

PAPER DETAILS

TITLE: Nursultan Nazarbayev`s Role on Providing Regional and Global Security as an Influential Political Leader: A Case Study of His Mediation Role in Russian-Turkish Crisis in 2015

AUTHORS: Yerkebulan SAPIYEV

PAGES: 135-156

ORIGINAL PDF URL: <https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/1658758>

NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV'S ROLE ON PROVIDING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SECURITY AS AN INFLUENTIAL POLITICAL LEADER: A CASE STUDY OF HIS MEDIATION ROLE IN RUSSIAN-TURKISH CRISIS IN 2015

Yerkebulan SAPIYEV*

Abstract

Since gaining independence in 1991, there has been a colossal role of the first President of Kazakhstan- Nursultan Nazarbayev, on the foundation and development of Kazakhstan, on the process of setting up international organizations in the post-Soviet geography and on the formation of the multi-vector foreign policy of Kazakhstan. The article examines the role of the Nazarbayev's successful international activities as an experienced negotiator and mediator in resolving international conflicts and crises. In this context, his peacekeeping mission on solving the Russian-Turkish crisis in 2015 has been examined by revealing his influence on providing regional and global security.

In the first part of the article, the early life and political career of Nursultan Nazarbayev are examined by describing his character as a person, as an influential political leader and an outstanding statesman. The second part, in the post-Soviet period, Kazakhstan's foreign policy as an independent republic, and its contribution to providing regional and global security are explained. In this process, the meaningful role of the Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan is evaluated as well. In the third part, the Russian-Turkish crisis, its reasons, and Nursultan Nazarbayev's mediation role are evaluated.

Keywords: *Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Multi-vector Foreign Policy of Kazakhstan, Turkish-Russian crisis.*

NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV'İN ETKİLİ BİR SİYASİ LİDER OLARAK BÖLGESEL VE KÜRESEL GÜVENLİĞİ SAĞLAMADAKİ ROLÜ: 2015'TE RUSYA-TÜRKİYE KRİZİNDE ARABULUCULUK ROLÜNE İLİŞKİN BİR VAKA ÇALIŞMASI

Öz

1991 yılında bağımsızlığını kazandığından bu yana, Kazakistan'ın kuruluşunda ve kalkınmasında, Sovyet sonrası coğrafyada uluslararası örgütler kurma sürecinde

* Kazakistan Aşkabat (Türkmenistan) Büyükelçisi, Doktora öğrencisi, İstanbul Aydın Üniversitesi İktisadi ve İdari Bilimler Fakültesi, Siyaset Bilimi ve Uluslararası İlişkiler Bölümü, yerkebulansapiyev@stu.aydin.edu.tr, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3366-7496>.

ve Kazakistan'ın çok vektörlü dış politikasının oluşumunda Kazakistan'ın ilk Cumhurbaşkanı Nursultan Nazarbayev'in devasa bir rolü vardır. Makale, uluslararası çatışma ve krizlerin çözümünde deneyimli bir müzakereci ve arabulucu olarak Nazarbayev'in başarılı uluslararası faaliyetlerinin rolünü incelemektedir. Bu bağlamda, 2015 yılında Rusya-Türkiye krizini çözme konusundaki barışı koruma misyonu, bölgesel ve küresel güvenliğin sağlanmasındaki etkisi ortaya konarak incelenmiştir.

Çalışmanın ilk bölümünde, Nursultan Nazarbayev'in bir kişi, nüfuzlu bir siyasi lider ve seçkin bir devlet adamı olarak karakterini anlatılarak erken yaşamı ve siyasi kariyeri incelenmektedir. İkinci bölümde, Sovyet sonrası dönemde Kazakistan'ın bağımsız bir cumhuriyet olarak dış politikası ve bölgesel ve küresel güvenliğin sağlanmasına katkıları anlatılmaktadır. Bu süreçte Kazakistan Cumhurbaşkanı Kassym-Jomart Tokayev'in de anlamlı rolü değerlendirilmektedir. Üçüncü bölümde, Rusya-Türkiye krizi, nedenleri ve Nursultan Nazarbayev'in arabuluculuk rolü değerlendirilmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kazakistan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Kazakistan'ın Çok vektörlü Dış Politikası, Türkiye-Rusya Krizi.

Introduction

Many studies have been done about the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, inherently a founder and architect of independent Kazakhstan. All Kazakhstani achievements are considered inextricably and inevitably linked with his personality. His work for Kazakhstan and its people is inscribed in gold letters in the history of independent Kazakhstan. Nazarbayev's personality marks a whole epoch in the life of Kazakhstan. At the dawn of independence, it was to him that Kazakhstan's people entrusted their fate and the construction of a new Kazakhstan. The content and essence of his vast activities for Kazakhstan's benefit led to his recognition as Kazakhstan's founding father's modern statehood and the nation's real leader. Nazarbayev created the foundations of the country's sovereignty and independence, a market economy, foreign and domestic policy, effective civil society, and set priorities for the country's development until 2050. The phenomenon of Nursultan Nazarbayev is that he managed to consolidate Kazakhstan's people to develop the country. Successful systemic reforms in all spheres of society with strong popular support, carried out over 30 years under the leadership of Nazarbayev, ensured state-building and dynamic development of the country. Today, the model of social peace and harmony built in Kazakhstan is spoken worldwide, calling it the "Kazakhstani Way," "Kazakhstani development model." Kazakhstan's President's ideas and initiatives are the subjects of in-depth research, leading mass media to speak and write about them.

