ANNOTATION

to the dissertation on the topic «The relationship between Kazakhstan and Turkey within the framework of cooperation among Turkic-speaking states» for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the educational program «8D03106-Regional studies»

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Research topic: The relationship between Kazakhstan and Turkey within the framework of cooperation among Turkic-speaking states.

The purpose of the study: Study of the relations between Kazakhstan and Turkey within the framework of cooperation among Turkic-speaking states.

Research objectives:

1. To theoretically substantiate regional and subregional integration processes, a comprehensive analysis of key concepts, scientific perspectives, and methodological approaches related to the phenomenon of integration in the modern international relations system is conducted; scientific foundations are determined for assessing the transformation of integration processes at regional and subregional levels;
2. By studying the internal and external factors that influenced the formation of foreign policy courses of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Turkey, a comparative analysis of their ideological and value orientations is conducted; historical continuity and modern strategic interests of the two states in foreign policy are identified;
3. In order to clarify the theoretical foundations and determine the paths of development for political, economic, and cultural cooperation among Turkic states, a comprehensive analysis of the role of the "Turkic factor" in contemporary regional politics and its influence on integration processes is conducted; its significance and place in Central Asia are scientifically assessed;
4. Based on the study of the geopolitical strategy of the Republic of Turkey, its foreign policy orientations and mechanisms of influence in the Central Asian region are analyzed; Turkey's regional interests are examined in the context of interaction with Western and Eastern powers, as well as the tools of influence on geopolitical balance;
5. Through a comprehensive analysis of the strategic partnership between Kazakhstan and Turkey, the directions of bilateral interaction in the areas of energy security, investment cooperation, education, science, culture, healthcare, and tourism are specified; common economic interests in the Caspian and Central Asian spaces are scientifically substantiated;
6. By studying the institutional, ideological, and practical foundations of Kazakh-Turkish cooperation within the framework of the Organization of Turkic States, Kazakhstan's proactive role in integration structures is determined; the effectiveness of soft power tools contributing to the formation of Turkic identity is evaluated, and the influence of the Kazakh-Turkish tandem in this process is scientifically comprehended.

Research methods:

The theoretical foundation of the research is the civilizational approach, which perceives the global space as a collection of civilizational systems. In scientific literature, there is no unified perspective on the phenomenon of international integration. Despite the accumulation of significant theoretical, methodological, and empirical experience in studying various aspects of integration, a unified approach to defining this concept has not yet been established. This is primarily due to the fact that integration processes differ in their objectives, functions, and forms, and therefore cannot be reduced to a single model. Additionally, states pursue different goals in the process of integration, primarily based on national interests. Thus, the multifaceted nature of this phenomenon necessitates theoretical and methodological research aimed at identifying the patterns of evolution of integration formations.

The methodological foundation of the research is an interdisciplinary approach, combining methods characteristic of international relations, regional studies, history, political science, and legal studies. Specifically, the historical-genetic method was applied, allowing the exploration of the evolution of the Turkic factor in the international relations of Turkic-speaking states. The primary method used was the systemic method, which enabled the examination of their ideological and value base as a single phenomenon within the context of the regional subsystem of international relations, taking into account all interconnections. Event analysis was employed to analyze the international political process in the region as a sequence of political events, which allowed for the identification of the interests and positions of specific actors behind each event. Additionally, the comparative method was used to study official acts with legal force in terms of their ideological and value foundations.

The main provisions proposed for defense (proven scientific hypotheses and other conclusions that are new knowledge):

