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CONTEMPORARY PATTERNS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN CHINA AND CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES

Abstract

The study examines the contemporary patterns of economic cooperation between China and the countries of Central Asia under conditions of globalization and geopolitical transformation. Particular attention is paid to the impact of the Belt and Road Initiative on regional trade, infrastructure connectivity, energy cooperation, and transport integration. Methodologically, the research is based on comparative, systemic, and historical-logical approaches. The study analyzes macroeconomic trends, infrastructure projects, trade dynamics, and the influence of external geopolitical factors on regional economic interaction. The findings demonstrate that China – Central Asia cooperation has intensified in recent years due to the expansion of transport corridors, investment projects, and trade relations. Infrastructure connectivity and energy cooperation are identified as the principal drivers of regional economic integration. At the same time, the analysis indicates that the effects of cooperation are uneven across the region and depend on national economic policies, logistics capacity, and external market conditions. The study concludes that China – Central Asia economic interaction represents an important element of contemporary Eurasian economic development and contributes to the diversification of regional trade and infrastructure networks.

Keywords: economic cooperation, regional integration, projects, infrastructure connectivity, trade, investment, development.

Introduction

Central Asian countries have always looked at China as an attractive ally for creating multifaceted relationships in a variety of areas, from international trade and manufacturing to agriculture and distribution channels. China has a long-lasting interest in the Central Asian area due to its needs for energy – specifically oil and natural gas extraction, refining, and transportation. This interest is directly tied to the large-scale Belt and Road Initiative.

Trade relations between China and Central Asian countries have intensified over the past two decades due to expanding economic interdependence, infrastructure cooperation, and growing regional connectivity. These ties are now especially developing given the developments in today's interconnected world.

The study argues that the evolving economic relations between China and Central Asia are influenced by changes in international trade, technological development, digitalization, and shifts in regional economic cooperation.

The study argues that changes in the international economic environment contribute to the strengthening of economic interdependence between China and Central Asian countries.

China is still continues to expand economic relationships with Central Asian countries, which is consistent with the commitments reached at the first China-Central Asia summit in Xi'an, in May 2023. China views cooperation with Central Asia as an important component of its long-term regional economic strategy.

China's increasing economic role in Eurasia is reflected in the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to strengthen transport connectivity and economic cooperation across Eurasia.

The study examines China – Central Asia economic cooperation through the perspective of systemic regional interaction, emphasizing the interdependence between infrastructure development, trade expansion, and geopolitical processes. The analysis of the history of the formation of the structure of economic cooperation between China and the Central Asian countries runs through the entire work, and the explanation of why and how effective and necessary is the further development of regional cooperation, which has both historical roots and logical sequence.

The comprehensive analysis presented in this study allowed the authors to identify the main contemporary patterns and mechanisms of economic interaction between China and Central Asian countries.

To ensure analytical consistency, the study addresses the following research questions:

1. What macroeconomic trends define China's current economic interaction with Central Asian countries?
2. Which sectors and infrastructure projects serve as the main drivers of China–Central Asia cooperation?
3. How do global geopolitical transformations influence regional economic integration processes?
4. What opportunities and risks does China's growing economic presence create for Central Asian economies?

These research questions structure the analysis and allow the authors to evaluate both the economic outcomes and strategic implications of contemporary China–Central Asia cooperation.

Materials and methods

Research on China – Central Asia economic cooperation covers a broad range of issues, including regional integration, infrastructure connectivity, trade dynamics, energy cooperation, and the geopolitical implications of the Belt and Road Initiative. Existing studies examine both the macroeconomic transformation of China and the evolving role of Central Asia in Eurasian economic processes.

Among the studies devoted to China – Central Asia cooperation, particular attention should be given to the works of E. Kadyrova, M. Ruta, M. Herrera Dappe, S. Lall, Zhang Chunlin, A. Muratbekova, and A. Khitakhunov, who analyze transport connectivity, regional trade, infrastructure development, and the economic consequences of China's regional strategy [1–4].

A. Muratbekova emphasizes that Central Asia occupies an increasingly important place in China's regional strategy. According to the author, cooperation between China and Central Asian countries includes the development of transport infrastructure, customs modernization, logistics corridors, and agricultural trade facilitation mechanisms. These initiatives contribute to the expansion of cross-border trade and investment flows [3].