The formation of independent Kazakhstan for 30 years under the leadership of the First President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, took place in parallel with the modernization and implementation of reforms. The first modernization began after independence in 1991 and lasted until the end of the 1990s. During this period, the transition from a planned economy to a market economy was carried out, government institutions and civil society were created, and Kazakhstan's Development Strategy until 2030 was approved. The second modernization of the country began from the late 1990s until 2010. During this period, a new capital, Astana, was created. Sustainable economic growth was ensured, state institutions and the middle class were formed, the quality of life and well-being of citizens improved, and the country's international prestige increased thanks to a balanced and responsible foreign policy. The third modernization began in 2017, which provides for the implementation of the following five priorities:

- accelerated technological modernization of the economy
- cardinal improvement and expansion of the business environment
- macroeconomic stability
- improvement of the quality of human capital
- institutional transformation, security, and the fight against corruption.

Kazakhstan is a leader in the global anti-nuclear process. By a strong-willed decision of the President of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic, Nursultan Nazarbayev, in 1991, the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site on Kazakhstan's territory was closed. The success of Kazakhstan's diplomacy has enabled Kazakhstan to conduct a great deal of peacekeeping work. Units of the Kazakh Armed Forces participate in the actions of the United Nations peacekeeping forces. In 2010, Kazakhstan managed to initiate the OSCE Summit after the ten-period break in Kazakhstan's capital-Astana. Summit became an event of great political importance, further strengthening Kazakhstan and President Nazarbayev's authority in the international arena. The regular holding of Congresses of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in Kazakhstan strengthen interreligious and interfaith dialogue.

The outstanding success of Kazakhstan and the First President of Kazakhstan is creating a new capital - Astana. For 23 years of its development, a modern city with metropolitan functions, modern buildings designed by the world's best architects has emerged from an ordinary regional center. The capital has become the hallmark of sovereign Kazakhstan. The transfer of the capital was an epochal event that determined the entire course of the country's development during independence.

Kazakhstan's outstanding achievement is its success in the international arena, including initiatives in Eurasian economic integration, regional economic and political leadership. Kazakhstan established diplomatic relations with 180 countries of the world, chaired such authoritative international organizations as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Commonwealth Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States (CCTSS).

Kazakhstan has established positive and mutually beneficial relations with the meaningful players and associations in the world. With Russia - as one of the leading countries in the world and a neighboring country. With China - as one of the world's leading countries and a neighboring country. The United States of America and European Union (EU) countries are the world's leading and well-developed countries that determine the main processes in modern world politics and economy, having all the scientific and technical achievements and trade and economic partners.

Soviet Union's dissolution left a geopolitical vacuum in Central Asia and led to a sharp increase in the region's external powers' interest. It was facilitated by its advantageous geopolitical location, considerable natural resources, primarily oil and gas, perspectives of the establishment of the transport infrastructure, connecting West and East, and the ability to perform regional functions of a beachhead in the fight against international terrorism. The specificity of a geographical position, on the one hand, makes it a relatively easily accessible target for radical Islamist terrorist attacks from southern and south-western destinations. On the other hand, the region is a territorial "buffer," protecting countries such as Russia and China against these same extremists. Thus, the factors mentioned above eventually transformed Central Asia into one of the most beautiful objects of geopolitical claims for great powers. The United States, China, Russia, and the European Union are the key players in this region.

Therefore, the development of partnership and equal relations with all world countries was the newly independent State's priority. The country was faced with conducting a foreign policy to build stable, predictable relations with neighboring states, Russia, China, and Central Asian countries. A foreign policy course that would allow "correcting" natural geographical shortcomings and using certain advantages.

As an independent subject of international relations, Kazakhstan's first steps to develop relations were made with neighboring Russia, with which Kazakhstan has 7599 km of the longest continuous land border in the world. Kazakhstan has started to develop a long-term Agreement of friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance with Russia, which will be signed on May 25, 1992. Even then, everyone understood its outstanding historical significance. After all, Kazakhstan, for the first time in its history, entered into equal contractual relations with the Russian State (Tokayev, 2003:141,142).

Further, relations with the countries of Central Asia, China, the United States, and the countries of Europe began to develop. Thus, the foreign policy of Kazakhstan was gradually formed and acquired the character of a multi-vector approach, which allowed creating in the future allied relations with Russia, relations of cooperation and good-neighborliness with China, strategic partnership with the United States of America, integration with the countries of Central Asia, mutually beneficial relations with the European Union and Asian states.

Unlike other Post-Soviet countries, Kazakhstan has managed to avoid major inter-ethnic and inter-religious conflicts. Multi-ethnicity and multi-religious reality-perceived Kazakhstani society is not a disadvantage, but an advantage, and as a critical element of internal policy, lies in a basis of the multi-vector foreign policy of Kazakhstan. The multi-vector approach means carrying out a balanced and well-thought-out foreign policy. It means an independent foreign policy, the distinctive feature of which is a balanced and even relationship with different vital centers of power and the leading world and regional players at the same time. It also means pursuing a delicate and balanced geopolitical course, skillfully playing on the contradictions between the most critical power centers in the modern world, to ensure the country's national interests and reduce dependence as much as possible. Thus, the multi-vector approach is precisely the tool that allows for correcting the natural shortcomings and using Kazakhstan's existing advantages. Multi-vector foreign policy for Kazakhstan is an objective necessity. This policy's result is that today Kazakhstan is a prosperous regional state, the initiator and locomotive of integration processes in the region, an active participant in regional and global structures. Based on its geographical location and strategic interests, Kazakhstan consistently develops equal and multifaceted relations with all world countries.

By developing a multi-vector foreign policy, Kazakhstan makes a significant contribution to ensuring regional and global security. Kazakhstan actively participates in settlement of international disputes, conflicts, and the

establishment of a peace process. Kazakhstan has provided a platform and has repeatedly been the organizer of peace talks on Syria and Iran's nuclear program. Therefore, when the Russian-Turkish conflict occurred in 2015, Kazakhstan could not stand aside and passively observe the deterioration of Moscow and Ankara's relations. President Nazarbayev's experiences over the incident prompted him to take decisive actions, the ultimate goal of which was the complete normalization of relations.

