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Cultural relations between Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region of China and the Republic of Kazakhstan

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Abstract. The article discusses the cultural and humanitarian relationships between the Xinjiang-Uygur Autonomous Region and The Republic of Kazakhstan. Speaking of historical ties with this region, they will mention the intercultural dialogue between Kazakhstan and Xinjiang, which dates back to the 1980s and continues deep-rooted relations between the two countries. Noting that cultural exchange is the basis of friendship in relations between the two countries, it is mentioned that after the establishment of diplomatic relations, cultural contacts were further developed. Cooperation in the field of education, science, literature, and culture has been carried out on the basis of interstate, intergovernmental, and interdepartmental agreements and new forms of bilateral cooperation have emerged. It features a chronology of events, the most important cultural events, and educational programs between the two countries. The effectiveness of cultural contacts in coordinating regional cooperation is reviewed. The study emphasizes that the main issue is to strengthen spiritual and cultural relations between the two countries on the basis of partnership, to find ways to bring the common history and culture to a higher level.

The article analyzes the process of development of various cultural links of Kazakhstan with XUAR today and gives scientific conclusions.

Keywords: Xinjiang of China, Central Asia, cultural exchanges of Kazakhstan with the XUAR, Cultural days of Kazakhstan in XUAR, Educational programs, Cultural cooperation with XUAR

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1.Introduction

Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (XUAR) is located in remote northwestern China. East Turkestan was part of the giant valley of the whole ancient Turkish community. In 1759, the Chinese army conquered East Turkestan, overthrew the last rulers of the Hodja dynasty [Aldabek, 2003: p.125], and named it Xinjiang. The region is a well-known descendant of Uyghur, including Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, and Turkmen, all Turkic nations. Xinjiang has deep roots in the Turkic culture and its fruits are mature. Thus, XUAR, which is a part of Central Asia, is not only geographical and geopolitical but also a single cultural space. Common historical fates, geographical conditions, and common cultural patterns are always seen as a single and exclusive cultural-historical 'region' on the Eurasian continent. Kazakhstan and Xinjiang have a lot in common regarding the composition of nationalities, languages, and customs. Throughout centuries, Central Asian nations have been closely linked to their diverse and rich culture the world history, and Kazakhstan and East Turkestan played the central role in connecting East and West civilization. In the west of Rome and the East, Beijing has crossed the of East Turkestan and Kazakhstan. China's historical evolution determined that various ethnic groups live together, so different cultures have long coexisted in Xinjiang, economically interdependent. This unique natural environment and geographical conditions resulted in the development of refined oasis farming and grassland nomadism, and migrating ethnic groups with different lifestyles and working practices communicated, complemented and integrated with each other, creating a dynamic coexistence [The State Council, 2018: 11].

Since 1759, the Xinjiang region was influenced by the Chinese and Russian Empires, the Soviet Union, and China, and for centuries did not interrupt the close political, economic, and cultural relationship with its ethnic neighbors. It is important that those historical-tradition relations continue today and develop further in the future.

By the beginning of the 20th century, Kazakh-Xinjiang cultural relationships were spontaneous. In the 20th century, with the advent of historical events and political changes in Asia, they were only in the context of Soviet-Chinese relations. However, the connections between the Kazakh SSR and the neighboring XUAR are substantially developed. On November 23, 1990, the Government of the Kazakh SSR and the People's Government of XUAR signed the Agreement on Economic, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation Development. This agreement, which is the first document regulating bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and China, was the first

step in Kazakh-Chinese relations. Almost immediately after the independence of our country, the possibility of interaction was considered.

The relevance of the chosen research topic is to draw attention to the basis of this diplomatic strategy of China in relation to Kazakhstan, to conduct an analytical study of the prospects for the future development of relations between Kazakhstan and China for a quarter of a century, and to conduct a deep study of the foreign policy of the Chinese government. Today, China is interested in cooperation and partnership in any sphere with the countries of Central Asia. In the Western region of China, the escalation of radicalism in Xinjiang is a source of concern for the country. Therefore, to ensure the security of the PRC in the XUAR, peace in Central Asia is key. In particular, XUAR people have a common language, religion, traditions, economy, life, and culture; therefore, not only economic but also cultural and humanitarian interest lies in relations with our country. If we implement a plan for the full development of the Western region and suspension of turmoil, China will, in the shortest time possible, increase its influence in the Asian region and become the largest country in economic terms, in the future can change the American status quo. Therefore, China is significantly strengthening its economic integration in Central Asia. Through cultural and humanitarian ties, China seeks to reduce the influence of the States in the region. Because as the heart of Eurasia, Central Asia has profound historical and cultural accumulation and geograpical advantages, and plays an important geopolitical role.

A crucial role in the foreign policy of Kazakhstan is played by the culture aimed at strengthening positions in the international arena and creating favorable external conditions for the further development of the country. The present paper is a systematic study of the external relations of the PRC through the XUAR since the independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and of its diplomatic positions held in relation to the country. In particular, topical issues of Kazakh-Chinese relations to date are discussed, and the prospective development of bilateral ties is to concretize.