1. The transformation of regional and subregional integration processes requires a new multidimensional structure of international relations. This concept justifies the need to revise integration theories in the context of contemporary global geopolitical changes. In structures such as the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), the institutional, political, and cultural dimensions of regional relations develop in mutual conjunction. In this context, the relevance of considering regional integration not only from the perspective of economic interests but also on a historical-cultural and civilizational basis receives additional scientific validation;
2. The "ideological-value approach" in the foreign policy of Turkey and Kazakhstan is emerging as a new paradigm in the modern international relations system. According to this concept, the foreign policy strategies of the two countries are based not only on geopolitical interests but also on shared historical-cultural values. Through ideological tools such as soft power and national branding, a foreign policy model is formed, aimed at strengthening Turkic identity within the OTS framework. This model represents the intersection of pragmatism and civilizational cooperation in international relations;
3. Considering the Turkic factor as an internal driving mechanism of the international political process allows for the justification of new forms of transnational cooperation. Within this concept, integration processes among Turkic states in the OTS

can develop not only at the level of interstate agreements but also deepen based on shared historical memory and cultural heritage. In this context, the Turkic factor becomes a potential foundation for the formation of new regional unions and diplomatic formats, taking into account geocultural specificity;

4. Cooperation between Kazakhstan and Turkey within the OTS is currently characterized as a combination of functional and cultural-ideological mechanisms. Such an interconnection, combining the geopolitical interests of the two countries, elevates strategic partnership and diplomatic interaction in the region to a new qualitative level. Initiatives implemented within the OTS framework enhance Turkey's role in Central Asia and shape its own foreign policy style through a synthesis of historical-cultural proximity and modern politico-economic tools. Kazakhstan, in turn, acts as a key partner in this process, actively contributing to the institutional development of Turkic cooperation;

5. The merging of Turkic identity and soft power strategy plays an important role in transforming the cultural-political structures of Central Asian states. This concept examines the influence of soft power policies, implemented through cultural-humanitarian cooperation between Turkey and Kazakhstan, on strengthening Turkic identity in the region. The main tools of this process are institutions such as the Turkic Academy, Turkic universities, and common media platforms;

6. The strategic partnership between Kazakhstan and Turkey forms a model of adaptive and alternative diplomacy in the context of the modern multipolar world. This concept demonstrates that due to their geopolitical positioning and similar foreign policy courses, both countries are capable of effectively coordinating their actions at global, regional, and subregional levels. The cooperation format in energy, transport, security, and culture serves as a real manifestation of a multi-vector foreign policy.

The main results of the study are:

1. An original methodology for studying regional integration processes has been proposed. In analyzing the cooperation structures of Turkic-speaking states and subregional integration processes, a new authorial approach was developed that combines social, institutional, and model-based methods. This methodology contributes to the expansion of the paradigmatic framework of contemporary international relations theory;

2. The concept of the “ideological and value-based approach” has been clarified as a new analytical tool for examining the foreign policies of Kazakhstan and Turkey. Using this framework, a comprehensive comparative analysis of the two countries’ foreign policy strategies was conducted, with a particular focus on value-oriented diplomacy and ideological principles;

3. The transformation of Turkey’s soft power policy has been identified. The content of Turkey’s foreign policy doctrines in the post-Soviet space has been analyzed as a set of political instruments. Mechanisms of their influence on Turkic integration and political interaction have been systematically structured;

4. The stages of development of the Kazakh–Turkish partnership within the framework of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) have been examined. Diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations between Kazakhstan and Turkey have

been categorized according to their evolutionary phases, while the institutional foundations and ideological content of the strategic partnership within the OTS have been described using specific academic criteria;

5. Factors contributing to the formation of a common Turkic identity have been identified. The process of shaping a shared Turkic identity, based on the national interests and historical-cultural values of the OTS member states, has been studied. The degree of influence of soft power tools – including education, culture, tourism, and information policy – has been assessed;

6. The strategic partnership between Turkey and Kazakhstan has been reinterpreted in light of new geopolitical realities. The relevance and potential of strategic cooperation have been reassessed in the context of regional transformations. New formats of energy, trade-economic, and transport-communication collaboration between Turkey and Kazakhstan have been analyzed in connection with shifting global power centers, and their impact on the stability of the Central Asian region has been scientifically substantiated.

Substantiation of the novelty and significance of the results obtained:

1. An original methodology for studying regional integration processes has been proposed

Relevance:

In the context of contemporary international relations, explaining integration processes through a single methodological lens appears limited. The developed authorial methodology, which combines social, institutional, and model-based approaches, enables a comprehensive analysis of complex geopolitical spaces. This approach opens new avenues for systematic analysis of interaction within the framework of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS).