The article's main scope (research question) is to examine the crucial role of the First President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, in providing regional and global security by making peacekeeping mission on solving the Russian-Turkish crisis roused in 2015, foundation and creating an independent Kazakhstan, and formation of the Kazakh multi-vector foreign policy. Another objective is to examine Nursultan Nazarbayev's personality as an influential political leader and his successful international activities as an experienced negotiator and mediator in resolving international conflicts and crises.

The article's hypothesis is without Nursultan Nazarbayev's intervention Russian-Turkish crisis would have lasted longer. As a methodology, the functional instrumental approach, which is a methodological basis for solving the determining research question using all the tools, will be used in the article. Due to the questions' specifics and complexity during the indirect work, systematic and corporative methods are used. The discourse analysis also is used.

The article's research is based on a wide range of American, European, Turkish, Kazakh, and Russian academic studies and the sources of negotiation and mediation issues in international relations, Kazakhstan's multi-vector foreign policy, and Kazakhstan's contribution to providing regional and global security. Simultaneously, the official announcements, statements, and sources concerning the Russian-Turkish crisis, the first sources, and data of Turkey, Russia, and Kazakhstan's organizations and agencies will be examined and researched. The books, articles, and other sources of Kazakhstan's history, foreign policy, culture, and social life since gaining independence in 1991 until the current days also will be used. Kazakh and Turkish academicians and politicians mainly write the literature on Kazakh multi-vector foreign policy and Russian-Turkish crisis: First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev (Nazarbayev, 1991, 2017), President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev (Tokayev, 1997, 2001, 2003), Kazakh politicians and diplomats M.Kassymbekov (Kassymbekov, 2010), N.Onzhanov (Onzhanov, 2017), Kazakh academicians M.Mukhamedov

(Mukhamedov, 1997), M.Laumulin (Laumulin, 2000), B.Sultanov (Sultanov, 2001, 2005), Turkish academician K.Zorlu (Zorlu, 2020).

In the first part of the article, the early life and political career of Nursultan Nazarbayev are examined. The second part is related to the post-Soviet period - the Independent Republic of Kazakhstan in the Central Asia region, its foreign policy, public diplomacy, and Kazakhstan's contribution to regional and global security. In the third part, the Russian-Turkish crisis, its reasons, and Nursultan Nazarbayev's mediation role are evaluated.

The settlement of the Russian-Turkish crisis and the resumption of strategic cooperation between the two countries reflects the success of Kazakhstan's multi-vector policy and its diplomacy under the leadership of the First Kazakhstani President Nazarbayev. This diplomatic victory reflects the high international prestige of Nursultan Nazarbayev and his recognition as a world leader and Kazakhstan's international authority.

1. Early Life and Political Career of Nursultan Nazarbayev

To know President Nazarbayev better as a politician, necessary to analyze his personality formation stages. The Leader of Kazakhstan was brought up in the best traditions of the Kazakh people. Since childhood, he has absorbed such qualities as the respect of elders, cares for the younger, responsiveness, tolerance. As the eldest child in the family, Nazarbayev was overweening attentive aware of the full degree of responsibility for relatives and friends in the unduly and uneasy post-world war period.

Having extraordinary mental, moral, and physical abilities from nature, a sense of magnanimity and responsibility developed his fortitude of spirit, strong will, and craving for knowledge to understand the new. While studying at school, Nursultan Nazarbayev became addicted to reading works not only Russian, Kazakh, and foreign classics in the school library but, as Nazarbayev himself says, "Everything that fell under the hand" (Nazarbayev, 1991:21).

During his high school studies, the national press reported a lot about the new Kazakhstani Metallurgical Plant construction. The announcement from the newspaper "Leninskaya Smena" about the recruitment of Komsomol (All-Union Leninist Young Communist League) members to study at the Temirtau factory school in the Karaganda Region of Kazakhstan became the starting point of Nazarbayev's glorious labor path. Despite the metallurgist's hard work, realizing the full gravity of this profession, he was overcome by responsibility and a desire to help the family. It was the hope that he could

help the family that convinced him of the right choice (Nazarbayev, 1991:28). It was these character traits that determined his profession.

His many years of work at the plant allowed him in the future not only to be a Head of State but successfully lead it for several decades and avoid undue difficulties and inauspicious situations that precluded the development of the country. His character hardened in the manufacturing process. He gained vast experience in the plant. It affords him to be a successful manager, and subsequently - the Head of State.

Therefore, Nazarbayev's will was "tempered" together with the steel he melted at the Karaganda Metallurgical Plant, working as a blast furnace." Nursultan Nazarbayev did not limit himself to knowledge only of this specialty. With a sense of self-improvement and a craving to learn a new one, he mastered the new professions for him as a cast-iron man of casting machines, a mining blast furnace, and a gas worker of a blast furnace shop.

His conscientious work, respect for colleagues, growing authority in the cohesive staff, and high organizational abilities in the plant's huge 30 000 people team did not remain overlooked. Nazarbayev was offered to switch to Komsomol and party work, which was considered the success of any Soviet citizen's career growth.

