

УДК 339.924

DOI 10.58649/1694-8033-2023-4(116)-179-185

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«БИР АЛКАК, БИР ЖОЛ» ДЕМИЛГЕСИНИН КӨЗ КАРАШЫНАН АЛГАНДА
САЯСИЙ ӨЗ АРА ИШЕНИМ ЖАНА АЙМАКТЫК ТУРУКТУУЛУК: КЫТАЙ
МЕНЕН БОРБОРДУК АЗИЯ ӨЛКӨЛӨРҮНҮН ОРТОСУНДАГЫ САЯСИЙ
ӨЗ АРА ИШЕНИМ ЖАНА КЫРДААЛДЫ ТАЛДОО

ПОЛИТИЧЕСКОЕ ВЗАИМНОЕ ДОВЕРИЕ И РЕГИОНАЛЬНАЯ СТАБИЛЬНОСТЬ С
ТОЧКИ ЗРЕНИЯ ИНИЦИАТИВЫ «ОДИН ПОЯС, ОДИН ПУТЬ»: МЕЖДУ
КИТАЕМ И СТРАНАМИ ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ

**POLITICAL MUTUAL TRUST AND REGIONAL STABILITY FROM THE
PERSPECTIVE OF THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE: POLITICAL MUTUAL TRUST
BETWEEN CHINA AND CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES AND CASE ANALYSIS**

Кыскача мүнөздөмө: «Бир алкак, бир жол» демилгесинин контекстинде бул макалада Кытай менен Борбордук Азия өлкөлөрүнүн ортосундагы саясий өз ара ишеним жана аймактык туруктуулук чөйрөсүндө кызматташуунун таасири жана келечеги талкууланат. Тиешелүү адабияттарды жана маалыматтарды ар тараптуу талдоо аркылуу Кытай менен Борбордук Азия өлкөлөрүнүн кызматташтыгы саясий өз ара ишенимди жана аймактык туруктуулукту арттырууда оң роль ойноп, эки тарапка тең өнүгүү мүмкүнчүлүктөрүн ачканы белгилүү болду.

Аннотация: В контексте инициативы "Один пояс, один путь" в данной статье обсуждается влияние и перспективы сотрудничества между Китаем и странами Центральной Азии с точки зрения политического взаимного доверия и региональной стабильности. Благодаря всестороннему анализу соответствующей литературы и данных было установлено, что сотрудничество между Китаем и странами Центральной Азии сыграло позитивную роль в укреплении политического взаимного доверия и региональной стабильности, а также открыло общие возможности развития для обеих сторон.

In the context of the Belt and Road Initiative, this paper discusses the impact and prospects of cooperation between China and Central Asian countries in terms of political mutual trust and regional stability. Through comprehensive analysis of relevant literature and data, it is found that the cooperation between China and Central Asian countries has played a positive role in promoting political mutual trust and regional stability, and has brought common development opportunities for both sides.

Негизги сөздөр: бир алкак жана жол демилгеси; саясий өз ара ишеним; аймактык туруктуулук; Кытай; Борбордук Азия өлкөлөрү; эл аралык кызматташтык.

Ключевые слова: инициатива "Один пояс, один путь"; политическое взаимодоверие;

региональная стабильность; Китай; страны Центральной Азии; международное сотрудничество.

Keywords: Belt and Road Initiative; political mutual trust; regional stability; China; Central Asian countries; international cooperation.

Since China proposed the “Belt and Road” initiative in 2013, Central Asia has gradually become one of the core regions for the “Belt and Road” construction and a pioneer in the joint construction of the “Belt and Road”. Ten years ago, President Xi Jinping proposed the initiative of jointly building the “Silk Road Economic Belt” when delivering an important speech in Kazakhstan. Although the “One Belt, One Road” initiative originated from China, its results have benefited the world. In the past ten years, the “Belt and Road Initiative” has been development-oriented and using cooperation mechanisms as a means, and has gradually become an important platform to promote the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind [1]. China has signed more than 200 cooperation documents on the Belt and Road Initiative with more than 150 countries and 32 international organizations, forming more than 3,000 cooperation projects with an investment scale of nearly US\$1 trillion, which can lift nearly 40 million people out of poverty [2]. The importance of the Central Asian region in the geopolitical and economic landscape is increasing, and cooperation with China in economic, political, security and other fields is getting closer. Under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, political mutual trust and regional stability between China and Central Asian countries have become the focus of international attention.