Along with this, China is supporting its global governance efforts through new global initiatives such as the Global Civilization Initiative, Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative, which aim to build strong communities with a shared future for humanity [3].

A. Khitakhunov notes that economic cooperation between China and Central Asian countries has intensified amid changes in international trade and regional connectivity. The author highlights China's growing role as a trade and investment partner in the region, particularly in the sectors of energy, transport infrastructure, and agriculture [4].

The issues of China's economy and economic policy, its multidimensional transformations over a certain period have been reflected in the works of individual authors – Kulagin V., Terentyev A., as well as in international studies and reports [5–7].

Recent changes in the global economic environment have influenced the development of China – Central Asia relations.

Recent academic studies also emphasize the growing strategic importance of Central Asia in China's regional policy and Belt and Road Initiative implementation. Researchers note that infrastructure connectivity, energy interdependence, and transport corridor diversification increasingly shape the regional economic architecture [15–18].

From a theoretical perspective, the study relies on the concepts of regional economic integration, interdependence theory, and infrastructure-led development. These approaches make it possible to explain how transport connectivity, energy cooperation, and trade facilitation mechanisms contribute to the formation of stable interregional economic linkages between China and Central Asian countries.

Methodologically, the study applies comparative, systemic, and historical-logical approaches. Comparative analysis is used to evaluate differences in trade dynamics and infrastructure development among Central Asian countries. The systems approach allows the authors to examine the interdependence between geopolitical processes, economic policy, and regional integration mechanisms. Historical-logical analysis is applied to identify the evolution of China – Central Asia economic cooperation within the broader context of Eurasian economic development.

A significant part of the existing literature focuses on the impact of changes in international trade and geopolitical conditions on China's economic policy and external economic relations. Researchers emphasize that fluctuations in global markets, trade restrictions, and changes in logistics corridors directly affect China's regional cooperation strategies, including its interaction with Central Asian countries.

V. Kulagin argues that despite maintaining a positive trade balance, China's economy faces risks associated with trade restrictions imposed by the United States and the European Union. These measures may influence export dynamics, industrial production, and regional supply chains [5].

An illustrative example is provided in the work of A. Arutyunov, who argues that periodic global shocks do not necessarily lead to long-term regional instability [8].

To illustrate the practical dimension of China – Central Asia economic cooperation, the study examines several key infrastructure projects that influence regional trade, logistics, and energy connectivity.

Table 1 – Key Infrastructure Projects under China – Central Asia Cooperation

Project	Country	Type	Description	Investment / Impact
Khorgos International Center for Cross-Border Cooperation	Kazakhstan	Transport / Logistics	Dry port hub facilitating container shipments; integrates rail and road corridors	160% increase in container shipments (2023)
China–Central Asia Gas Pipeline	Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Energy	Gas pipeline supplying Central Asia to China; strategic energy project	Over 423 billion cubic meters delivered since 2009
China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan (CKU) Railway	Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan	Transport / Logistics	Railway project reducing shipping times; alternative route to Russia	Expected reduction of transit time by over 1 week
Cross-Border “Green Corridors” for Agriculture	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan	Trade Facilitation	Fast-track customs and border procedures for agricultural exports	Facilitates faster trade flows, increases export efficiency
Belt and Road Regional Logistics Networks	Central Asia (all countries)	Transport / Infrastructure	Integrated logistics corridors supporting regional trade	Enables multimodal transport and export diversification
Note: Compiled by the authors based on the sources [2–4].				

The presented infrastructure projects demonstrate the role of transport and energy connectivity in strengthening regional economic integration. These initiatives contribute to trade expansion, logistics diversification, and the development of long-term economic cooperation within the Belt and Road Initiative.

Results

Macroeconomic Trends of China. Recent changes in the international economic environment have influenced the development of China–Central Asia relations. Between 2000 and 2025, China’s GDP maintained an average annual growth of 8.66%. Major downturns occurred during the global financial crises of 2007–2009 and 2014–2016, as well as during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, when GDP fell to 2.24%. However, growth quickly recovered to 8.4% in 2021. Recent forecasts suggest that in 2025, China’s GDP growth will reach 4.5%, supported by strong export performance and investments in infrastructure, although domestic consumption remains relatively weak.