Nursultan Nazarbayev was appointed as a Secretary of the Party committee of his native Karaganda Metallurgical Plant in 1972. This position in the Soviet party-nomenclature system was considered the second after the plant's General Director. It was Nazarbayev who was entrusted with this responsible work. Only a strong and strong-willed person could deal with industrial and everyday issues of 30 thousand people with different fates, character, and views on life. Moreover, only someone, who knows all the workers' problems, not from theory but the inside, could solve it all. Nazarbayev himself encountered them as a worker, who survived all this and "missed" through himself. However, being one of them and "his" for a team of thousands was not enough. As mentioned above, this someone could organize work, avoid conflicts, justifiably defend their positions, offer rational solutions, find a compromise, act as a negotiator and mediator in controversial issues, and not be afraid to take responsibility. He also could have unquestionable authority and be a good speaker.

That is why, professional and life school at the plant allowed Nazarbayev to become: at 39 years old be a secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, at 44 - the Chairman of the Council of

Ministers (Prime-Minister) of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic, the youngest Head of the Government in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), in 1989 to be elected as a Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee's First Secretary, and in 1990 - the President of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic and in 1991 - the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The qualities mentioned earlier, and the vast long experience of industrial, economic, party, ideological, and state work made it possible to form him as a wise and robust politician of a global scale, the creator of Kazakhstan's multi-vector foreign policy.

2. Post-Soviet Period - Independent Republic of Kazakhstan in Central Asia Region and its Foreign Policy

2.1. Transition Period

After the Cold War ending and the dissolution of the Soviet Union caused profound changes in the Post-Soviet geography, especially in Central Asia (CA) region. The emergence of five newly independent states - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan - marked a new international political region - Central Asia. Central Asia's importance is due to its geopolitical location between Russia, China, and Iran, its significant energy and natural resource potential, transport and transit opportunities are strongly affected international security. The particular interest of the world's leading countries, transnational corporations, and various financial and economic organizations in the region is due to its geopolitical position, communication capabilities, and the presence of significant reserves of natural resources. In this regard, the region will remain a sphere of the intersection of interests and strategies of Central Asia and external geopolitical players. The West is watching Central Asia's newly independent states, particularly Kazakhstan, with an eagle's eye (Laumulin, 2000).

After declaring independence, like other former republics in the Central Asia region, Kazakhstan started creating a new State. Under President Nazarbayev's leadership, the construction of a new independent state with its flag, coat of arms and anthem, geographical territory, border, people, domestic and foreign policy, economy, armed forces began overwhelmingly in uncertain and unfavorable conditions.

2.2. Nursultan Nazarbayev's Key Role on Building the Foreign Policy

Together with the State's foundation, the country's foreign policy began to form. After the Soviet Union's dissolution, Kazakhstan faced a dilemma: what foreign policy to pursue best to protect its interests (Tokayev, 2003:158).

At the first stage, the republic's foreign policy aimed to create favorable conditions for Kazakhstan's dignified debut as a new sovereign state in the world community and define its place in it (Sultanov, 2005:158). Strategically and tactically correctly set foreign policy priorities and rationally built foreign policy, taking into account the realities of that time, allowed to strengthen and firmly stand on the feet of a new independent state. Foreign policy played a crucial role in constructing and enhancing Kazakhstan's statehood (Tokayev, 2001:3). The republic was faced with strengthening its statehood and forming effective government institutions, achieving recognition in the world, and establishing partnerships with other countries, including by actively participating in various international organizations (Nazarbayev, 2017:35).

The newly independent State's main tasks were undoubted: recognition of Kazakhstan as a full-fledged subject of international law by the world community and independent Kazakhstan into the world political and economic space. They were to be decided by the diplomatic service, which was created parallel with Kazakhstan's other state bodies. "Kazakhstan's diplomacy has been built from scratch" (Tokayev, 2001:17). Multi-vector foreign policy was shaped during this period. Besides, it fully corresponds to the geopolitical position of Kazakhstan and its national interests.

At the first stage, the republic's foreign policy was focused on creating favorable conditions for Kazakhstan's worthy entry as a new sovereign state into the world community and determining its place in it. Furthermore, in shaping the foreign policy doctrines of the country became a major geopolitical factor: the vast territory, the lack of access to open seas, the proximity to Russia, China, the Islamic world, located in the heart of Eurasia (which under the appropriate conditions will allow Kazakhstan to be like a bridge between West and East Eurasian continent).

The formation of Kazakhstan's foreign policy was accompanied by considerable difficulties of an objective and subjective nature. On the one hand, the difficulty was that this process began practically from scratch. Kazakhstan did not have traditions of foreign policy activity during the Soviet period (Mukhamedov, 1997). On the other hand, uncertainty and instability caused by the USSR collapse created difficulties in adapting to a new geopolitical situation and determined Kazakhstan's place and role in the world community.

In this regard, Tokayev notes that the authors of the concept of Kazakhstan's foreign policy faced complex tasks of comprehending and generalizing processes that took place outside the country. First of all, it was

necessary to accurately determine Kazakhstan's place and role in modern international relations and to identify priorities in the foreign policy of the State (Tokayev, 1997:85). Important significance at the formation of Kazakhstan's foreign policy was the approval of Kazakhstan's positions in the United Nations. Kazakhstan declared its intention to render every possible assistance to strengthening the world organization's role and effectiveness in maintaining peace and security (renouncing the USSR's nuclear legacy), ensuring sustainable socio-economic development establishing democracy, and the rule of law.

On the principle of multi-vector foreign relations, Kazakhstan aspired to create a factual contractual basis in all areas of foreign policy. Relations with Asian and European countries, the USA were initially built based on objective needs for ensuring Kazakhstan's long-term national interests. The main goal was to achieve the approval of the country's political independence and security, the recognition of the irreversibility of turning Kazakhstan into a subject of international relations. Great importance was attached to the signing of bilateral and multilateral international treaties. It can be said with certainty that these documents played an essential role in strengthening Kazakhstan's statehood. Entering into relations with other states and international organizations, Kazakhstan has shown the desire to actively apply norms of behavior that are generally accepted in the modern world community. Kazakhstan successfully could build good relations with leading states in the world. During the first years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, US policy toward Kazakhstan can represent an example of an efficient, rapid, and propitious reaction to a potential challenge to its security (Laumulin, 2000).