Research significance

In international relations, political mutual trust is a key factor in promoting cooperation and stability among countries. Studying the political mutual trust between China and Central Asian countries will help us to understand the sustainability of bilateral cooperation and its impact on regional peace and stability.

The geopolitics of Central Asia is complex, and regional stability is the key to the sustainable development of this region. Exploring the impact of cooperation between China and Central Asian countries on regional stability is helpful to assess the importance of cooperation to regional security pattern and the ability to cope with regional conflicts and security challenges.

As an important international initiative proposed by China, the Belt and Road Initiative aims to promote cooperation and win-win results among participating countries. The study of political mutual trust and regional stability between China and Central Asian countries under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative will help deepen the understanding of the practical significance of the initiative.

To sum up, the background and significance of this study is to promote in-depth research on the issues of political mutual trust and regional stability in the cooperation between China and Central Asian countries, explore its impact on regional cooperation and development, and provide theoretical and practical guidance for further strengthening bilateral cooperation.

1. Definition and importance of political mutual trust

Political mutual trust refers to the relationship of trust established between countries or political entities in international relations based on the principles of mutual respect, good faith, equality and mutual benefit. This relationship of mutual trust includes mutual recognition of each other's core interests and development paths, mutual respect for national sovereignty and territorial

integrity, willingness to resolve differences and problems through dialogue, consultation and cooperation, adherence to international law and norms, and respect for the universal values of the international community.

When countries have established a solid relationship of political trust, they are more willing to cooperate and coordinate to jointly address various global and regional challenges and jointly maintain international peace and security. Differences should be resolved through dialogue and consultation to reduce the possibility of misunderstanding and conflict, so as to maintain regional peace and stability. We are more willing to promote economic cooperation, cultural exchanges and scientific and technological innovation, jointly develop and utilize resources, and promote common prosperity and development.

Central Asia is located at the junction of the two major economic engines of the European Union and the Pacific Rim Economic Belt. It is a necessary place for the Belt and Road Initiative and an important node of the Overland Silk Road [3]. The establishment of a solid political relationship of mutual trust between China and Central Asian countries is of vital significance to promoting bilateral cooperation, maintaining regional stability and promoting common development. The establishment of such a relationship of political trust requires the joint efforts of both sides to establish a long-term and stable cooperative partnership to promote regional prosperity and stability.

2. Case analysis of political mutual trust between China and Central Asian countries

In terms of political mutual trust, under the China-Central Asia Cooperation Mechanism, the two sides have continuously strengthened political mutual trust and carried out policy communication. Central Asian countries and China have worked together to improve bilateral meetings, dialogue and cooperation mechanisms, demonstrating the potential for cooperation. The friendly relations between the two sides have been upgraded to a strategic partnership. In recent decades, China and Central Asian countries have established a comprehensive strategic partnership, jointly implemented a community with a shared future for mankind, and signed cooperation documents on jointly building the "Belt and Road". With the organic connection between the "One Belt, One Road" initiative and the national development strategies of Central Asian countries, the cooperation between China and Central Asian countries has achieved synergistic effects. The two countries have frequent high-level interactions, and in May 2023, the China-Central Asia heads of state meeting mechanism was officially established. Under the framework of multilateral mechanisms such as the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, CICA, and the "China + Five Central Asian Countries", various meeting mechanisms and industrialist committees have been established, and various forms of exchange platforms have been held. China and Kazakhstan, China and Ukraine, and China and Tajikistan have respectively established cooperation mechanisms on issues such as production capacity cooperation, agriculture, and poverty reduction. The China-Central Asia Summit held in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province in May 2023 achieved fruitful results, signing more than 100 cooperation agreements and jointly planning the future blueprint for China-Central Asia relations.