The identified trends suggest that China has preserved macroeconomic stability sufficient to support long-term international infrastructure and trade projects.

Investment in infrastructure, energy, and technology sectors has played a central role in supporting the economy during periods of volatility, providing both domestic and regional spillover effects.

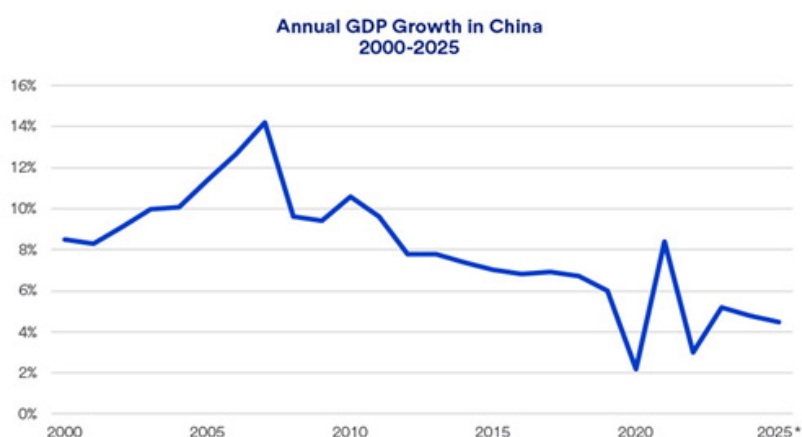


Figure 1 – GDP growth dynamics of the PRC, 2000–2025

Note: Compiled from the source [7].

Figure 1 illustrates the fluctuations in China’s GDP growth over a 25-year period, showing resilience during periods of international economic instability and highlighting recovery patterns.

Trade Turnover with Central Asian Countries

China increased its trade turnover with Central Asian countries by USD 5 billion in 2024. The table below presents a detailed dynamic of trade between each Central Asian country and China for the period 2005–2024. This data highlights the gradual intensification of economic ties, reflecting both the expansion of Chinese exports to the region and the growing importance of Central Asian energy and raw material supplies.

Table 2 – China’s trade turnover with Central Asian countries, 2005–2024, million USD

Year	Kazakhstan	Uzbekistan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Total
2005	6 670	628	839	50	101	7 684
2010	14 000	1 000	900	150	1 000	17 000
2015	18 000	2 000	1 500	500	5 000	27 000
2020	19 951	6 391	2 937	770	7 000	34 000
2024	43 800	13 800	22 710	3 820	10 600	94 800

Note: Compiled by the authors based on the source [15].

Kazakhstan maintains the highest trade turnover with China due to its geographical position, energy exports, and developed transport infrastructure. Kyrgyzstan demonstrates rapid trade growth associated with logistics integration projects, while Uzbekistan and Tajikistan face structural and infrastructural constraints affecting trade expansion.