2.3. Kazakhstan's Contribution to Providing and Enhancing Regional and Global Security

In the 90s, the collapse of the USSR and newly independent states became a prevalent topic in the scientific and expert community, academia. In political sciences, new otherwise theories and scientific hypotheses were put forward and proved. Ideas and concepts about the end of the era of bipolar peace and inevitably creating a multipolar world, a change in world order and geopolitics, the "balance of power," the possibility of changing the "offensive and defensive" theories in international relations were viral.

The topic's relevance is connected because Central Asia has an important geostrategic and geo-economic significance for the entire continent. At the same time, the Central Asian region has significant conflict potential. The study of political and economic cooperation problems is actually since the

analysis makes it possible to predict and correct relations' further development. Of particular importance is the issue of mechanisms to counter security threats, creating an effective system of integrated security capable of ensuring the region's real sovereignty.

No less popular was the topic of scientific research of the Central Asian region or its countries. In Soviet times, this region was inherently called Central Asia and Kazakhstan since Kazakhstan is geographically located in Asia and Europe. The scientific and expert community analyzed the problems of regional and global security of the region, energy and water resources, transit, and transport potential, taking into account Europe and Asia's geographical location. No one has ever contested the strategic importance of Central Asia under any circumstances. Kazakhstan, the biggest land-lock country globally, located in the Central Asian region. The new part of the world map with a geostrategic location between a huge world player Russia and China is geography with significant energy and natural resources, transport, and transit opportunities. Central Asia has become the beginning of the great geopolitical and geo-economical interest globally and globally and plays an important role politically and economically in world politics. The central Asian region has significant energy resources and transit transport potential and is trying to become a bridge between Europe and Asia (Peyrouse, 2009:543).

As a new independent state with the ninth largest territory on the world map and vast reserves of raw materials and mineral resources, Kazakhstan was of great geopolitical and geo-economical interest on a global and regional scale. As in the 90s of the last century, Kazakhstan still possesses significant reserves of rare and non-ferrous and precious metals, oil, gas, metal, and polymetallic ores, and is engaged in their processing. Kazakhstan has substantial energy resources. In the ninth place, in proven coal reserves country on gold reserves in 16th, on uranium reserves in 2nd, on uranium production in 1st, on copper reserves in 6, explored oil and gas reserves 12th place in the world. Kazakhstan is one of the three world leaders in chromium mining and the first place in the world in chromium ore reserves.

Therefore, in the early 90s, many politicians, political scientists, diplomats, economists, and experts were worried about the question, "What will be Kazakhstan's foreign policy?" Interest in Kazakhstan was fueled by the presence of large reserves of hydrocarbon raw materials and the fact that there were nuclear weapons suitable for use on our territory. In other words, by the time of independence, Kazakhstan was a de facto nuclear state. It became even more relevant when it came to the Soviet nuclear potential's fate that inherited

Kazakhstan, which possessed the fourth atomic weapons to stockpile globally, after Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine. The presence of atomic weapons on Kazakhstan's territory has enormously influenced the change in the "balance of power," the interstate and international order on Westphalia Treaty's principles (Kissinger, 2014:13). Even if the "balance of power" changes, it does not guarantee the emergence of conflicts between countries. The "balance of power" system does not imply the possibility of avoiding crisis or even wars (Kissinger, 1994:13, 14).

In this challenging situation, President Nazarbayev ineluctably made the most accurate and balanced decision about the renouncement of nuclear weapons by signing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of June 1, 1968, non-nuclear-weapon State. It affords inevitably run-off the potential threats, set up friendly and close relations with leading world states, and shore up Kazakhstan's development. Realizing the full responsibility to the world community, Kazakhstan voluntarily renounced nuclear weapons. It participated in the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty of June 1, 1968, as a non-nuclear-weapon State. It made the most accurate, balanced, and historical decision of Kazakhstan's Leader Nursultan Nazarbayev to relieve the tension in world politics. This decision led to setting up confidence in Kazakhstan by the world's leading countries and the world community and dispelled any inauspicious doubts concerning the country. It also allowed creating a favorable political and investment image of Kazakhstan and Kazakh leaders. It demonstrated to the whole world the openness and readiness of the newly independent State to develop relations with countries based on trust, mutual respect, equality, and mutually beneficial partnership. It showed vast Kazakhstan's contribution to providing regional and global security in the world. It also affords to set up a balanced multi-vector foreign policy.

Thus, Kazakhstan's multi-vector foreign policy affords to establish the nuclear-free zone in the Central Asia region, confidence-building measures in the Asian continent, and the development of dialogue between traditional religions, civilizations, and cultures. Kazakhstan initiated a setting up of a couple of bilateral foundations. CICA was established in 1992. It is possible to understand how important it is in terms of the Eurasian region's stability. About 3 billion people live; the overall land area reaches 40 million square kilometers (about 90% of the entire continent). This organization came to life entirely with the initiative of Nursultan Nazarbayev (Zorlu, 2020:83). The World and Traditional Religions Leaders Congress founded in 2003. Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States or Turkic Council was established in 2009. The Kazakhstan leader initiated some integrational bodies

on Eurasia, such as the Eurasian Economic Union, the Eurasian Economic Union's Customs Union, and Kazakhstan's Common Economic Space, Russia, and Belarus, and the Eurasian Economic Community.