China and Central Asian countries not only vigorously promote traditional infrastructure projects, but also focus on strengthening information and communication connectivity to promote industrial upgrading and improvement of people's livelihood in Central Asian countries. The most critical factor in building the Silk Road Economic Belt is "communication." Since the 1990s,

projects such as the China-Kazakhstan cross-border railway and the China-Kazakhstan-Ukraine-Turkish-Iraqi railway have been implemented one after another. The successive construction of a series of key projects such as the Croatian municipal road network has effectively improved the transportation level in Central Asia and greatly promoted regional economic development. With the launch of China-Europe freight trains, Central Asian countries have become important transit channels between the Asian and European economic circles. They are at the node position of the China-Europe logistics network and can more effectively release their transit potential [4]. In the past ten years, the China-Europe train Chang'an has operated 4,250 trains to the five Central Asian countries, transporting goods covering different types such as automobiles, grain, daily necessities, intangible cultural and creative products, etc. It has activated the freight system along the route and promoted China-China relations. The interconnectivity of Central Asia continues to amplify the international significance of Central Asia's transportation hubs. In addition, aviation cooperation between China and Central Asian countries has also been increasingly strengthened, with passenger and cargo flights between the two parties now covering 12 cities. Huawei has been developing in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan for more than 20 years, witnessed and participated in the development of mobile communication networks in both countries, and played an important role in improving the information infrastructure of the two countries.

Energy and agriculture have become the focus and highlight of economic and trade cooperation between China and Central Asian countries, and Central Asia has become the fastest growing economic sector under the "Belt and Road Initiative". In 2022, the trade volume between China and the five Central Asian countries will reach 70.2 billion US dollars, an annual increase of about 40%, an increase of about 100 times compared with the establishment of diplomatic relations. China's imports and exports to countries along the "Belt and Road" were 4.61 trillion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 16%. China's imports and exports to Kazakhstan and other five Central Asian countries increased by more than 37%. Central Asia has become the fastest growing sector.⁵ In 2022, China's imports of agricultural products, energy products, and mineral products from Central Asian countries will increase by more than 50% annually, and its exports of mechanical and electrical products to Central Asian countries will increase by more than 40%.⁶ As of June 2022, the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline has delivered more than 400 billion cubic meters of gas to China [7] As of January 2023, the China-Kazakhstan crude oil pipeline has delivered a total of 160 million tons of crude oil to China [8] In terms of agricultural cooperation, the total trade in agricultural products between China and the five Central Asian countries reached US\$1.651 billion in 2022, of which exports reached US\$846 million. China's imports of agricultural products from Central Asian countries increased from US\$418 million in 2004 to US\$805 million in 2022, an increase of more than 50% in 2022 alone over the previous year. Along the overland Silk Road, special products such as camel milk from Kazakhstan, honey from Kyrgyzstan, dried fruits from Tajikistan, cotton from Turkmenistan, and cherries from Uzbekistan have entered the Chinese market. The scale and scope of financial integration between China and Central Asian countries continue to expand, and at the same time, a large number of local labor force will be employed and common development will be promoted. China and the five Central Asian countries have established multilateral financial cooperation mechanisms such as the SCO Interbank Consortium,

⁵ Data source: "my country's import and export of goods trade increased by 5.8% year-on-year - the positive trend of foreign trade import and export continued" [5].

⁶ Source: "Bilateral Trade Volume Increases by about 40% year-on-year in 2022 [6].

the Silk Road Fund and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, which mainly provide financing services to the member countries' infrastructure, high-tech industries, trade and social fields, and gradually expand to non-resource fields such as chemicals, electronics, light industry, textiles and agriculture. By the end of 2022, China's stock of direct investment in the five Central Asian countries was nearly US\$15 billion [9]. The cumulative turnover of completed project contracting reached 63.9 billion US dollars. China has become the largest source of investment in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the second largest source of investment in Uzbekistan, and the fourth largest source of investment in Kazakhstan. At the China-Central Asia Summit, President Xi Jinping announced a total of 26 billion yuan in financing support and assistance to Central Asian countries [10]. China's direct investment in Central Asia has created a large number of jobs for the local labor force. Statistics show that PetroChina alone has paid more than 30 billion US dollars in taxes and fees for the local government through its enterprises in Central Asia, providing more than 34,000 jobs [11]. By the end of 2021, China had invested nearly US\$400 million in agriculture in the five Central Asian countries, providing stable financial support for improving the local agricultural production environment and solving the employment problem of nearly 3,000 local people [10].