2.Research methodology and methods

The foreign policy of Kazakhstan is studied with the help of a systemic approach. Moreover, taking into account the formation and actual state of the foreign policy of Kazakhstan, it is necessary to highlight the systemic and genetic aspects. It is obvious that the peculiarities of the systemic-genetic aspect require that special characteristics are cosidered.

In our opinion, the systemic-genetic aspect has a number of substantial differences - it complements the systemic method and coincides with it in

terms of general initial parameters. It places greater focus on the historicism of considering the object under study. With regard to the foreign policy of Kazakhstan, this means the need to consider it in the general chain of related historical events, as well as to take into account the prospects for its future development. Historicism as a principle of concreteness in time refers to the analysis of both the past and the future. The modern independent Kazakhstan state has a unique history, including the periods before and after the accession to Russia, the period of being a part of the USSR, and this specificity influenced the current foreign policy course of Kazakhstan. Historicism, emphasized by the systemic-genetic aspect, also implies a synthesis of humanitarian and natural science methods, history and geography.

Further, the systemic-genetic aspect allows singling out the factors that determine various forms of inclusion (transition) of the object under consideration (Kazakhstan's foreign policy) into the systemic state of international relations. Moreover, these forms depend both on the objective prerequisites and on the qualitative specifics of the emerging systemic education. The political image of modern Kazakhstan is still characterized by some uncertainty. Today, the concept of Kazakhstani statehood, including its foreign policy component, is still being comprehended and initially formed. The qualitative specifics of the spiritual and ideological aspirations embedded in it are defined that, ultimately, will serve as the formation stages of the system of relations between Kazakhstan and the CIS countries, neighbors in the region and the leading states of the world, and, generally, will define the place and role of Kazakhstan in the system of international relations.

The concept of culture as an invariant, a 'frame' of public life, allows combining in a single study both the formation of the systemic nature of Kazakhstan's foreign policy and the humanitarian 'burden' of this process. Regarding the selected object of research on the basis of a cultural-historical approach, we get the opportunity to answer the question: In the name of what is the foreign policy of Kazakhstan carried out, and should it be pursued?

The significance of the cultural and historical aspect of the systemic approach directly for the study of Kazakhstan's foreign policy is due to the national and cultural originality of the country and the fact that formation of the public in Kazakhstan and of the foundations of Kazakhstani statehood is going along with the national and cultural self-determination of Kazakhstan in the complex realities of the modern world.

It is important to highlight the basic values and cultural orientations of Kazakhstan, its position in the world and regional historical and cultural process - that is, the semantic core around which geopolitics should be

formed and built in the international arena.

In this research, one should not forget about the close connection between the cultural-historical and systemic-genetic aspects of the general systemic principle of research.

3. Research about the topic

When it comes to studying international politics, the work of the current president of Kazakhstan, K. Tokayev, 'Diplomacy of the Republic of Kazakhstan', is of great interest. However, general issues of international relations and cultural ties of Kazakhstan with foreign countries are examined; mainly political, economic, military-strategic and scientific-technical aspects of such relations are studied, and cultural ties receive less attention [Tokayev, 2002].

K.L. Siroejkin in his monograph dwells upon the Republic of Kazakhstan joining the world community and on the history of formation and features of political, economic, cultural and humanitarian relations of Kazakhstan with Central Asia, as well as with China in 1991-2009 [Siroejkin, 2010]. However, cultural ties once again receive little attention.

Mukhametkhanuly N. states that cooperation between Kazakhstan and PRC is constantly developing, focuses on cultural and humanitarian relations and development issues, and quotes annual agreements and contracts signed by the two countries in the framework of the cultural activities to give evidence of friendship and cooperation history. However, cultural ties of Kazakhstan and the XUAR were not specially considered [Mukhametkhanuly, 2019].

Diplomat Arystanbekova A.Kh. notes that "globalization of cultures is a complex and deep process. This is an intense cultural exchange between human society, associated with the unprecedented development of modern means of communication, as well as with the constant movement of large sections of people around the world (legal and illegal). However, not always an alternative is given. Today, the interaction of cultures is realized through the carriers of various cultural traditions, through direct connections of many people, the interference of one culture into another. Culture is the most important symbol of identity and belonging. Culture is the most sensitive area to globalization. Therefore, despite the fact that globalization contributes to the rapprochement of people, it should not lead to the identification of cultures. On the contrary, globalization should allow people to gain access to culture, ideas and knowledge with a rich creative potential" [Arystanbekova, 2007].

K.Sh. Hafizova symbolizes the peaceful coexistence of China and Central

Asia and represents a kind of space in which people communicated and cultures interacted. The author considers China and Central Asia as two civilizations, and by the latter, she explains mainly the culture of nomadic peoples. It is noteworthy that the entire narrative about the historical and cultural ties of China with Central Asia from ancient times to the present day, well known due to the translations and research of Russian and European sinologists is revised and interpreted from the point of view of the concept of "civilizational dialogue" by Hafizova, moreover, it is confirmed more by conclusions than by historical facts [Hafizova, 2015].

Western and Kazakh scholars do not particularly consider Kazakhstan's foreign cultural ties with the XUAR since the Soviet era, often focusing exclusively on the geo-economic and geopolitical context of Kazakhstan. That is, the main one considers China's relations with Central Asian countries.