Kazakhstan's foreign policy allowed it to develop the economy and attract direct foreign investments under pragmatism, multi-vector, and commitment to national interests, and successfully pass the overweening unfavorable and unduly economic crises. President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev made a massive contribution to setting up Kazakhstan's foreign policy and enhancing its international authority. As a statesman, professional and successful diplomat, he served as Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, Head of the UN's European office in Geneva, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kazakhstan. Thus, currently, Kazakhstan is a prosperous, steadily developing state that occupies a worthy place globally.

Today, against the backdrop of the world pandemic of coronavirus, events are taking place related to the balance of power's changing, the emergence of new centers of economic development in the Asian region, and the redistribution of the political influence of a global and regional scale.

3. Russian-Turkish Crisis, Its Reasons, and Nursultan Nazarbayev's Mediation Role Based on "Eurasianism" Idea

Local and international conflicts on a religious and ethnic basis, ideological, trade "wars," and other events, unfortunately, periodically arise and continue with bringing the charging—the unstable emotional statements of negotiators setting up inauspicious conditions preclude the peaceful settlement and conflict resolution. The easy set of negotiators' qualities and skills in *tete-a-tete* format even back claimed in the 18th century (Callières, 1716:40, 41).

Negotiation, as a psychological process, is a frequently researched subject in the scientific community. There are many meanings of the "negotiation" concept and its types. William Mastenbrook considers negotiations are primarily a set of tactics and the ability to solve dilemmas (Mastenbrook, 1989:9). For Richard Walton and Robert McKersie, negotiations are complex of several activities. They divided them into distributive, integrative negotiations, positional structuring, and negotiations within an organization forward (Burchill, 1965:140,141). Mediation is an essential part of the negotiation process when the parties inevitably cannot agree, despite the running-off desire overweening acute issues. There are a lot

of persuasive examples of conflict settlement in the world. One of them is the First President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev's mediation mission in resolving the Russian-Turkish crisis.

It should be noted that Kazakhstan has practical experience in hosting and organizing peaceful negotiations. Kazakhstan's diplomats participated in the negotiations between Azerbaijan and Armenia on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and solving the civil war in Tajikistan in 1993. Kazakhstan's initiative formation of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia in 1992 mitigated mutual distrust between Asian countries. The convocation of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in 2003 for interfaith dialogue between Islam leaders, Christians, the Jewish world, and others affords to increase mutual understanding between religious. Hosting a two-round of talks between Iran and the P5 + 1 group (Russia, USA, China, Great Britain, France, and Germany) on Iran's nuclear program in Almaty (Kazakhstan) in February and May 2013 and Astana process of negotiations on peaceful settlement in Syria promoted regional and global security.

The Russian-Turkish crisis arose on November 24, 2015, since the shutting down of the Russian military aircraft Su-24M by a Turkish fighter F-16 on the Turkish-Syrian border. Moscow's reaction was not long in coming. Russia imposed economic sanctions against Turkey, deployed "C-300" and "C-400" anti-aircraft missile systems in the Syrian Latakia, and made a warning that "all targets that pose a potential danger to Russian military aviation will be destroyed." The crisis gradually turned into a harsh long-term confrontation between the two countries (Onzhanov, 2017:66). Under this scenario, the situation's development further complicated the peaceful settlement of regional and local conflicts in the Middle East. It increased the risks of negative consequences for the entire region of Europe and Asia.

Russia took measures against Turkey. Moscow suspended a visa-free regime, froze the Turkish Stream gas pipeline project, banned Turkish companies' activities in Russia, and Russian tourists' visits to Turkey.

The crisis between the two countries inevitably intensified and evaluated by inauspicious perspectives. The chances of its quick resolution in the future melted before our eyes. Such a "prospect" caused extreme concern, sincere regret, chagrin, and Nursultan Nazarbayev's experience, who made tremendous efforts to develop and shoring up Russian-Turkish relations. The main reason he could not stay away from the conflict is his idea of "Eurasianism." For the first time, the idea of Eurasianism was voiced by

Nazarbayev in 1994, during his speech at Moscow State University. Nursultan Nazarbayev's "Eurasianism" means the geopolitical doctrine of the post-Soviet states' gradual political and economic integration through the Eurasian Union's creation. It is a union of equal independent states that recognize the established institutions in their countries, borders and territorial integrity, and the rejection of pressure and armed conflicts. Nazarbayev saw Eurasianism as a way out of the crisis for all post-Soviet states and a way for new states to join the world community as civilized nations. The idea of Eurasianism contains the desire of peoples and states for mutual understanding, cooperation, and integration. One of the arguments in favor of this idea, Nazarbayev saw in the global nature, in harmony and peaceful coexistence of many nations and nationalities living in Kazakhstan. In the idea of Eurasian integration, there are no goals to oppose any states or forces in other parts of the world. Voluntary and equal integration guarantees that the peoples of Eurasia will not be drawn into a disastrous confrontation, while no one, even the most peaceful empire, is immune from this (Tazhin, 1997). In his lecture at the L. Gumilyov Eurasian National University in Astana, Kazakhstan's capital, Nursultan Nazarbayev noted that "Eurasianism is the idea of the 21st century. This is the idea of the future" (Kasymbekov, 2010). Based on Eurasian integration, regional security organizations such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization, CICA, and SCO were created. These bodies play a critical role in the security of the Central Asian countries and neighboring States. One of the most successful projects of "Eurasianism" is creating the aforementioned EEU's Customs Union and the Eurasian Economic Community.

The Russian-Turkish once again proved the assumption that it is directly related to decision-making politicians' psychological conditions. It shows the interconnection between psychoanalysis, politics, and diplomacy. It also confirms a thesis that collaboration between psychoanalysis and politics or diplomacy remains limited (Volkan, 2014:6). The whole world was closely watching the situation, which was getting more and more heated every day. It seemed that every day the crisis was reaching a dead end, a "point of no return" (Onzhanov, 2017:73).

