

CONCLUSION

of the Dissertation Council for the group of specialties/educational programs "6D020900, 8D02209 – Oriental Studies" at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University on the dissertation of Mubarak Ateeq Sultan Alafreet Alkuwaiti titled "*Transformation of Iran's Geopolitical Strategies in Regional and bilateral negotiations on the Status of the Caspian Sea*", submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the specialty "6D020900 – Oriental Studies" (Protocol No. 2 dated March 13, 2025).

1. Based on the results of the defense and secret ballot, the Dissertation Council has decided to return the dissertation of Mubarak Ateeq Sultan Alafreet Alkuwaiti, titled "*Transformation of Iran's Geopolitical Strategies in Regional and bilateral negotiations on the Status of the Caspian Sea*" for revision to address the following comments:

1) Lack of detailed application of research methods

The dissertation mentions research methods such as historical analysis, content analysis, and others. However, their specific application is not explained in the text. There is no description of where and how these methods were utilized. During the defense, the candidate failed to provide a clear explanation of the practical application of these methods in the study. It is necessary to specify in which sections and in what manner the declared methodological approaches were applied, as well as to justify their selection.

2) Lack of clear structure and logical transitions between sections

The current structure of the dissertation requires revision. The text lacks clear logical transitions between topics, making it difficult to comprehend the study. During the defense, the candidate was unable to convincingly explain the rationale behind the dissertation's structure and the sequence of material presentation. It is recommended to divide the content into a greater number of subsections and subpoints to ensure logical transitions and a consistent flow of information.

3) Insufficient theoretical foundation

The dissertation references various theories of international relations and development, including neorealism and others; however, their application to the Caspian region remains unclear. During the defense, the doctoral candidate did not explain how these theories are used in analyzing the research topic and whether they apply to the specific case. The choice of theoretical approaches and their role in the study must be justified.

4) Insufficient use of primary sources

The text shows a significant predominance of secondary sources over primary ones, despite the availability of a substantial number of primary materials on this topic. During the defense, the candidate was unable to fully explain why secondary sources dominate the research and why available primary materials were not utilized. To enhance the scientific argumentation and credibility of the research, it is necessary to incorporate more primary sources and conduct a thorough analysis of them.

5) Lack of references for many definitions

The dissertation contains definitions and concepts that are not accompanied by appropriate references to sources, which undermines the scientific validity of the study. During the defense, the candidate was unable to justify the origin of several used definitions. Correct references to primary sources must be added for all provided definitions.

6) The presence of technical and spelling errors

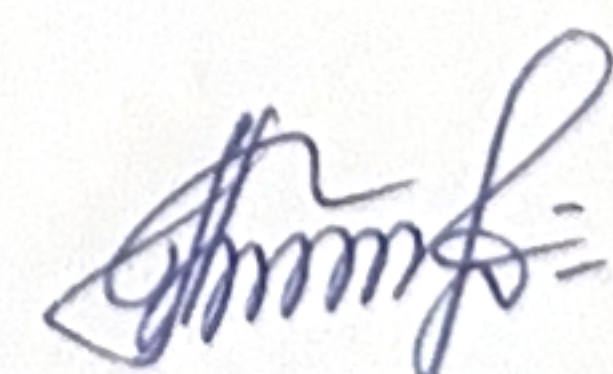
The text contains a significant number of technical and spelling errors, which negatively impact its readability and overall quality. A thorough editorial and proofreading revision is required to eliminate stylistic inconsistencies, typographical errors, and grammatical mistakes.

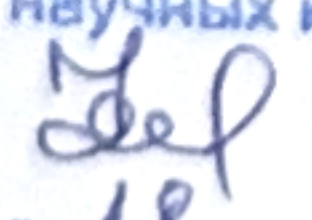
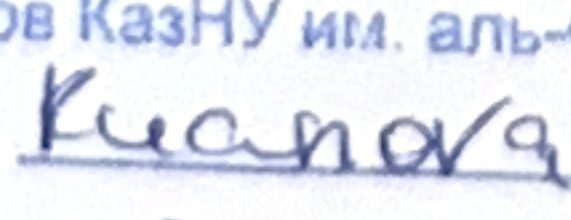
2. The revised dissertation must be submitted to the Dissertation Council within three months, with a possible extension of no more than three (3) months. The decision to extend the deadline period is made by the Dissertation Council based on a formal request from the doctoral candidate. If the revised dissertation is not submitted within the established timeframe, the doctoral candidate must undergo a repeated defense.

**Chair of the Dissertation Council,
Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor**

 **G.E. Nadirova**

**Scientific Secretary of the Dissertation Council,
PhD, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences,
Acting Associate Professor**

 **A.E. Belyalova**

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