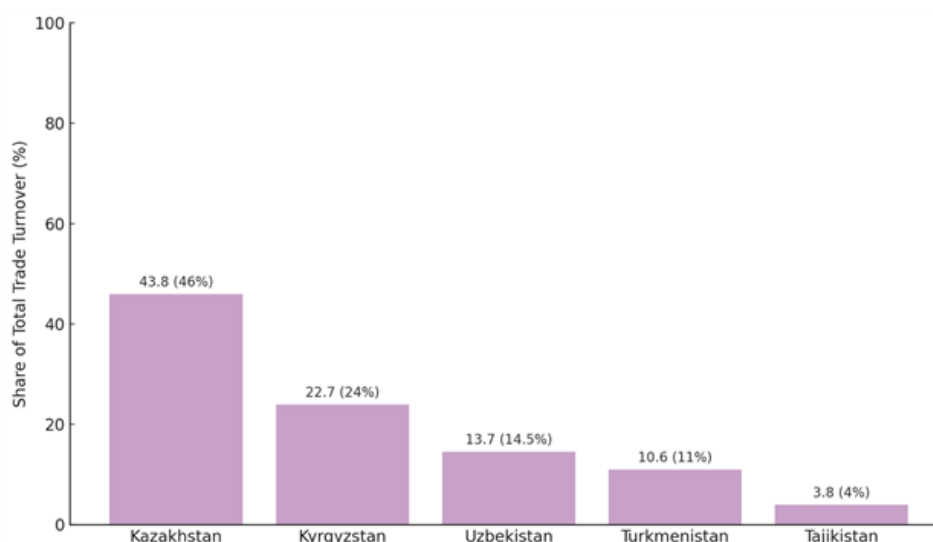


Figure 2 – Dynamics of China’s trade turnover with Central Asian countries in 2024

Note: Compiled by the authors based on the source [14].

The figure visualizes trade turnover growth and decline by country, highlighting Kazakhstan’s leading position in regional trade and the increasing role of Kyrgyzstan in transport and logistics cooperation, alongside decreases in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Country-Specific Dynamics

- ♦ Kazakhstan: trade turnover increased by USD 2.8 billion in 2024. With nearly half of China’s regional trade, Kazakhstan serves as a strategic “gateway” to Central Asia, largely due to the Khorgos dry port and strong energy cooperation.

- ♦ Kyrgyzstan: showed the strongest relative growth (+USD 2.9 billion), driven by intensified logistics integration and participation in cross-border projects.

- ♦ Uzbekistan: experienced a decline of USD 260 million in trade, mainly due to a slowdown in energy exports and logistical bottlenecks.

- ♦ Turkmenistan: recorded a modest increase of USD 57 million, reflecting stable energy supply to China.

- ♦ Tajikistan: trade decreased by USD 65 million, reflecting limited diversification of export structures.

Sectoral and Structural Shifts

Analysis of the structure of trade indicates several trends:

- ♦ Energy dominance: Oil and gas continue to account for a major share of exports from Central Asia to China.

- ♦ Consumer goods and technology: Chinese exports to the region are increasingly dominated by consumer electronics, machinery, and digital technology.

- ♦ Agricultural products: A growing share of agricultural exports from Central Asia is facilitated by “green corridors” and improved customs regimes.

- ♦ Transport and logistics: China has heavily invested in infrastructure projects such as the China – Central Asia gas pipeline, Xi’an’s China–Europe Railway hub, and the emerging China – Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan (CKU) railway project.

The figure summarizes the main areas of economic cooperation between China and Central Asian countries, including infrastructure, trade, energy, and logistics interaction.

Infrastructure Projects as Catalysts of Growth

The results confirm that large-scale infrastructure projects are key drivers of regional trade expansion.

- ♦ The Khorgos International Center for Cross-Border Cooperation increased container shipments by 160% in the first months of 2023.

- ♦ The China – Central Asia Gas Pipeline, operational since 2009, has supplied over 423 billion cubic meters of gas, underscoring energy as a foundation of cooperation.
- ♦ The CKU railway project is expected to reduce shipping times by more than a week, offering a strategic alternative to routes passing through Russia.



Figure 3 – Key Areas of China – Central Asia Economic Cooperation

Note: Created by the authors.

These projects not only facilitate trade and investment flows but also enhance regional connectivity, reduce logistical bottlenecks, and create opportunities for economic diversification in Central Asian countries. Below is a summary of the most significant China–Central Asia infrastructure projects and their impact on regional trade and logistics.

Table 3 – Key infrastructure projects connecting China and Central Asian countries

Project Name	Operational Since	Main Purpose	Key Achievements / Impact
Khorgos International Center for Cross-Border Cooperation	2015	Trade hub and logistics center	Container shipments increased by 160% in early 2023; strategic gateway to Central Asia
China–Central Asia Gas Pipeline	2009	Energy supply	Supplied over 423 billion cubic meters of gas; strengthens energy security
CKU Railway Project (China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan)	Under construction	Freight transport	Expected to reduce shipping times by over a week; alternative route to Russia
Xi'an–Europe Railway Hub	2011	Transcontinental freight	Enhanced connectivity between China and Europe via Central Asia; supports regional trade growth
Green Corridors for Agriculture	2020	Streamlined customs & logistics	Faster cross-border transport of agricultural products; supports regional export diversification
Note: Compiled by the authors based on sources [3, 4, 13, 14].			