How President Nazarbayev could influence the situation when Russia is a strategic Allier and neighbor of Kazakhstan and Turkey is a strategic partner for Kazakhstan and a fraternal country with common historical, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic roots?

As aforementioned earlier, the crisis "opened" not entirely inherently "rainbow horizons" and zero-sum results for the development and security of

the region of Central Asia and the South Caucasus, and the Middle East. For years, under threat of destruction was built and developed constructively and rationally, including Kazakhstan's Leader, the geopolitical triangle Russia - Central Asia - Turkey.

Therefore, the President of Kazakhstan could not only stay away from this conflict and be a third-party observer sideline. As a strong and strong-willed person, he could not allow a further deterioration in relations and would be able to settle relations between the two states ineluctably. It shows his character's firmness, which François de Callières argued about the negotiator's necessary skills (Callières, 1716). The Kazakh Leader also knew that both parties respect him and will trust him. President Nazarbayev decided to conduct individual talks with each party (Bessemmer, 1994:19, 21).

In November 2015, President Nazarbayev contacted Turkish President Erdogan. He also announced Kazakhstan's official position on the incident. It was the need for Russia and Turkey to create a joint commission to investigate the causes of the incident, identify and punish those responsible, compensate for damage, and restore relations.

The Russian-Turkish crisis settlement discussions continued during President Nazarbayev's contacts with Russian President Vladimir Putin in December 2015 and Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in February 2016. Kazakhstan leader suggested the Turkish side a writing letter to President Vladimir Putin on behalf of the Turkish President.

President Nazarbayev's peacekeeping mission continued in April 2016 in telephone contact with Russian Leader, two meetings with President Erdogan, and three meetings with President Putin in May and June 2016.

The next talks between Kazakhstan and Russian leaders were held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan's capital, on June 23-24, 2016. Uzbekistan was a host country of Meeting of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Head of states Meeting. President Putin claimed his readiness to accept his Turkish counterpart's letter after this Meeting President Nazarbayev talked with the Turkish President and said President Putin's readiness to accept the letter.

In the early morning of June 24, President Erdogan's assistant, Ambassador Ibrahim Kalin, took off from Istanbul to Tashkent with the President's letter's original because President Erdogan decided to send the original, not a copy. The flight concomitances with a problem obtaining

permission from Uzbekistan to land in Tashkent aroused, and the aircraft was running out of fuel. It was linked to the Uzbekistan side's security measures connected with the holding of the Meeting above. After the zero-sum negotiations at various levels, the problem has been solved only after Kazakhstan's President's talks with Uzbekistan leader Islam Karimov.

Upon the landing in Tashkent, during the Meeting with Ambassador Kalın, after carefully and attentively reading the letter, President Nazarbayev offered to have a meeting with Yuri Ushakov, Assistant to the President of Russia. One more talk between Turkey and Russia Presidents assistants held at the end of conversations of President Putin with his assistant. It meant that both countries were ineluctably ready to renew relations and undue run-off issues.

Relations improvement between the two countries began with Russian President's Spokesman Dmitry Peskov's official statement on June 27, 2016. During June-August 2016 the Turkish President Erdogan expressed gratitude to President Nazarbayev for his historical mission and invaluable contribution to the crisis resolution. Russian President Putin also conveys appreciation to Kazakhstan President for mediating in restoring relations with Turkey. Thus, the peacekeeping mission of President Nazarbayev was crowned with great success. His wisdom, mediator experience, and international authority afford to renew dialog between Moscow and Ankara (Onzhanov, 2017:99).

The mission's triumphant ending concludes in his professional qualities, vast political experience, talent, recognition, unquestionable authority, and respect in the post-Soviet, Turkic, and political world. In this context, Astana's multidimensional-directional foreign policy based on balance is also of great importance in terms of sensitive regional-international balances, and Aksakal Nazarbayev acts with this consciousness (Erol, 2018). Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who has earned a well-deserved reputation in the international arena with his balance policies, is the global actor who has led the revival of relations between Turkey and Russia have reached the point of rupture due to the aircraft crisis (Sallı, 2016). Therefore, without President Nazarbayev's intervention, the Russian-Turkish conflict would have lasted longer. The decisions, practices, and radical reforms he has made over the past 30 years have become a definitive resource for today's management and politicians, even students studying in this field (Zorlu, 2020:87). It affords to conclude that the Kazakhstan leader is a successful mediator in world politics and forms his psychological portrait of a robust global politician.

Conclusion

Providing regional and global security is one of the main issues in the international arena. Central Asia region plays a crucial role in the global order, political and economic cooperation, global trade, and energy security. The Soviet Union's dissolution left a geopolitical vacuum in CA and led to a sharp increase in the region's external powers' interest. It was facilitated by its advantageous geopolitical location, considerable natural resources, primarily oil and gas, perspectives of the establishment of the transport infrastructure, connecting West and East, and the ability to perform regional functions of a beachhead in the fight against international terrorism. These factors eventually transformed the Central Asia into one of the most attractive geopolitical claims for great powers. The USA, China, Russia, and the EU countries are the key players in this region.

Kazakhstan is an active initiator of ensuring regional and global security. Kazakhstan is a leader in the global anti-nuclear process, integrational issues in the post-Soviet and Central Asia geography, interreligious and interfaith dialogue. All Kazakhstani initiatives successfully implement multi-vector foreign policy, created by the First President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev. His colossal role in the foundation of independent Kazakhstan in a post-Soviet period in the Central Asia region, his initiatives aimed to provide regional and global security, and his peacekeeping mission to solve the Russian-Turkish crisis roused in 2015 was examined.

