

## REVIEW

of the official reviewer for dissertation work

Abdalla Mohd Dyab al-Nouimat on the theme «Central Asia and the Caucasus in Iran's foreign policy strategy (1991-2021)» 6D020900 presented for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the specialty «Oriental Studies».

№	Criteria	Eligibility (one of the options must be checked)	Justification of the position of the official reviewer
1.	The topic of the thesis (as of the date of its approval) corresponds to the directions of development of science and/or state programs	1.1 Compliance with priority areas of science development or government programs:	<p>The thesis is highly relevant to Kazakhstan's strategic priorities in geopolitics, security, economic development, cultural diplomacy, and sustainability. By exploring Iran's foreign political strategy, this research compliance with priority areas of science development or government programs. and contributes valuable insights into these areas, enhancing the effectiveness of government programs and scientific development in Kazakhstan.</p> <p>1. Geopolitical Studies Priority Area: Kazakhstan studies regional geopolitics to inform its foreign policy. Compliance: The thesis provides valuable insights into Iran's geopolitical strategies, enhancing Kazakhstan's understanding of its foreign relations.</p> <p>2. Regional Security and Stability Government Program: Security cooperation is a key focus in Kazakhstan's policies, especially within Central Asia. Compliance: Analyzing Iran's role in regional security dynamics aid Kazakhstan in addressing security challenges and fostering stability.</p>

		<p>3. Economic Integration and Development  Priority Area: Economic cooperation and integration with neighboring countries are vital for Kazakhstan's development goals.  Compliance: The thesis explores how Iran's economic strategies impact trade and investment opportunities in Central Asia, informing Kazakhstan's economic policies.</p> <p>4. Cultural Diplomacy and Humanitarian Cooperation  Government Program: Promoting cultural ties and humanitarian initiatives is part of Kazakhstan's foreign policy agenda.  Compliance: The thesis highlights cultural interactions between Iran and Central Asian states, supporting Kazakhstan's cultural diplomacy efforts.</p> <p>5. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)  Priority Area: Kazakhstan is committed to achieving SDGs, which include regional cooperation and sustainable practices.  Compliance: Insights into Iran's foreign policy provide context for regional sustainable development efforts and collaborative projects.</p> <p>6. Energy Policy and Resource Management  Government Program: Energy security and cooperation are critical for Kazakhstan's economy.  Compliance: The thesis examines how Iran's energy policies affect regional energy dynamics, which is relevant to Kazakhstan's energy strategy.</p>	
		<p>1) The thesis was completed within the framework of a project or target program financed from the state budget (indicate the name and number of the project</p>	<p>6D020900 - Oriental Studies.  Study at private expense.</p>

		or program)	
2.	Importance for science	The work makes a significant contribution to science, and its importance is well disclosed.	The study of the Iranian policy changes towards Caucasus and Central Asia, including its priorities and the assessment of its role and significance in fostering effective cooperation with post-Soviet states, is a subject of extensive research and notable relevance in contemporary political science.
3.	The principle of independence	Self-reliance level: 1) High.	The principle of independence in the thesis is manifested in the independence of the research in terms of methodology, analysis, and conclusions. Through: 1. Original research where the thesis is based on original data collection and analysis. 2. Critical analysis where it critically engages with existing theories and viewpoints and forms its own interpretations of Iranian foreign policy. This means that it evaluates different viewpoints and summarizes them to develop a precise argument. 3. Methodological freedom where the thesis has the freedom to choose its own research methods based on what best suits its inquiry. Whether qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods. 4. Independent conclusions where the conclusions drawn in the thesis stem from the researcher's analysis and findings, without being influenced by prevailing academic or political narratives. 5. High self-reliance in interpreting data and forming arguments without excessive reliance on external verification.
4.	The principle of inner unity	4.1 Justification of the relevance of the thesis:	The relevance of the thesis is justified as it

