ELIMINATING REGIONAL THREATS AND PEACE DIPLOMACY: SHAPING NEW PARADIGMS OF STABILITY IN CENTRAL ASIA.

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Abstract. This thesis examines issues related to ensuring regional security in Central Asia, preventing transnational threats, and improving contemporary mechanisms of peace diplomacy. Particular attention is paid to the risks affecting regional stability, including terrorism and extremism, the use of transboundary water resources, border conflicts, illicit drug trafficking, environmental challenges, and security threats associated with the situation in Afghanistan. The study also explores the role of preventive diplomacy, confidence-building measures, multilateral dialogue, and economic and environmental cooperation in maintaining regional security. The author argues that developing a comprehensive, preventive, and multilateral approach to security is essential for shaping a new paradigm of stability in Central Asia.

Keywords: Central Asia, regional security, peace diplomacy, preventive diplomacy, regional stability, transnational threats, water diplomacy, confidence-building, multilateral cooperation.

Аннотация. В данной диссертации рассматриваются вопросы обеспечения региональной безопасности в Центральной Азии, предотвращения транснациональных угроз и совершенствования современных механизмов мирной дипломатии. Особое внимание уделяется рискам, влияющим на региональную стабильность, включая терроризм и экстремизм, использование трансграничных водных ресурсов, пограничные конфликты, незаконный оборот наркотиков, экологические проблемы, а также угрозы безопасности, связанные с ситуацией в Афганистане. В исследовании также анализируется роль превентивной дипломатии, мер по укреплению доверия, многостороннего диалога, а также экономического и экологического сотрудничества в обеспечении региональной безопасности. Автор обосновывает, что разработка комплексного, превентивного и многостороннего подхода к вопросам безопасности имеет ключевое значение для формирования новой парадигмы стабильности в Центральной Азии.

Ключевые слова: Центральная Азия, региональная безопасность, мирная дипломатия, превентивная дипломатия, региональная стабильность,

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транснациональные угрозы, водная дипломатия, укрепление доверия, многостороннее сотрудничество.

Annotatsiya. Mazkur dissertatsiyada Markaziy Osiyoda mintaqaviy xavfsizlikni ta’minlash, transmilliy tahdidlarning oldini olish va zamonaviy tinchlik diplomatiyasi mexanizmlarini takomillashtirish masalalari ko‘rib chiqiladi. Mintaqaviy barqarorlikka ta’sir ko‘rsatuvchi xavf-xatarlarga, jumladan, terrorizm va ekstremizm, transchegaraviy suv resurslaridan foydalanish, chegara mojarolari, giyohvandlik vositalarining noqonuniy aylanmasi, ekologik muammolar hamda Afg‘onistondagi vaziyat bilan bog‘liq xavfsizlik tahdidlariga alohida e’tibor qaratiladi. Shuningdek, tadqiqotda mintaqaviy xavfsizlikni ta’minlashda preventiv diplomatiya, ishonchni mustahkamlash choralari, ko‘p tomonlama muloqot, iqtisodiy va ekologik hamkorlikning o‘rni tahlil qilinadi. Muallif xavfsizlikka kompleks, preventiv va ko‘p tomonlama yondashuvni ishlab chiqish Markaziy Osiyoda barqarorlikning yangi paradigmasini shakllantirishda muhim ahamiyatga ega ekanligini asoslaydi.

Kalit so‘zlar: Markaziy Osiyo, mintaqaviy xavfsizlik, tinchlik diplomatiyasi, preventiv diplomatiya, mintaqaviy barqarorlik, transmilliy tahdidlar, suv diplomatiyasi, ishonchni mustahkamlash, ko‘p tomonlama hamkorlik.

Introduction. Under conditions of globalization, transformations in the international relations system and the increasing complexity of security threats have made ensuring regional stability one of the most pressing academic and practical challenges. Central Asia holds particular significance due to its geostrategic location, natural resources, transport corridors, and role in international economic relations. Although the countries of the region share common historical, economic, and cultural ties, factors such as transnational crime, environmental challenges, divergent interests in water and energy resources, and the situation in Afghanistan directly affect their security environment [7, pp. 1 – 23]. This approach demonstrates the importance of studying regional security not within the boundaries of individual states but as a set of interconnected political and economic processes. Under these circumstances, security cannot be ensured through military and political measures alone. The early identification of threats, elimination of the root causes of conflicts, strengthening of trust between states, and resolution of disagreements through negotiations are of considerable importance. From this perspective, preventive diplomacy represents a crucial instrument for ensuring long-term peace and stability in Central Asia.