Nursultan Nazarbayev's biography, his formation stages as a person and outstanding statesman, influential political Leader, efficient negotiator, and mediator in resolving international conflicts and crises were considered. A meaningful role of the Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in forming and establishing a multi-vector foreign policy of Kazakhstan, economy, and independent development of Kazakhstan were described too. The Russian-Turkish crisis, its reasons, and Nursultan Nazarbayev's mediation role were evaluated. The Russian-Turkish relations' normalization and the resumption of strategic cooperation between the two essential and not alien countries for Kazakhstan reflect the effectivity of Kazakh multi-vector policy and its diplomacy the leadership of the First Kazakhstani President Nazarbayev. This diplomatic victory shows the international authority of Kazakhstan and its Leader of the Nation. The high international prestige of Nursultan Nazarbayev, his recognition as a world leader, and his inflexible political will based on Eurasianism's idea, and his experience successfully resolve the Russian-Turkish crisis.

References

- Besemer, H. (1994). "Mediation. Vermittlung in Konflikten. Russian translation from German of N.V. Malova". *Kaluga: Duhovnoye poznaniye*, 2004, pp. 19-21. Retrieved February 14, 2021, from https://www.twirpx.com/file/370993/grant/besemer_kh_mediatsiia_posrednic_hestvo_v_konfliktakh.
- Burchill, F. (1999). "Walton and McKersie. A Behavioral Theory of Labor Negotiations. (1965)". *Historical Studies in Industrial Relations. September 1999, pp. 140-141*. <https://doi.org/10.3828/hsir.1999.8.7>
- Callieres, F. (1716). "De la maniere de negocier avec les souverains, Russian translation from French of L. A. Sifurova, 2000, *Gendalf Publisher*, pp. 40-41,46. Retrieved February 15, 2021, from <https://fr-lib.ru/books/istoriia/o-sposobakh-vedeniia-peregovorov-s-gosudariami-download979569>.
- Erol, M. (2018). Turk Dunyasinin Butunlesmesinde Kazakistan ve Aksakal Faktoru. *ANKASAM (Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Research)*. Retrieved February 18, 2021, from <https://ankasam.org/turk-dunyasinin-butunlesmesinde-kazakistan-ve-aksakal-faktoru/>
- Kassymbekov, M. (2010). First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. *The Chronicle of activity. 1994-1995. Delovoi Mir Astana*, p. 330.
- Kissinger, H. (1994). *Diplomacy*. Moscow: ACT Publishing. [2019], pp. 13-14.
- Kissinger, H. (2014). *World Order*. Moscow: ACT Publishing. [2019], p. 13.
- Laumulin, M. (2000). Kazakhstan and the West: Relations during the 1990s in Retrospect. *Central Asia and the Caucasus Journal* 2000 (2), *CA & C Press AB Publishing House (Sweden)*. Retrieved February 17, 2021, from https://www.ca-c.org/journal/2000/journal_eng/eng02_2000/05.laum.shtml
- Mastenbroek W. (1989). Negotiate. (Russian translation from English Y. Dementyeva). *Kaluga Sociology Institute*, 1993. Retrieved February 15, 2021, from <https://evolkov.net/conflict/Mastenbroek.W.Negotiations>
- Mukhamedov, M. (1997). Formirovanie Osnovnih Prioritetov Vneshnei Politiki Kazakhstana. *Almaty: Vestnik Kazguu*.
- Nazarbayev N. (1991). *Bez pravyh I levyh*. Molodaya Gvardia, pp. 21, 28.
- Nazarbayev, N. (2017). *Era Nezavisimosti*. Astana, p. 35.
- Onzhanov, N. (2017). *Peacemaker: The Syrian conundrum: Notes of a Diplomat*. London: Hertfordshire Press, pp. 66, 73, 99.
- Peyrouse, S. (2009). Is there any unity to the Trans-Caspian Region? The economic relations between Central Asia and the Caucasus. *Asia Europe Journal*, 7(3), 543-557. Retrieved February 17, 2021 from <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10308-009-0244-0>
- Salli, K. (2016, July 3). Teşekkurler Sayın Nazarbayev. *Önce Vatan*. Retrieved February 18, 2021 from <https://www.oncevatan.com.tr/tesekkurler-sayin-nazarbayev-makale,36149.html>

- Sultanov, B. (2001). Development Stages in Kazakhstan's Foreign Policy. *Central Asia and the Caucasus Journal* 2001, 12(6), CA & C Press AB Publishing House (Sweden). Retrieved February 17, 2021, from https://www.cac.org/journal/2001/journal_eng/cac-06/16.sulten.shtml
- Sultanov, B. (2005). *Stanovlenie Vneshnei Politiki Kazakhstana*. Almaty: Istoriya, p. 158.
- Tazhin, M. (1997, March 7). Politicheskaya realnost na poroge novogo stoletiya. *Kazakhstanskaya Pravda*.
- Tokayev, K. (1997). *Pod Styagom Nezavisimosti*. Almaty Bilim Publishing, p.85.
- Tokayev, K. (2001). *Diplomatiya Respubliki Kazakhstan*. Yelorda Publishing, pp. 3-17.
- Tokayev, K. (2003). Preodoleniye. Diplomaticheskiye Ocherki. *Atamura Publishing*, pp. 141-142, 158.
- Volkan, V. (2014). *Psychoanalysis, International Relations, and Diplomacy. A sourcebook on Large-Group Psychology*. Karnac Books Ltd., p. 6.
- Zorlu, K. (2020). Turkic World Leadership. Role of Nursultan Nazarbayev. *NN Journal*, 2(6), 83-87. Retrieved February 17, 2021, from https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JVqeVXRCJIX1O62nYf1_WgA131pEloV/view