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4. Research results

4.1. Steps in the formation of cultural relationships in the region

For thirty years, bilateral cultural and humanitarian exchanges have been steadily developing, and there have been many bright and memorable moments. Both sides jointly celebrated the opening of the cultural days of the week, month, and other cultural events. Cultural events have become a great platform for demonstrating fraternal friendship between Xinjiang of China and Kazakhstan. Over the past year, the two sides solemnly celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Kazakhstan. Students' exchanges, drawing contests, cultural exhibitions, song contests, presentations of new books, scientific seminars, media exchanges, tourism presentations, film screenings, and other events were held in different cities of both countries.

Kazakhstan's close relationships with the XUAR in the field of music art began in the late 80s. In accordance with the Protocol of Intentional Cultural Relations between the Xinjiang Government and the State Committee for Culture of the Kazakh SSR in 1989, Kazakhstani art and culture workers began to show their skills in Xinjiang. Famous musicians, singers, composers, as well as individual members of the Soviet delegation, started touring the area, including the variety ensemble 'Arai', People's Artist of the

Kazakh SSR. People's Artists of the USSR Rymbaeva and Dynyshev took part in the Days of Culture of the USSR in China and received the gratitude of the Ministry of Culture. In May-June 1991, a group of 50 Kazakh circus artists [F-75H, I-1, Case-121] gave numerous performances, and on December 24, 1991, during the meeting between the cultural organizations of the two countries, the issues of cultural exchange were discussed.

Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on January 3, 1992. In February of the same year, the official visit of the Ministry of Culture of the RK, E. Rakmadiev, was an important step towards strengthening further contacts with the PRC [F-25, I-1, Case-26]. Since then, several agreements were signed in the field of education and science, culture, and literature exchanges.

On August 10, 1992, the Agreement on cultural cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the PRC was signed and entered into force without delay. Minister of Culture, Information, and Public Accord Mukhtar Kul-Mukhammed signed an agreement with China's Minister of Culture Sun Jiashchenia in 2001 in Beijing to participate in the Days of Kazakhstan's Culture in China. These adopted agreements promote cultural mutual cooperation between States.

In October 1993, the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev had an official visit to Beijing and signed a Joint Declaration on the Basis of Kazakh-Chinese Friendship, which defines the principles of relations between the two states with Jiang Jiepin [Tokayev, 2002]. In November 1993, the Treaty of Friendship was signed between the capital of Kazakhstan, Almaty, and the capital of XUAR, Urumqi. In accordance with the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between Kazakhstan and China, activities were undertaken to increase mutual understanding and friendship among the people. In recent years, China significantly increased humanitarian access to Central Asian countries, trying to use this region to promote international cultural exchanges. Xinjiang participates in international cultural exchanges and cooperation in various forms. Xinjiang International Ethnic Dance Festival, Chinese and Foreign Culture Week of China-Eurasia Expo, and Publishing Expo are branded cultural exchange projects of considerable international influence. Since 2009, Xinjiang held seven China International Youth Arts festivals, inviting more than 2,330 young people representing 119 art troupes from Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan of Central Asia and Russia and Azerbaijan. From 2012 to 2017, Xinjiang held several seminars for directors of media from countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt, inviting directors of more than 100

media from 25 countries to Xinjiang for study, communication and visits [https://www.voltairenet.org/article204354.html]. Central Asia has as a key region for the implementation of the Silk Road Economic Belt the comparative advantages of geopolitics, geo-economics, international security, energy security, and cultural integrations. Therefore, the Chinese side is interested in reviving bilateral ties with Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan.

After the country gained its independence, Kazakhstani scientists focused on studying the history of relations with Xinjiang, since the deep-rooted ties with this region will further contribute to the development of regional cooperation. The country's relations with the XUAR of the PRC were considered by several scholars and politicians in their works: Nurzhamal Aldabek (2003), Konstantin Syroyezhkin (2010), Kuanysh Sultanov (2013), Madina Omarova (2011), Klara Khafizova (2015), Nabijan Mukhametkhanuly (2013), and others.

Today, the Xinjiang region plays a very important role in strengthening bilateral relations, especially in the cultural and humanitarian spheres considered in the present study. Xinjiang is a two-way bridge that is crucial in the Kazakh-Chinese relations. Our comprehensive partnership with the neighboring region is the second after Russia. Cooperation between Kazakhstan and China in the field of education and science, literature, and culture is realized on the basis of interstate, intergovernmental, and interdepartmental agreements.

Strategic documents for the regulation of relations between Kazakhstan and China were developed. The country holds a lot of cultural events; at the same time, the relations between the frontier territories of the two states are of great importance - East Kazakhstan and the XUAR. For example, the Agreement on Trade, Economic, and Cultural Cooperation was signed [http://www.akimvko.gov.kz]. Within the framework of this Agreement, on February 26, 2019, the exhibition 'Wonderful East Kazakhstan - Artistic Xinjiang' was organized. From a geocultural perspective, people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation between China and Kazakhstan continue to deepen. Since ancient times, China has had the custom of conducting political, economic and cultural exchanges with Central Asian countries.