These projects demonstrate China's strategic focus on infrastructure-led regional integration. By combining logistics hubs, energy pipelines, and rail networks, China has created a system of transport and logistics connectivity that strengthens trade flows, improves infrastructure integration, and

supports long-term economic cooperation. Moreover, these projects illustrate how macroeconomic resilience is translated into concrete regional benefits, supporting both trade growth and sustainable development initiatives.

Discussion

The findings presented in the Results section reveal several important tendencies in the development of China's economy and its trade relations with Central Asian countries. These tendencies have both macroeconomic and regional implications, which require a critical discussion and contextual interpretation.

Macroeconomic Resilience of China

As shown in figure 1 (GDP growth dynamics of the PRC, 2000–2025), China has demonstrated stable recovery dynamics following periods of external economic shocks, including the global financial crises and the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite temporary declines, China's capacity to recover quickly highlights its ability to mobilize both internal resources and external trade channels. However, the structural challenge of stimulating domestic consumption remains unresolved, which could limit the sustainability of long-term growth. From a regional perspective, China's economic stability provides a foundation for predictable trade flows and long-term infrastructure investments in Central Asia, allowing these countries to plan and implement projects with greater confidence.

Growing Importance of Central Asia

The results presented in Table 2 (China's trade turnover with Central Asian countries, 2005–2024) and figure 2 (Dynamics of China's trade turnover with Central Asian countries in 2024) confirm that Central Asia is becoming an increasingly important trade partner for China. Kazakhstan accounts for nearly half of the total turnover, reflecting its role as a logistical and energy hub. Kyrgyzstan, although a smaller economy, demonstrates rapid growth, indicating that infrastructure investments and integration into Belt and Road corridors are beginning to deliver tangible results. These developments demonstrate the growing importance of regional economic cooperation mechanisms.

Differentiated Regional Performance

The data also show differentiated performance across the region. While Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan strengthened their trade ties with China, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan experienced declines. This underlines structural vulnerabilities in these economies, which lack the same level of energy resources or logistical connectivity. Turkmenistan, by contrast, maintained stable growth due to its strong energy exports. These variations suggest that regional integration with China is uneven and largely dependent on resource availability, infrastructure quality, and policy alignment. Policymakers in lagging countries may need to adopt targeted measures, such as improving transport corridors, facilitating customs processes, or incentivizing technology transfer, to increase competitiveness and attract Chinese investment.

These differences suggest that a “one-size-fits-all” approach to cooperation with China is ineffective. Instead, country-specific development strategies should be designed, taking into account national resource endowments, logistical capacity, and institutional readiness.

Structural Shifts in Trade Composition

Analysis highlights important structural shifts. Energy resources remain dominant, but China is increasingly exporting machinery, consumer goods, and digital technology to Central Asia. Agricultural trade is expanding due to the introduction of “green corridors” and customs modernization. This diversification indicates that China is not only a consumer of energy but also a driver of modernization in Central Asian economies. Practically, this means that Central Asian countries can leverage these exports to support industrial development, promote local manufacturing, and create employment opportunities, while reducing overdependence on raw materials.

Practical Implications for Infrastructure Policy

The importance of infrastructure is further illustrated in figure 3 (Main areas of economic cooperation between China and Central Asian countries). Projects such as the Khorgos International Center for Cross-Border Cooperation and the China – Central Asia Gas Pipeline demonstrate how physical infrastructure serves as a catalyst for trade expansion and integration. The emerging China – Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan railway represents another strategic shift, potentially reducing dependency

on transit through Russia and contributing to the diversification of regional transport corridors. These infrastructure initiatives have direct practical implications: they shorten delivery times, lower transportation costs, and increase the reliability of supply chains, thus strengthening the region's overall trade competitiveness.

Geopolitical Context

The data should also be interpreted within the broader geopolitical context. Changes in regional economic and geopolitical conditions, including the consequences of the war in Ukraine and sanctions-related disruptions, have increased the importance of China's economic role in Central Asia. These regional economic changes help explain the rapid increase in trade volumes and the diversification of cooperation into the digital economy, green energy, and artificial intelligence. In practical terms, Central Asian countries can strategically position themselves to attract Chinese investment and technological partnerships while balancing diplomatic relations with other global actors.