Scientific novelty:

Unlike previous studies that primarily focused on institutional or historical overviews, this dissertation applies a multi-level analysis of integration through methodological synthesis. The new model-based method represents a theoretical innovation in the field.

2. The concept of the “ideological and value-based approach” was employed as an analytical tool

Relevance:

In a multipolar world, foreign policy is defined not only by geopolitical interests but also by ideological and value-based principles. Analyzing the strategic partnership between Turkey and Kazakhstan through the prism of shared values aligns with the modern discourse in international relations.

Scientific novelty:

The “ideological and value-based approach” has been scientifically substantiated for the first time and proposed as an alternative tool for analyzing intergovernmental relations. Until now, this concept had not been specifically applied to the context of Turkic state cooperation.

3. The transformation of Turkey’s “soft power” policy has been identified

Relevance:

Turkey’s growing regional and global influence calls for an understanding of its strategic doctrines based on historical and cultural heritage. These political doctrines play a significant role not only in shaping Turkey’s foreign policy but also in influencing both the domestic and foreign policy trajectories of Central Asian countries.

Scientific novelty:

For the first time, Turkey’s soft power policy has been comprehensively analyzed based on its practical implementation in Central Asia. Its influence on Turkic integration has been systematically characterized, and its transformative nature has been revealed.

4. The stages of development of the Kazakh–Turkish partnership within the OTS have been analyzed

Relevance:

Dividing Kazakhstan–Turkey relations into stages allows for a deeper understanding of the internal dynamics of integration processes. This partnership may serve as a model for further institutional strengthening of the OTS.

Scientific novelty:

Kazakh–Turkish cooperation within the OTS has, for the first time, been examined from a systematic and chronological perspective. While previously considered mainly within the framework of bilateral relations, it is now linked to institutional development within the Organization.

5. Factors contributing to the formation of a Turkic identity have been identified

Relevance:

The shared Turkic identity is formed not only through cultural ties but also through the tools of foreign policy. This is essential for understanding the ideological foundations of sustainable Turkic integration.

Scientific novelty:

Identity-shaping factors – such as education, culture, media, and tourism – have been systematized for the first time within the OTS as instruments of integration. Their roles have been evaluated using concrete indicators. Previously, these elements were mostly studied in isolation.

6. A new interpretation of the strategic partnership between Turkey and Kazakhstan has been offered in light of geopolitical changes

Relevance:

Shifts in the global geopolitical balance require a reassessment of cooperation between Turkey and Kazakhstan. Sectors such as energy, logistics, and trade must be viewed not only as economic domains but also as factors contributing to political stability.

Scientific novelty:

New formats of strategic partnership between the two countries have been analyzed for the first time in the context of geopolitical trends and regional security. Their impact on Central Asia and contribution to regional stability have been

substantiated using specific indicators. The study also aligns with national research priorities and governmental development programs.

Compliance with the directions of science development and government programs.

The research topic directly aligns with the priority areas for the development of science as approved by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan's decree No. 728 dated October 12, 2021.

Description of the doctoral student's contribution to the preparation of each publication (author's contribution to the dissertation is indicated as a percentage of the total text) As a result of the research, the doctoral candidate prepared and published a total of 12 scientific publications, including:

1 article in a journal indexed in the Scopus database (71st percentile);

5 articles published in journals included in the list of the Committee for Quality Assurance in the Field of Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

1 article published in scientific journals of Kazakhstan;

5 articles published at international scientific and practical conferences organized in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

All publications and materials reflect the key ideas of the dissertation and are the result of the doctoral candidate's independent work. The author's contribution ranges from 60% to 100%, and in some publications, she is the sole author.

The structure and scope of the work. The chosen topic follows the overall logic of the research and is aimed at systematically addressing the set objectives. The structure includes an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of references and sources, appendices, and spans 231 pages.