An important form of cultural cooperation is the celebration of cultural days; these activities are vital for strengthening mutual trust and confidence between the two peoples, providing a valuable opportunity to learn more about each other's economic and cultural development. In the XXI century,

under the long-term plans of 'intensive development of the West Zone', Xinjiang development policy was also implemented in terms of social, economic, political, and cultural aspects; the corresponding information is provided on the website of the State Council of China. By 2001, there were altogether 89 theatrical troupes, 107 art research and creation units and an abundance of art schools. The Uygur, Kazak, Hui, Kirgiz, Mongolian, Tajik and Xibe ethnic minorities now all have their own professional theatrical troupes and have produced a galaxy of outstanding artists. Before the founding of New China, Xinjiang had no public library or museum; today, it has 81 public libraries and 23 museums, as well as 41 radio stations and 826 television stations, giving 91.3% of Xinjiang's population access to radio and 90.93% to television [http://www.gov.cn/english/].

In May 1992, the Days of Culture and Art of Kazakhstan were held in XUAR [F-25, I-1, Case-1223], widely reported by the Xinjiang press. Moreover, articles were published daily in *Shugyla Journaly, Xinjiang Newspaper*, and *Ile Newspaper*, and broadcast on Xinjiang People's Radio. This grandiose event helped strengthen the friendship between the two nations.

In 1994, within the Days of Kazakhstani-Chinese Culture, the Culture Week of XUAR of China was held in Kazakhstan. During the development of mutual cultural and humanitarian cooperation, book fairs, and concerts of musical and other artistic groups from Xinjiang were organized [Omarova, 2011]. The representatives of the creative intelligentsia from Xinjiang met with representatives of culture and art in Almaty, and a photo exhibition, a concert of Xinjiang song and dance, a Xinjiang film festival of, and other events were held.

In 2001 at the International Arts Festival in Almaty, Rena Abdukarim fascinated the organizers with the dance of Toastak [Jan Gang, 2011]. Cultural days, months, and weeks became a tradition, and since the country's independence, numerous bilateral cultural events were held. For instance, the culture days of the city of Almaty took place in Urumqi from August 21 to 25, 2006, and in Almaty from August 18 to 23, 2004 [Sagymbekova, 2006].

The Central People's Song and Dance Ensemble, which is home to the Chinese People's Week, is famous for the spectacular performance of Kazakh and Uighur artists [Saliev, 2011].

An exhibition of national traditional clothing 'Thousand colors of Xinjiang', exhibition 'The amazing Xinjiang, and an exhibition of national musical instruments 'The Silk Road' were organized.

Xinjiang Days of Culture were held in Astana and Almaty from 18 to 24

December 2011. The purpose of the Cultural Week is to provide the Kazakh people with an opportunity to get acquainted with the development of Xinjiang and the life of Xinjiang nationalities, as well as to strengthen cultural ties and promote joint development.

Representatives of Xinjiang were accompanied by Askhat Kerimbai, Chairman of the CPC CUHK Peoples Republic of China. The trainee of the Kazyken ensemble in 2016, Kaysar Dalai, won the Grand Prix at the International Festival 'Shabyt' [Nurgaliuly, 2017]. The Kazakhstani dancers G.Usina, M.Baspaeva, A.Beketaeva, R.Seitpekov, and others also demonstrated their skills at China Xinjiang International Folk Dance Festival in 2017 [www.astanaopera.kz]. In addition to dance festivals, forums, exhibitions, and symposiums were also held.

On December 4, 2018, the photo exhibition Wonderful China - sightseeing in Xinjiang' was organized by the National Museum of the PRC and the Capital.

Cultural relations between the PRC and Kazakhstan in the field of theatre, cinema, and television are also active. Within the framework of the competition programs of the International Film Festival 'Eurasia 2007' in Almaty, the week of Chinese cinema [edu.e-history.kz/en/publications/view/657] was held. Kazakhfilm studio won prizes at the largest international film festival in China since 1993. Since the second decade of 2000, the film industry expanded into a variety of forms. The Kazakhstan Cinema Week was held at the 2013 China International Film Festival, and the Days of Kazakh Cinema were held in Xinjiang cinemas.

The first steps in joint film production were made. In August 2016, China and Kazakhstan's four TV channels set up international cultural cooperation within the framework of the One Zone, One Way project.

The agreement on cooperation in the field of cinematography, translation, and television engineering was signed [http://kazakh.people.com.cn]. Based on this, Chinese-Kazakh cinematographers met in 2017 at Kazakhfilm film studio in XUAR of China. And since then, cooperation between the countries continues to deepen and develop.

In 2009, within the framework of the Days of Cinema, Tian Shan studio filmed the following features: Gulbike, The Money's Fortune, and True Love, and later produced and distributed thousands of films to the Kazakh film-filmmaking department; most of these films are featured in Chinese and other foreign languages. These actions laid the groundwork for the cinema industry ties between the two countries.

Actors Murat Mamet, Tabis Zhakiyan, Daniyar Tolkynovich, Kunduzai

Tashsar, Sherzat Yakub, Abdukarim Abliz, and Dilshat Barat were thanked by the Ministry of Culture of Kazakhstan for their participation. The New Silk Road project was developed with the support of the two countries' leaders, focusing on trade and economic relations and the development of cultural ties. Within the project, the feature film Composer was co-authored by the two countries [www.kazakhfilmstudios.kz]. The political, economic as well as cultural exchanges, cooperation and positive interactions between the two sides have laid a solid foundation.