Implications for Regional Development

Taken together, the results suggest that China's growing role in Central Asia is not only reshaping trade flows but also influencing regional economic development priorities. While opportunities for modernization and economic diversification are significant, risks of dependency on a single dominant partner must also be acknowledged. Central Asian countries face the practical challenge of balancing the benefits of Chinese investment and trade with the need for diversified and sustainable economic development. The results indicate the importance of long-term strategies aimed at infrastructure diversification, industrial development, and reduction of external dependency risks.

Concluding Practical Insights

In sum, the discussion highlights that the evolving economic relationship between China and Central Asia is both an opportunity and a challenge. The data show that countries with strong infrastructure, strategic location, and energy resources (such as Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) gain immediate benefits, while others may need additional policy interventions. The findings may be useful for evaluating infrastructure priorities and regional trade policy strategies.

Infrastructure as a Strategic Driver

Building on the above analysis of infrastructure-driven trade dynamics, it is possible to outline several practical implications for economic policy and regional planning. From a practical perspective, the results of this study can be directly applied by government agencies, transport ministries, and trade development institutions in Central Asian countries when prioritizing infrastructure investments and negotiating cooperation agreements with China. The analysis shows that projects focused on logistics hubs, railway corridors, and energy transit provide the highest multiplier effect on trade growth and regional integration.

For policymakers in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, the findings confirm the effectiveness of existing infrastructure strategies, while for Uzbekistan and Tajikistan they indicate the need to accelerate transport modernization, customs digitalization, and participation in transregional railway projects to avoid marginalization within China-centered trade networks.

Conclusion

The study demonstrates that China – Central Asia economic cooperation has intensified amid changes in the global economic environment.

1. The analysis of China's macroeconomic development indicates that despite external trade restrictions, logistics disruptions, and geopolitical uncertainty, China maintains stable economic growth and continues to expand regional economic cooperation mechanisms.

2. The analysis of China's macroeconomic indicators and economic policy confirms the country's role as a major global economic actor. China's domestic economic strategy and external infrastructure initiatives significantly influence regional economic processes in Central Asia, particularly through the development of transport connectivity, trade cooperation, and investment projects. Importantly, these findings demonstrate how China's domestic policies and global initiatives (such as the Belt and Road Initiative and other infrastructure projects) not only impact its national economy but also have spillover effects on regional partners, including Central Asian countries.

3. The findings confirm that China–Central Asia cooperation is based on mutual economic interests and is primarily driven by infrastructure development, trade expansion, and energy connectivity.

4. The study also demonstrates that changes in the regional political and economic environment, including sanctions pressure and shifts in regional influence, contribute to the growing strategic importance of Central Asia in China’s external economic policy.

5. The identified patterns of cooperation encompass economic, infrastructural, political, educational, and technological dimensions, reflecting the multidimensional character of contemporary regional interaction.

6. Applied Policy Implications. The results of the study may be useful for national governments, regional economic planners, and investment agencies in Central Asia when developing strategies of economic cooperation with China. In particular, the findings highlight the importance of transport corridors, logistics hubs, and energy infrastructure as key factors supporting trade expansion and economic diversification. The analysis may also serve as a basis for the development of national infrastructure and trade strategies within the Belt and Road Initiative, as well as for evaluating potential risks associated with excessive dependence on a single external economic partner.

The study confirms that infrastructure connectivity, trade expansion, and energy cooperation remain the principal drivers of China–Central Asia economic interaction. The analysis also demonstrates that the effects of cooperation are uneven across the region and depend on infrastructure capacity, resource endowment, and national economic policy. The research findings further indicate that geopolitical transformations accelerate the strategic importance of Central Asia within China’s external economic policy.

Final Remarks

Overall, the study concludes that China’s economic engagement with Central Asia creates significant opportunities for trade expansion, infrastructure modernization, and regional integration. At the same time, sustainable development of cooperation requires balanced economic policy, diversification strategies, and effective management of external dependency risks.

