiritual ties with the world community. At the opening of this research center, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, read out the greetings of the President of the Oliy Majlis Senate, Tanzila Norboeva. At the ceremony "Central and South Asia: regional connection. Within the framework of the international conference "Threats and opportunities", the heads of foreign policy agencies of the Central Asian countries, high representatives of the United Nations Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking Countries, and the Council for Cooperation and Confidence Building Measures in Asia will take part in Tashkent.[4 .]

If we look at the history of the Turkic peoples, today there are 200-250 million Turkic peoples living in more than twenty countries of the world. In particular, there are six independent Turkic states, which are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Among these countries, the countries with the largest number of Turkic peoples include Turkey and Uzbekistan. The population of Turkey is more than 70 million, and the population of Uzbekistan is more than 36 million.

Trade and cultural relations have been established between these age-old brotherly peoples, with ties of friendship and ties established since time immemorial. During the years of independence, the mutually beneficial cooperation of these countries was thoroughly studied by the scientists of our country. Research results are included in scientific articles, books and collections.

Turkey fully supports and congratulates our country on its path of independent development and the bold practical steps it is taking in the international arena in recent times within the framework of its modern foreign policy strategy.

Friendly relations, regular meetings and sincere dialogues between the leaders of the two countries should be recognized as an important factor that gives the main impetus to the development of mutual cooperation today. The fact that the President of Turkey has visited our country twice since 2016, during this historically short period of time, the head of state has also visited Turkey twice, and the meaningful results of these meetings can be a vivid example of this.

Taking this into account, it can be stated without hesitation that the political will and determination of Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev and Recep Tayip Erdogan, as well as the bonds of mutual trust and friendship established between them, made it possible to open a completely new page in the history of relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey.

As a result, important agreements were reached in order to fully realize the prospects of relations, and bold practical actions were started on these agreements. In particular, a new communication format - a high-level Uzbekistan-Turkey strategic cooperation council - was established in the system of relations between the two countries. The first meeting of this council will be held in Ankara on February 19, 2020 under the co-chairmanship of the two heads of state.

The agreements reached at this meeting prepared the ground for the history of relations between the two countries to be enriched with another important event - on March 7 of this year, the Consulate General of Turkey started operating in Samarkand. As a result, Turkey



became the second country after Kazakhstan to establish a consulate in Samarkand. This event was rightly recognized by Turks as another symbol of eternal friendship between Tashkent and Ankara.

The activation of political dialogues in this way has a direct impact on the expansion of the economic structure of the relations between the two countries. This situation is clearly visible in the growth dynamics of bilateral trade.

By the end of 2020, the volume of product exchange between Uzbekistan and Turkey doubled compared to 2016 and exceeded 2 billion US dollars. In the near-term plan, these indicators are set to increase to 5 billion US dollars. As a result, Turkey can strengthen the status of an important economic partner of Uzbekistan.

Nevertheless, Turkey is currently the fourth partner of Uzbekistan in terms of trade volume. In addition, over the last four years, the number of enterprises operating in Uzbekistan with the participation of Turkish investors has increased to over 1,500. As a result, the number of enterprises with the participation of Turkish capital in our country is 12% of the total number of enterprises with the participation of foreign capital. This is another example to prove our point.

At this point, it should be noted that more than 40 million tourists visit Turkey annually, and the country's annual income in this field exceeds 30 billion US dollars. From this point of view, it is not a coincidence that a number of Turkish experts are involved in the work activities in responsible positions for the purpose of development of pilgrimage tourism in our country.

Currently, most of the tourists from Muslim countries visiting our country are Turkish citizens. In particular, according to the end of 2019-2020, the total number of Turkish tourists who came to our country approached 85 thousand people.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev said that in November 2023, the next meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Organization of Turkic States will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan. In accordance with the agenda, opinions were exchanged on the current state and prospects of multilateral relations within the TDT, current issues of practical cooperation were discussed. Also, during the chairmanship of Uzbekistan, more than a hundred different events aimed at strengthening cooperation between Turkic countries were held, important initiatives were promoted, new structures were established, and close partnership relations were established with a number of prestigious global and regional structures.

It should be emphasized that cooperation with the Turkish state is fully in line with the national interests of our country. Today, Uzbekistan is one of the most important and reliable partners of Turkey in Central Asia. Uzbekistan's huge market, liberalizing economy, favorable investment environment, favorable conditions for the development of the tourism sector attract representatives of the Turkish business community to mutually beneficial cooperation.

To sum up, until today, the tourism projects "Turkish World Tourism" and "Tabarruk Ziyat" have been implemented, a "road map" has been developed, covering the holding of craft exhibitions and ethno-sports competitions, preservation and restoration of cultural heritage objects, and other directions. "Research center for the study of historical, scientific and cultural heritage of Turkic-speaking countries" was established.

To date, the issue of further improvement of the mechanism of mutually beneficial relations between Turkic-speaking countries remains relevant. Also, there is a need to exchange various information between the Turkic-speaking peoples, to promote the culture of the Turkic peoples,



to expand economic relations, and to implement joint projects. Searching for ways to positively solve these problems in the Turkic world remains one of the tasks of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking countries.

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