In general, cultural and humanitarian cooperation in the XUAR of China and Kazakhstan is rising to a high level and is actively developing in almost all directions and the peoples of the XUAR and Kazakhstan are increasingly willing to know and understand each other, as result of which a solid social foundation has been laid for the development of Xinjiang-Kazakh relations of good neighborliness, friendship, and cooperation. The Chinese people highly appreciate the friendship between the XUAR and Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan and XUAR will accelerate mutual cultural cooperation, which will promote further intensive ties between the two sides, create a more convenient and efficient platform for personal and cultural exchange between the two states, and strengthen a stronger public opinion base to promote the development of Sino-Kazakhstani eternal all-round strategic partnership and friendship.

4.2. Contacts in the field of education and science

Over 30 years of establishing diplomatic relations between China and Kazakhstan, great success has been achieved in the field of scientific and technical relations and education. A solid contractual framework has been prepared and signed, and cooperation programs have been developed in the field of education and science, as well as in its individual areas.

The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan have drawn up an agreement on 49 economic, scientific and technical projects. Back in July 1989, a program of scientific and technical agreement for 1989-1993 was drawn up with Kazakhstan, including 78 articles on the creation of joint projects [Syroyezhkin, 1997].

From June 10 to 17, 1996, M.Zhurnov, the Minister of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, started his visit to China. Under the 'Agreement on educational cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Science of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan', young people from both countries (including the representatives of the Uighur nationality) have the opportunity to participate in the students' exchange programs. It is worth noting that agreements and

memoranda were signed with several universities in the Xinjiang region in the field of education and science.

On the basis of the above-mentioned interdepartmental agreement, the Chinese side has to expand the design and technological developments in industrial enterprises, to provide a developed system of scientific institutions (to establish direct scientific and technical links between research institutes, higher education institutions, scientific research associations, and companies) [Mukhametkhanuly, 2013], to provide training of specialists from the national minorities of neighboring developing countries, and training programs in the field of deeper educational connections (for instance, communication and cooperation in higher education institutions of the two countries in such areas as language teaching). On July 8, 2011, the Central Asian and Russian Forum for Chinese Language Education was opened at Xinjiang University and was attended by representatives from Kazakhstan [www.xjdaily.com].

Our contacts with XUAR are also set in the field of literature. Kazakh literary works were translated into Chinese, and vice versa. Kazakh printed materials were published in XUAR, including in Chinese and Uygur. This is a manifestation of the systematic study and presentation of Kazakh literature and history in Chinese. Literature is an important area of cultural cooperation and the main means of improving the spiritual well-being of people and restoring international relations.

'The Short History of Kazakh Literature' by Alyali Kaliuly and 'The Short History of Kazakhs' by Nymet Mynzhanuly also received the State Prize from China. Xinjiang People's publishing house released 'History of Kazakh Culture' and 'Kazakh People and Its Customs'. From the Xinjiang-born Kazakh brothers, the Abai Way and the Abai Study Collection in Chinese were published in the National Publishing House of Mingzu University, where Kazakh specialists in publishing and radio and television broadcasting edits work [Sultanov, 2013].

In Urumqi, the provincial edition of "Xinjiang minzu chubanshe" in 2006 published a book by Seit Kenzheakhmetuly (1939-2011) about the oratory of the Kazakhs. All his life he successfully studied the customs and rituals of the Kazakhs. In China, scientists have made interesting plans to compare the customs and mentality of the peoples of Central Asia and Xinjiang (Uighurs, for example). This is not just a study of the ethnogenesis of peoples, a description of customs, cuisine, folk art, folk sports games, etc. It is especially important for multinational States with cross-border populations, where the territory of national minorities makes up more than 60% of the

entire country. Ethnological topics are always interesting, it is a branch of science that is directly related to the formation of national policy [http://www.gov.cn/].

In 2006, Mamyt Toymaliyev, the permanent member of the Societies of Cultural Relations with the Foreign Ministry of the RoK, initiated a delegation to Almaty, and in cooperation with the Public Association 'Rukh-Miras' at the National Library of Kazakhstan, jointly presented the *Neighborhood* magazine, logbook for Kazakh-Chinese journalism and orientalists today, which presents the culture, education, science, literature, and art of the two countries. Also, the journal published in Russian "Kontimost" in Kazakhstan, [Mukanova, Nurzhanova, 2017]. which describes the cultural heritage, customs, and traditions of Chinese people.

Notably, an important point of the Chinese doctrine is to disseminate cultural values through Confucius Institutes:

- Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, has a Chinese partner university Lanzhou University;
- L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana, has a Chinese partner university Xi'an University of Foreign Languages;
- the Karaganda State Technical University of Karaganda has a Chinese partner university Shiheuz University;
- Aktobe State University, Aktobe, has a Chinese partner university Xinjiang University of Economics and Finance;
- Kazakh University of International Relations and World Languages named after Ablai Khan, Almaty, has a Chinese partner university Southwest University, Chongqing [Kaukenov, 2008].