Under the Belt and Road Initiative, China and Central Asian countries have formed a multi-integrated talent training mechanism such as language and culture education, international student education, joint training, and vocational education. From 2010 to 2018, China awarded more than 5,000 educational scholarships to students from Central Asia, and the total number of students from the five Central Asian countries increased to 28,532. So far, China has built a total of 13 Confucius Institutes, 24 Confucius Classrooms and a number of Chinese language courses in Central Asia, which have been well received by the local people. China's first Luban workshop in Central Asia, the Luban Workshop in Tajikistan, has been put into operation, and the Luban Workshop in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkey is also under construction to provide more professional and technical skills training for local youth. During the pandemic, China cooperated with the five Central Asian countries to fight the epidemic and set a world example. In 2022, China provided 50 million doses of vaccines to Central Asian countries [12]. At the same time, sister-city cooperation continues to deepen, culture and tourism are deeply integrated, and two-way exchanges are increasing. Up to now, the two sides have formed 62 pairs of sister provinces, states and cities, and hundreds of thousands of people exchange each year with each other. In 2017, 200,000 Chinese tourists visited Kazakhstan, and in 2019, Khorgos, Xinjiang, received more than 7 million Central Asian tourists. Data from Ctrip and Fliggy show that in the past month, the number of Chinese travel orders to Central Asian countries has increased by 470% compared with the previous year, and the number of air ticket bookings has increased by more than six times compared with the previous year.

3. The impact of mutual trust relationship on the cooperation between the two parties and the evaluation of the effect

The degree of trust in China and the reasons for the trust of Central Asian countries in China are important aspects of Central Asia's relations with China, which cover historical, economic, political, cultural and other factors.

From 1991 to 1993, the leaders of the five Central Asian countries visited China one after another and issued joint communiques or statements with Chinese leaders on the basis or basic principles of bilateral relations [13]. From 2002 to 2007, China signed treaties of good-

neighborliness, friendship, cooperation or friendship and partnership with Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, thus laying the legal foundation for "permanent peace and friendship for all generations" between the two sides [14]. Such trust will further promote the steady development of bilateral relations and in-depth cooperation.

The level of trust in China by Central Asian countries is due to its long historical and cultural roots. Central Asia and China have deep historical ties and cultural exchanges, and these historical ties provide a solid foundation for building trust between the two sides. The Central Asian countries' respect for traditional Chinese culture and their recognition of the history of China's ancient Silk Road have enhanced the emotional ties between the two peoples.

The achievements of economic and trade cooperation between Central Asian countries and China have played an important role in enhancing the level of trust, and China has signed communiqués on the establishment of diplomatic relations with the five Central Asian countries and concluded agreements on economic and trade cooperation in other fields. In recent years, Central Asian countries and China have achieved remarkable results in infrastructure construction, energy cooperation, and trade exchanges. China's investment and technical support have provided an important boost to the development of Central Asian countries and strengthened mutual trust between the two sides. In particular, under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, Central Asian countries have further deepened their trust in China and believe that China will promote the development and prosperity of the Central Asian region.

The interaction of Central Asian countries with China in the political-diplomatic sphere also has a positive impact on the level of trust. The two sides have supported each other in international affairs, coordinated efforts to address common challenges, and played an important role in regional peace and stability. China's active participation in security cooperation and political and diplomatic affairs in Central Asia has built a deeper foundation of trust for regional cooperation.

People-to-people exchanges and development assistance between Central Asian countries and China have also enhanced mutual trust. China has strengthened mutual understanding and trust between the two peoples through its assistance projects in the fields of education, culture and medical care in Central Asian countries. At the same time, the Central Asian countries are also grateful for the help provided by China, and have actively carried out people-to-people exchanges with China in various fields, which have deepened the friendship and trust between the two peoples.

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