		<p>1) Justified.</p>	<p>addresses significant geopolitical dynamics in Central Asia and the Caucasus, particularly in the context of Iran's foreign policy. This topic is crucial for understanding regional interactions and the implications for Kazakhstan and its neighbors, especially given the evolving geopolitical landscape since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.</p>
		<p>4.2 The content of the thesis reflects the topic of the thesis: 1) Reflects.</p>	<p>The content of the thesis directly reflects the topic by providing a comprehensive analysis of Iran's foreign political strategies and their impact on Central Asia and the Caucasus. It encompasses historical, political, and economic dimensions, ensuring that all aspects of the topic are thoroughly explored.</p>
		<p>4.3. The purpose and objectives correspond to the topic of the thesis: 1) <u>correspond</u>.</p>	<p>The purpose and objectives of the thesis correspond closely to the topic. They are designed to investigate the nuances of Iran's foreign policy and its implications for regional stability and cooperation, aligning with the overarching theme of the research.</p>
		<p>4.4 All sections and provisions of the thesis are logically interconnected: 1) <u>completely interconnected</u>.</p>	<p>All sections and provisions of the thesis are completely interconnected. Each chapter builds upon the previous one, creating a cohesive narrative that enhances the reader's understanding of the complex relationships between Iran and the Central Asian states.</p>
		<p>4.5 The new solutions (principles, methods) proposed by the author are reasoned and evaluated in comparison with the known solutions: 1) <u>there is a critical analysis</u>.</p>	<p>The thesis proposes new solutions, principles, and methods that are well-reasoned and evaluated in comparison with existing solutions. The critical analysis included in its work allows for a deeper understanding of the effectiveness of Iran's strategies and their potential alternatives,</p>

			contributing to the academic discourse on the subject.
5.	Scientific novelty principle	5.1 Are the scientific results and provisions new? 1) completely new.	The research introduces original insights into Iran's foreign political strategies, particularly their implications for Central Asia and the Caucasus. The findings highlight aspects that have not been extensively covered in existing literature, thus contributing new knowledge to the field.
		5.2 Are the dissertation findings new? 1) completely new.	The findings of the dissertation present unique interpretations and analyses of Iran's role in the region. By examining underexplored dimensions of its foreign policy, its work offers a fresh perspective that enhances the academic discourse surrounding this topic.
		5.3 Technical, technological, economic or management decisions are new and reasonable: 1) completely new.	The thesis proposes innovative technical and economic decisions based on the research findings. These suggestions are grounded in thorough analysis and provide practical implications for policymakers, making them not only new but also reasonable and applicable in real-world contexts.
6.	The validity of the main findings	All main conclusions are based on scientifically significant evidence or well-grounded (for qualitative research and areas of training in the arts and humanities)	In general, the main conclusions of the thesis are based on scientifically significant evidence and solid qualitative analysis, which enhances its validity and contributes to the field of international relations and regional studies.
7.	The main provisions for the defense	It is necessary to answer the following questions for each provision separately: 7.1 Is the provision proven? 1) proven. 7.2 Is it trivial? 2) no.	Each provision presented in the thesis is proven and substantiated with rigorous evidence and analysis. The conclusions drawn are based on comprehensive research and critical evaluation of data, ensuring their validity. The provisions are not trivial; they address

		<p>7.3 Is it new? 1) yes.</p> <p>7.4 Application level: 3) wide</p> <p>7.5 Is it proven in the article? 1) yes.</p>	<p>significant aspects of Iran's foreign political strategy that contribute meaningfully to the academic discourse. They offer insights that are relevant to current geopolitical issues in Central Asia and the Caucasus.</p> <p>The provisions are indeed new, providing original insights that have not been extensively covered in existing literature. This novelty enhances the academic contribution of the thesis.</p> <p>The findings have a wide application level and are relevant to policymakers, academics, and practitioners interested in regional studies and international relations. They inform discussions on Iran's role in Central Asia and the Caucasus.</p> <p>The provisions are effectively demonstrated in the article, supported by evidence and critical analysis. The research thoroughly validates each claim, ensuring that the arguments presented are well-founded.</p>
8.	The principle of reliability.  Reliability of sources and information provided	<p>8.1 Choice of methodology - is justified or the methodology is described in sufficient detail 1) yes.</p>	The choice of methodology is well-justified and described in sufficient detail, ensuring that the research design aligns with the objectives of the thesis.
		<p>8.2 The results of the thesis were obtained using modern methods of scientific research and methods of processing and interpreting data using computer technologies: 1) yes.</p>	The results of the thesis were obtained using modern methods of scientific research, including data processing and interpretation techniques facilitated by computer technologies. This enhances the reliability of the findings.
		<p>8.3 Theoretical conclusions, models, identified relationships and patterns have been proven and confirmed by experimental research (for areas of training in pedagogical sciences, the results have been proven on the basis of a pedagogical</p>	While theoretical conclusions and models are presented, they are not proven by applied experimental research. In this aspect of geopolitical studies requires a long time and capabilities not available for research. Which is