The activities of Confucius Institutes are focused on the following basic areas: organization of Chinese language courses and acquaintance with Chinese culture for everyone; holding scientific conferences and seminars dedicated to China; organization of student and teaching internships in China.

Cooperation is also carried out in the training of scientific personnel. In 2020, the Kazakh Agrotechnical University named after S. Seifullin became the first holder of the diploma of Doctor of Sciences issued by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The doctoral studies were conducted on the basis of an agreement between S. Seifullin KazATU and the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Urumqi [https://kazatu.edu.kz].

Nevertheless, there are some difficulties in our cultural and humanitarian relationships with XUAR. Cultural and humanitarian exchanges between the two countries are uneven, the leading place belonging to the PRC. The

Chinese side is actively involved in teaching the Chinese language and culture, yet Chinese people have an unclear outlook on the Kazakh language and culture.

In his interview with a Russian TV channel, President Tokaev underlined the need for intercultural relationships, especially with neighboring countries. However, such contacts should be based on equality. K. Khafizova says:

"Cultural and humanitarian co-operation is an understanding of the freedoms of interrelationship, mutual respect, mutual understanding of the existence, the national values of other peoples, the freedom to choose the history and future of each nation" [Khafizova, 2009].

Notably, the scientific ties between Kazakhstan and Xinjiang are strong. In accordance with the plans of the State Program 'Cultural Heritage' in 2004-2006, the National Library and the State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan organized research work in libraries and archives of the PRC. Within the framework of this event, they visited Kobyk, Shauzhek, Kuldzha, Turfan, Kumyl, and Urumqi [F-54, I-1, Case-462] to find and obtain rare foundations and manuscripts of the historical heritage of the Kazakh people. An exchange of exhibits of decorative and applied art and of the experience of monuments restoration experts took place. As a result, research institutes and scientists in the two countries selected documents and published five-volume books.

Science serves state and national interests. If it is not immediately realized by every scientist who undertakes a topic of interest to him, sooner or later he will definitely encounter this. If earlier scientists experienced the pressure of ideology, then the pressure of the market economy, then recently we are faced with the manifestation of hypertrophied national feelings. The staff of academic Institutes acquaints scientific and public circles with the history and specifics of the culture of their own and neighboring peoples. They study Islam, and other common religions, as well as the history of relations between the peoples of the republics and China, and national relations within the republics. Trips of scientists to each other, their works and speeches help mutual understanding of people, tolerant and friendly attitude towards other cultures, promote individual creativity and strengthen scientific cooperation [Khafizova, 2014].

About 2 million people (Kazakh diaspora) living in Xinjiang contribute to strengthening Kazakh-Chinese relations. There is no doubt that the Kazakh diaspora living in this region is the only golden bridge of friendship and mutual understanding that contributes to the further development of Kazakh-Chinese friendly and neighborly relations. This is because, first of all, the

Kazakhs in China are interested in science education, literature, culture, business-trade, etc. high potential in the field. Also, the Kazakhs, who are in full contact with the Han nation, can greatly benefit from political and economic gains. Moreover being a neighbor of the great power of the world Kazakhstan is not a risk, but a opportunities. So, the Kazakh diaspora living in China can be a linking chain between the two states.

Today, facing the serious problem of terrorism, extremism, and separatism, China has taken a number of strict measures against terrorism and radicalism in Xinjiang. It is known that in international politics, any state puts its national interest first, not the global one. Thus, Kazakhstan and China might ally in the field of preventing global challenges.

In 2005, within the Kazakh-Chinese cultural and humanitarian cooperation, the people of XUAR could enjoy two Kazakh TV channels, radio programs, and more than 20 newspapers and magazines. Interaction with Kazakh and Chinese creative groups on mass media and exchange of creative work was established. Xinjiang Ili Pedagogical Institute takes up positions in the Kazakh language and literature, and opportunities for studying the Kazakh language are a good indicator. However, the Kazakh language is not so well known and popular due to the lack of demand in the labor market. It is also worth mentioning that the Kazakhs are the main contributors to the revival of science and education in the two countries. In general, China and Kazakhstan attach great importance to educational cooperation, enough documents have been signed and effective cooperation mechanisms have been created, we can state that great successes have been achieved in cooperation in the field of education between the two countries. However, there are also problems in this area. According to the Kazakh-Chinese cooperation program for 2003-2008, the number of students and trainees in the public exchange network is increasing [F-54, I-1, Case-359]. Today, it can be observed that the number of Kazakh youth who are interested in studying in China is growing day by day. Based on the data of 2019, more than 18 thousand Kazakhstani students are studying in China. Kazakh youth studying in China are interested in international relations, world trade, business, etc. studies in social professions and technical professions such as oil exploration and production, mechanical engineering, and construction. This means that the youth of Kazakhstan can participate in China's major projects in Kazakhstan and contribute to the development of domestic industry and science. Problems in this area are brain drain. It is a dangerous trend for modern Kazakh society, where the number of people going abroad is increasing year by year [https://chinastudies.kz].

