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CENTRAL ASIA AND CHINA: ANALYSIS OF COMMON INTERESTS

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Introduction

As the global center of gravity shifts towards the Asia-Pacific region, the political importance of Central Asia as the geopolitical center (heartland) of Eurasia increases. This distinctive large region and China are linked by various historical and geographical reasons.

In recent years, China's developing cooperation with this region has prevailed. China's range of interests includes security, politics, as well as economic and cultural development and much more. Just as for Russia, Central Asia is an important region and strategic rear for China.Beijing's worries are especially growing in connection with the reorientation of US attention to the Pacific basin, which contributes to the increasing competition between the two centers of power in this region.

As an opportunity to influence the economic policy of the Central Asian countries, it is worth mentioning another area, namely investment activity. China's direct investments in the economies of the Central Asian countries Asia cannot be called insignificant. It should be noted that China is rapidly increasing its investment presence in Central Asia. First of all, this applies to the oil and gas and mining industries. Along with the interest in energy, China also pays attention to such areas as telecommunications and transport infrastructure. Beijing uses a wide range of tools, channels and financing schemes to implement its regional projects. Most of the funds are allocated on a bilateral basis (direct investments, loans, concessional loans, grants), and other financial resources are allocated through international financial institutions and organizations (ADB,SCO, AIIB). The latest example of Beijing's major investment actions In Central Asia, there has been an expansion of intensive economic cooperation between China and Kazakhstan. At the SCO summit in Astana on June 8-9, 2017, the parties signed 22 commercial agreements worth $ 7 billion. According to the agreement, China is ready to invest in the development of the agrochemical cluster Kazakhstan and a number of projects in the free economic zone of Atyrau region. In addition, the Chinese corporation "Hydrochina Corporation" and the holding company "SamrukEnergo" signed a memorandum on the construction of a small hydroelectric power plant and a wind farm construction project in the Almaty region. A little earlier, in mid-May 2017, during the first visit of the head of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirzoev signed several economic agreements in Beijing in the amount of 20 billion dollars. These agreements provide for cooperation between the two countries in the gas chemical and hydropower industries, as well as the construction of a plant for the production of synthetic liquid fuels and a medium-term contract for the supply of natural gas to China.

Another priority for China is energy security. That is why Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, rich in energy resources, are of great importance to the state. China is pouring large sums into the energy sector, which includes minerals, oil,gas, oil exploration and exploration, pipelines, roads, routes, etc. For Beijing, which is seeking to diversify its sources of resources, the importance of Central Asia as one of the reserves of raw materials is growing.

China's interests in Central Asia are becoming more widespread due to the spread of religious extremism and terrorism. Afghanistan is of particular concern in this regard. Terrorist groups and drug traffickers in Afghanistan remain a serious threat to the Central Asian region,as well as to the safe passage of the Silk Road Economic routes China. Despite the strengthening of the forces exerted by the international community, Afghanistan remains one of the main safe havens for international terrorists. At the same time, the actions of the Taliban in northern Afghanistan are of serious concern. There are two religious groups operating in the Ferghana Valley:The Islamic

Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) and Hizb-ut-Tahrir. Hizb ut-Tahrir is trying to create a caliphate that stretches from Mongolia to the coast of the Caspian Sea. According to this scheme, the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region also includes the caliphate. Quite often there are reports that Uighur separatists are being trained in Afghanistan, which shares a border with China It is 25 km long. In general, terrorist movements can become the main cause of instability in the Central Asian region and in the CSTO regions.

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