		experiment): 2) no	not essential in this type of study.
		8.4 Important statements are confirmed by references to current and reliable scientific literature	Important statements are confirmed and supported by references to current and reliable scientific literature, reinforcing the credibility of the arguments and findings.
		8.5 Used literature sources are sufficient for a literature review	The literature sources used in the research are adequate for a comprehensive literature review, providing a solid foundation and sufficient for the analysis and conclusions.
9	Practical value principle	9.1 The thesis has theoretical value: 1) yes.	The thesis possesses significant theoretical value, contributing to the existing body of knowledge on Iran's foreign political strategy and its implications for Central Asia and the Caucasus.
		9.2 The thesis is of practical importance and there is a high probability of applying the results obtained in practice: 1) yes.	The thesis is of practical importance, with a high probability of applying the results obtained in real-world contexts. This applicability can inform policymakers and practitioners in the field of international relations.
		9.3 Are the practice suggestions new? 1) completely new;	The practical suggestions presented in the thesis are completely new, offering innovative strategies and insights that have not been previously articulated in the existing literature.
10.	The quality of writing and design	Academic writing quality: 1) high	The academic writing in the thesis is of high quality, characterized by clarity, coherence, and a well-structured argument. The language used is appropriate for an academic audience, and the ideas are articulated effectively, enhancing the overall readability of the work.
11.	Notes on a thesis		The amount of effort put into reading and research and the number of studies and data used in the research is remarkable, given the length of time it discusses, which extends over thirty years, and the

			<p>size of the geopolitical areas it covers. This is commendable and noteworthy.</p> <p>A note is also directed to the thesis regarding following the required formatting guidelines, including font size, footnotes, and citation style. Use more tables, graphs, and charts where necessary to illustrate the main points. These visual aids are very useful for the text. Include a comprehensive reference list that adheres to the required citation style.</p>
12.	<p>Scientific level of the doctoral student's articles on the topic of research (in case of defense of the dissertation in the form of a series of articles, the official reviewers comment on the scientific level of each article of the doctoral student on the topic of research)</p>		<p>The researcher will discuss his/her thesis in full before the faculty committee. However, after reviewing the studies he/she published during his/her doctoral studies, the following observations can be made about the scientific level of these articles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Originality and contribution: Each article shows originality and contributes new insights or findings to the field of studies on Iran's relations.</li> <li>2. The methodologies used in the articles are strong, well-justified, and methodologically rigorous. They resemble the thesis in that they used appropriate research methods and conducted comprehensive and valid analyses.</li> <li>3. The articles provide high-quality data, whether qualitative or quantitative. The data sources are reliable and valid, and the evidence provided is appropriate to support the conclusions.</li> </ol>
13.	<p>Decision of the official reviewer (pursuant to paragraph</p>		<p>Pursuant to paragraph 28 of the Model Regulations, I have reviewed the doctoral candidate's dissertation and associated articles.</p>



	Regulations)		Based on the evaluation, I recommend approval. The candidate has demonstrated the necessary competencies and contributions required to award the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Oriental Studies.
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In reviews, official reviewers indicate one of the following solutions:

- 1) to award the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Doctor of Specialization;

Copies of the reviews of the official reviewers are handed over to the doctoral student no later than 5 (five) working days before the defense of the thesis.

**Official Reviewer:**

Professor of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences (RANS),  
 Leading Researcher, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies  
 of the Science Committee of the Ministry of Science  
 and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan.  
 Specialty: 09.00.11 - social philosophy,  
 (Almaty, Kazakhstan)

(place of work, academic title)



*Erkin*

(signature)

Baidarov Erkin Ulanovich  
 (FULL NAME)