XUAR is linked to Kazakhstan and Central Asia not only by historical, cultural, and linguistic roots, but also by close economic ties. It is shortsighted not to take into account the potential impact of XUAR on material production intensification processes in Kazakhstan. The two countries have great prospects for bilateral cooperation in the fields of politics, energy, infrastructure, cultural and humanitarian spheres, as well as SCO, UNO, and others, and there are good prospects for multilateral cooperation as well [Syroyezhkin, 2007]. The region of Xinjiang is geopolitically and geostrategically important for Kazakhstan. This opinion was expressed by Paul H., the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute of Johns Hopkins University. Scientists at the Nitze Center for International Studies, E. Graham, S. Fuller, and F. Starr in their work 'The Xinjiang problem' draw the following conclusions: «We have already noted that pan-Turkist currents of various sorts have a long history in the region, going back over a century. These should not necessarily be seen as reactionary in character, and they could in fact be a positive force if they lead to greater regional cooperation in such issues as trade, border security, social and economic development, water, ecology, education and communications» [Graham, 2003]. It is undeniable that the Uyghur, Kazakh, Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, and other nations of Turkic origin have a huge impact on strengthening cultural integration in the region. Especially, the Uighurs in Kazakhstan are a good example of the combination of different influences on the formation of ethnic identity. All the Uyghur groups adopted the Soviet concept of creating a unified nation; however, by emphasizing national characteristics, we can observe quite large differences between Uyghur groups: some derive their ethnicity from a geographical and historical point of view and feel primarily associated with Kazakhstan. From the point of view of culture, they consider themselves much more local Kazakhs. [Kokaisl, 2020]. Uighurs in Kazakhstan and Kazakhs in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region have preserved their cultural characteristics to this day. At the same time, bilateral cultural ties between the two ethnic groups have not lost their significance.

Everyone knows that China, at the end of the twentieth century, was concerned about the countries of Central Asia that gained independence. As emphasized by Brzeziński Z., "China is concerned that its Turkic minorities in Xinjiang province may see an attractive example in the new Central Asian states, and, based on these considerations, China seeks guarantees from Kazakhstan that the activity of foreign minorities will be suppressed" [Brzeziński, 1997]. Among the Turkic-speaking peoples today, only the Uighurs do not have their state association. Hence it is clear why they are so

eager for self-determination and the creation of an independent state. Kazakhstan has obligations to China not to support separatism in the XUAR. However, the Kazakh side has repeatedly proved its readiness to provide cultural and spiritual support to the fraternal Uighur, Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, as well as Kazakh people in Xinjiang.

Scientist Aybolat Dalelhan studies the topical issues of Kazakh-Chinese relations and gives a clear assessment of the current situation. Many of our compatriots moving from China work in educational and scientific institutions of the country, not only contributing to Kazakh Sinology but also to the study of Chinese by Kazakh young people. The knowledge gained in China invests in the education of the country, which is a great success on both sides. In addition, compatriots from China who know the language, country, locality, mentality, and life of the Chinese and are ready-made specialists make a significant contribution to the development of political, economic, cultural, and humanitarian ties between the two countries [Dalelkhan, 2018].

The future of scientific cooperation can be expanded by a joint study of the historical and cultural situation of different epochs. The most promising for historians, philologists, and art historians are studies in the field of cultural and humanitarian direction. We should strive to ensure that individual and collective studies of Sinologists from different countries have the properties of synergy to enhance the effect of interaction.

In general, notable successes have been achieved in scientific and technical cooperation in the field of agriculture and geographical and geological sciences. The humanities, especially political science, as well as the study of sources and international relations in the past and today have tried to keep up with them. As the directions of scientific and technical cooperation were expanded and clarified, it was improved. Currently, cooperation meets the interests of the two sides and has opportunities to expand for mutual benefit.

Achievements in the field of cultural and humanitarian cooperation between the two states, first of all, it is necessary to note the correspondence of the activities to the above tasks.

Thus, cultural cooperation is actively carried out in festivals and competitions. New events are constantly organized. International exchanges are actively promoted, and scholarships are awarded for studying in China for citizens of Central Asia and, respectively, Kazakhstan.

In terms of the formation of new platforms for cooperation, it is important to note the strengthening of the cooperation of certain cultural institutions during the last 10 year. Thus, the International Alliance of Fine Arts Museums of the Silk Road, International, has been created today Union Library "Silk Way", Archaeological Union of the Silk Road. A bright event was the Sunday film The "Belt and Road" at the Shanghai Film Festival, where more than 1,300 films were presented in this section.

Thus, cultural and humanitarian cooperation is an important and integral part of the promotion of The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI, or B&R) initiative. The Chinese side pays special attention to this area and makes serious efforts to implement the developed plans, and also strives to give greater depth to the cultural and humanitarian sphere, bringing international interaction into the civilizational discourse [Kaukenova, 2018]. Accordingly, it must be shown Kazakhstan's initiative in the promotion of such programs as "Nurly Zhol" in the spheres of cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

The development of cultural relations is expanding and deepening in the practice of joint creation of values in the field of ideology, culture, science, education, literature, art and formation of common Turkic thinking through the propaganda of common historical heritage to all Turkic peoples.

5.Conclusion

Today, SUAR is a dynamically developing area, the economy of which is experiencing a rapid rise. It occupies a unique place in China's relations with the countries of Central Asia. Without taking into account the SUAR factor, it is impossible to construct an integral system for the development of the Central Asian region. It is with the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region that many economic, political, cultural, and other issues are connected among the countries of Central Asia, and above all Kazakhstan.