The study provides both a theoretical interpretation and a practical analytical basis for understanding the contemporary dynamics of China–Central Asia economic cooperation and their implications for regional development policy.

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ҚЫТАЙ МЕН ОРТАЛЫҚ АЗИЯ ЕЛДЕРІ АРАСЫНДАҒЫ ҚАЗІРГІ ЭКОНОМИКАЛЫҚ ҰНТЫМАҚТАСТЫҚ ФОРМАЛАРЫ

Андатпа

Мақалада жаһандану және геосаяси трансформация жағдайындағы Қытай мен Орталық Азия елдері арасындағы қазіргі экономикалық ынтымақтастық формалары қарастырылады. Зерттеуде «Бір белдеу, бір жол» бастамасының аймақтық сауда, көлік инфрақұрылымы, энергетикалық өзара іс-қимыл және экономикалық интеграция үдерістеріне ықпалына ерекше назар аударылады. Зерттеудің әдіснамалық негізін салыстырмалы, жүйелік және тарихи-логикалық тәсілдер құрайды. Жұмыста макроэкономикалық үрдістер, инфрақұрылымдық жобалар, сауда динамикасы, сондай-ақ сыртқы геосаяси факторлардың аймақтық экономикалық өзара әрекеттесуге әсері талданады. Зерттеу нәтижелері соңғы жылдары Қытай мен Орталық Азия елдері арасындағы ынтымақтастықтың көлік дәліздерін дамыту, инвестициялық жобаларды кеңейту және сауда-экономикалық байланыстарды нығайту есебінен айтарлықтай күшейгенін көрсетеді. Аймақтық

интеграцияның негізгі факторлары ретінде инфрақұрылымдық байланыстылық пен энергетикалық ынтымақтастық айқындалды. Сонымен қатар, ынтымақтастық нәтижелерінің аймақ елдері арасында біркелкі бөлінбейтіні және олардың ұлттық экономикалық саясатқа, логистикалық инфрақұрылым деңгейіне және сыртқы нарық конъюнктурасына тәуелді екендігі анықталды. Зерттеу қорытындысы бойынша Қытай мен Орталық Азия арасындағы экономикалық өзара іс-қимыл қазіргі еуразиялық экономикалық дамудың маңызды элементі болып табылады және аймақтық сауда мен инфрақұрылымдық байланыстарды әртараптандыруға ықпал етеді.

Тірек сөздер: экономикалық ынтымақтастық, аймақтық интеграция, жобалар, инфрақұрылымдық байланыстылық, сауда, инвестициялар, даму.

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СОВРЕМЕННЫЕ ФОРМЫ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОГО СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА МЕЖДУ КИТАЕМ И СТРАНАМИ ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ

Аннотация

В статье рассматриваются современные формы экономического сотрудничества между Китаем и странами Центральной Азии в условиях глобализации и геополитических трансформаций. Особое внимание уделяется влиянию инициативы «Один пояс, один путь» на развитие торговли, транспортной инфраструктуры, энергетического взаимодействия и региональной интеграции. Методологическую основу исследования составляют сравнительный, системный и историко-логический подходы. В работе анализируются макроэкономические тенденции, инфраструктурные проекты, динамика торговли, а также влияние внешних геополитических факторов на развитие регионального экономического взаимодействия. Результаты исследования показывают, что сотрудничество Китая и стран Центральной Азии в последние годы значительно активизировалось благодаря развитию транспортных коридоров, инвестиционных проектов и торгово-экономических связей. Основными факторами региональной интеграции выступают инфраструктурная связанность и энергетическое сотрудничество. Вместе с тем выявлено, что эффекты взаимодействия распределяются между странами региона неравномерно и зависят от национальной экономической политики, состояния логистической инфраструктуры и внешнеэкономической конъюнктуры. В статье делается вывод о том, что экономическое взаимодействие Китая и Центральной Азии является важным элементом современного евразийского экономического развития и способствует диверсификации региональных торговых и инфраструктурных связей.

Ключевые слова: экономическое сотрудничество, региональная интеграция, проекты, инфраструктурная связанность, торговля, инвестиции, развитие.

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