Main Body. A key characteristic of security threats in Central Asia is their transnational nature. Terrorism, extremism, illicit drug trafficking, and organized crime require interstate information exchange, coordinated border security measures, and cooperation among law enforcement agencies. Combating these threats effectively requires not only the individual capacities of states but also the effective utilization of regional institutions and international organizations. The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) represents one of the important platforms supporting regional dialogue and conflict prevention [1; 2]. Another significant factor affecting regional stability is the management of transboundary water resources. The use of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya river basins, agricultural needs, energy policies, and climate change directly affect the interests of the countries in the region. Insufficient coordination in water resource management may intensify economic difficulties and create conditions conducive to interstate disagreements [5]. These studies demonstrate that water-related issues should not be viewed solely as problems of resource allocation but also as opportunities to promote interstate dialogue and cooperation. Therefore, the development of water diplomacy requires regular information exchange, joint monitoring, coordination of seasonal water use, and the development of mutually beneficial agreements. Academic research on transboundary water resource management also emphasizes the relationship between water allocation, political and economic interests, and regional stability [6]. Consequently, cooperation over natural resources can serve as a practical mechanism for strengthening security. Preventive diplomacy aims to identify existing tensions before they escalate into open conflict, maintain channels of communication between opposing parties, and create conditions conducive to reaching compromises. The United Nations' approaches to preventive diplomacy and mediation emphasize the importance of negotiations, mediation, conciliation, and early-warning mechanisms [3]. In Central Asia, the consistent application of these mechanisms to border disputes, water allocation, transport connectivity, and other security-related issues would be particularly appropriate.

In this regard, consultative meetings among the heads of state and multilateral dialogue platforms play an important role. They provide opportunities to identify common interests, strengthen mutual trust, and determine priority areas for cooperation. However, the effectiveness of diplomatic dialogue should be assessed not merely by the frequency of meetings but also by the practical implementation of agreements, the outcomes of joint initiatives, and the capacity to resolve existing problems. Another important direction for strengthening stability in Central Asia is the development of economic interdependence. Cooperation in trade, transport,

energy, and cross-border infrastructure expands shared interests among states. Such connections can increase the number of stakeholders who benefit from resolving disagreements peacefully. Nevertheless, economic cooperation alone cannot eliminate all political tensions; its effectiveness must be reinforced by trust, coordinated policies, and functioning institutional mechanisms [4; 7, pp. 219-246.] The factors associated with the situation in Afghanistan must also be taken into account when addressing regional security in Central Asia. Political and economic developments in Afghanistan may influence the region's transport connectivity, border security, and capacity to combat transnational threats. Therefore, security issues should be addressed in conjunction with diplomatic dialogue, economic relations, and international cooperation. Furthermore, long-term stability depends on more than interstate relations. Youth employment, access to education, socioeconomic inequality, and environmental security also affect the stability of societies [5]. Consequently, peace diplomacy should be complemented by dialogue among experts, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and local communities. Based on the analysis above, the following areas can be identified as priorities for shaping a new paradigm of stability in Central Asia:

1. **Preventive security** – identifying threats at an early stage, systematically assessing risks, and strengthening interstate information exchange.

2. **Institutional diplomacy** – regularizing consultations, monitoring the implementation of agreements, and improving mechanisms for resolving disputes.

3. **Resource diplomacy** – developing cooperation on water, energy, and environmental issues by treating them as areas for collaboration rather than sources of confrontation.

4. **Economic interdependence** – strengthening shared interests through trade, transport, and cross-border cooperation.

5. **Humanitarian and social stability** – supporting initiatives focused on education, cultural exchange, youth dialogue, and public well-being.

The interaction and coordination of these areas are essential. For example, early-warning systems can provide information about emerging threats; however, without trust and effective communication mechanisms, such information may be insufficient to prevent conflict [8]. Similarly, economic ties can strengthen cooperation, but they must be complemented by diplomatic and institutional measures. Thus, the new paradigm involves assessing security not only in terms of the absence of threats but also in terms of states' capacity to manage existing challenges peacefully.

Conclusion. In conclusion, eliminating regional threats and ensuring sustainable peace in Central Asia require a comprehensive, multilateral, and long-

term approach. Analyzing transnational crime, disagreements over water resources, environmental risks, and socioeconomic challenges as interconnected processes can improve the effectiveness of regional security policies. The study establishes that a new paradigm of stability in Central Asia should rest on three fundamental principles: preventing threats, strengthening trust among states, and resolving shared problems through cooperation. To implement these principles in practice, it is necessary to coordinate the United Nations' preventive diplomacy mechanisms, regional consultation frameworks, and joint initiatives in water management, energy, transport, and humanitarian affairs. In the author's view, the principal condition for strengthening regional stability is a gradual shift from a reactive approach to security toward a preventive one. Diplomacy, economic cooperation, and environmental governance should be regarded as complementary instruments. Such an approach can contribute not only to reducing existing threats in Central Asia but also to establishing a solid foundation for long-term peace, mutual trust, and sustainable development.

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