It is well-known that in the scope of one article, it is impossible to cover the contacts with the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Kazakhstan. It is possible to publish a separate article on cultural and humanitarian issues of the country in each area. Clearly, one of the most important monographs is a great theme.

Both China and Kazakhstan face the historical task of maintaining national security and stability, realizing national development and revival. Cultural relations between the two states are seen as an opportunity for the two states to work to promote common values, adhere to mutual benefit and win-win results, cooperate to solve problems, promote community building with a common destiny for mankind, and jointly write a new chapter in China-Kazakhstan friendly relations. In these respects, XUAR plays a crucial role.

In this article we would like to emphasize that the main issue is to strengthen spiritual and cultural relations between the two countries on the basis of partnership, to find ways to bring the common history and culture of the two countries to a higher level.

In keeping with and respecting the rules and policies of the PRC, the intensification of close interactions of the representatives of the Kazakh-Chinese intelligentsia should be put on the agenda. In order to further develop our cultural and spiritual relations with Xinjiang we need to develop special programs and plans and implement many activities. It will be based on strengthening the historical roots of Kazakh-Sincan relations, which will benefit from the common language, religion, history, and cultural values. Today, there is no barrier to the further intensification of relations between the two countries, and we are confident that our cultural and spiritual relations will deepen in the future.

China and Kazakhstan are close neighbors and reliable partners, always providing mutual support in all matters concerning each other's fundamental interests.

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Cinin Sincan-Uyğur Muxtar Rayonu ilə Qazaxıstan Respublikası arasındakı mədəni əlaqələr

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Abstrakt. Məqalədə Çinin Sincan-Uyğur Muxtar Rayonu ilə Qazaxıstan Respublikası arasındakı mədəni və humanitar əlaqələrdən bəhs edilir. Bu əlaqələri nəzərdən kecirərkən 1980-ci illərdən baslavan və iki ölkə arasında köklü əlaqələri davam etdirən mədəniyyətlərarası dialoqdan yan keçmək doğru olmaz. İki ölkə arasında münasibətlərdə dostluğun əsasını mədəni mübadilə təskil etmis və diplomatik münasibətlər qurulduqdan sonra belə mədəni əlaqələr daha da inkişaf etmişdir. Təhsil, elm, ədəbiyyat, mədəniyyət sahəsində əməkdaşlıq dövlətlərarası, hökumətlərarası, idarələrarası sazişlər əsasında həyata keçirilmiş və ikitərəfli əməkdaşlığın yeni formaları yaranmışdır. Məqalədə hadisələrin xronologiyası, ən mühüm mədəniyyət məlumatları və təhsil programları təqdim edilib. Bununla yanası araşdırmada regional əməkdaşlığın əlaqələndirilməsində mədəni əlaqələrin mühümlüyü xüsusi vurğulanıb.

Tədqiqat işində əsas məsələ olaraq iki ölkə arasında tərəfdaşlıqda mənəvimədəni əlaqələrin möhkəmləndirilməsi, ortaq tarixi dəyərlərin daha yüksək səviyyəyə çatdırılması yollarına diqqət yetirilməsinin vacibliyi qeyd edilib. Hazırda Qazaxıstanın SUMR ilə müxtəlif mədəni əlaqələrinin inkişaf prosesi təhlil edilir və yeni elmi nəticələr təqdim edilir.

Açar sözlər: Çinin Sincan rayonu, Orta Asiya, Qazaxıstanın SUMR ilə mədəni mübadilələri, SUMR-da Qazaxıstanın mədəniyyət günləri, təhsil programları, SUMR ilə mədəni əməkdaşlıq

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Культурные связи между Синьцзян-Уйгурским автономным районом Китая и республикой Казахстан

Кайыркен Адиет*

Абстракт. Статья посвящена культурным и гуманитарным связям между Синьцзян-Уйгурским автономным районом Китая и республикой Казахстан. При рассмотрении этих связей следует упомянуть о межкультурном диалоге между двумя странами, начавшемся с 1980-х годов и продолжавшемся на следующих этапах. В отношениях между этими странами основой дружбы являлся культурный обмен, после дипломатического сотрудничества такие связи развились. Сотрудничество в области образования, науки, литературы и осуществлялось межгосударственных, культуры на основе межправительственных, межведомственных соглашений и появились новые формы двустороннего сотрудничества. В статье предоставлена хронология событий, важнейшие культурные события и образовательные программы. При этом в исследовании особо подчеркивается важность культурных связей в координации регионального сотрудничества.

В качестве основного вопроса в исследовательской работе отмечена важность укрепления духовно-культурных связей в партнерстве между двумя странами, а также привлечения внимания к сохранению и повышению общих исторических ценностей. В настоящее время анализируется процесс развития различных культурных связей Казахстана с СУАР и выявлены новые научные результаты.

Ключевые слова: Синьцзян-Уйгурским автономный район Китая, Средняя Азия, культурные связи Казахстана с СУАР, дни культуры Казахстана в СУАР, образовательные программы, культурное сотрудничество с СУАР

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