



ANKASAM

bulletin

13 March 2022
ISSUE: 2022/10



Geopolitical Earthquakes from Europe to Asia- Pacific: Future Quests in the War-Peace Dilemma

06

Reform Process in Central
Asia-Caucasia: Kazakhstan,
Uzbekistan, and Armenia

10

Russian Chess
in the Ukrainian
Quag

CONTENTS

ANKASAM OUTLOOK

- 03** **Geopolitical Earthquakes from Europe to Asia-Pacific: Future Quests in the War-Peace Dilemma**
Prof. Dr. Mehmet Seyfettin EROL

- 06** **Reform Process in Central Asia-Caucasia: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Armenia**
Prof. Dr. Mehmet Seyfettin EROL

ANKASAM ANALYSIS

- 10** **Russian Chess in the Ukrainian Quag**
Samet İŞBİLEN

- 14** **Approaches of Central Asian Turkish States towards Russia-Ukraine War**
Perizat RISBEKKIZI

- 16** **Combining the Counter-Terrorism Efforts of Central Asian Countries and States Around the World, the Tashkent Declaration is a Great Achievement of Uzbek Diplomacy**
Sodik SAFOEV

ANKASAM IN PRESS

- 18** **Media**

JOURNALS

- 21** **Journal of International Crisis and Political Studies**

Journal of Regional Studies

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Design-String: Esra Karadağ



ANKASAM OUTLOOK

Geopolitical Earthquakes from Europe to Asia-Pacific: Future Quests in the War-Peace Dilemma

In this new international environment where geopolitics is experiencing a sharp turn, the Russia-Ukraine War stands out as an "anxiety-fear address" for all actors, from small to large. "Demands" based on "threats" have led to "hesitancy"- "vigilance" even for countries that are not directly involved in the issue, and as a result of this situation, these countries

have seeking security in the context of "preferences", and accordingly has produced new formations which are changing the existing balances and status quo.

In this chaotic environment where the threat of "Third World War" and "nuclear war" can be used easily, the fact that the issue turns into a



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showdown, irrationality, and a mood that cannot be considered healthy, beyond deterrence, undoubtedly strikes the ground of dialogue and the pursuit of diplomacy. As a matter of fact, a peace-building problem-difficulty emerges as the most fundamental problem of the whole world.

As stated above, one of the most concrete examples of this is the Russia-Ukraine War. In this ambience where the crisis is escalating day by day, negotiations are held between the two states one after the other. It is almost a search for a negotiation built on failure. Indeed, after the first three negotiations, the fourth one being described as unsuccessful already points to the 5th negotiation and others.

Antalya Meeting on the Road to Peace

In this context, it is very significant that the foreign ministers of Russia, Ukraine and Turkey will come together in Antalya on March 10. Although the tripartite meeting seems most likely will not bring a ceasefire, on the other side, it immediately draws attention that the process has moved to a higher stage in terms of participation in the said meeting. This shows us that both sides understand that they cannot bring peace by fighting, and therefore they have begun to attach give more weight to diplomacy.

In another saying, even though both sides have tried to generate pressure on the other by saying that there has been no result from the talks so far, this tactic itself essentially has indicated to us that the parties still give the negotiations a chance. Along the same line, Ukraine's constant calls to the West for assistance, inviting them to their countries, and Russia's harsh approach to the related countries, especially the surrounding states, in fact, reveals their desire, of the parties to settle the dispute by themselves and, of the bring peace.

To put it bluntly, it has both means trouble for Russia, to enter Kyiv, and or not. Because even a person who has a little knowledge of this subject can easily say that there will be no winner. Therefore, Russia is literally in a dilemma, in a dead-end. Due to this, the Antalya meeting will open a new door to the path to peace in the Russia-Ukraine War.

Geopolitical Fault Lines

The Russia-Ukraine War has undoubtedly triggered geopolitical fault lines on a wide line that is stretching from Europe to Asia. The current-potential crises in question also give substantial clues about the future, especially the war. When we consider these developments, the following issues confront us in general terms:

Germany's decision to allocate an additional 100 billion Euros for its defense budget and to strengthen its army

The rapprochement of Europe, the European Union (EU) and NATO

Iran's Vienna talks

The current state of the relationship between China and Russia

New energy supply exercises

New swap agreements

Taiwan and Kuril Islands issues are coming to the agenda again

More prominently, sanctions and consequences

Undoubtedly, these items can be multiplied further. However, these developments, each of which is a candidate for analysis in terms of their results, are more than enough to understand the subject. Hence, when we look at these items, we witness the intense return of the Cold War. We see the beginning of a Cold War whose methods, tools, and actors have changed.

Chinese "Ambiguity" and Taking a Break from the Silk Road

In the presence of the events We are faced with a China that supports one of the parties one day, and the next day is opposed to this side, and at the very least tried to remain neutral. This issue, which can also be explained as fishing in turbid water, undoubtedly withdraws China from among reliable actors and also outrages its image.

The effect of uncertainty in Afghanistan, and the Russian-Ukrainian War, on China, has not been escaped attention. In an atmosphere where the perception that Beijing is not giving a quite accomplished test against regional crises is growing stronger as days pass, it is seen that geopolitical uncertainties put a brake on China's projects. For instance, in the Silk Road Project, China gives the impression of taking a break.

Seeking for a Common Future on Central Asia and South Asia Line

The policy pursued by the Central Asian and South Asian states as of today (silent policy), the cooperation based on a win-win understanding, aiming to take a strong position against the uncertain future and possible geopolitical earthquakes in the construction process of the New World Order and to get out of the process successfully, and the policies followed in this context, preemptive indicate constructive diplomacy.

It is seen that this new policy will directly affect the whole geography from Asia to Europe, especially the problems of the economy, energy, and security of supply routes in the short-medium term.

Reasserting The Understanding Of "Us" Not "I"

The time to answer the question of how to dispose of this crisis in an atmosphere of such uncertainties, geopolitical challenges, and reckonings with "we" rather than "I" appears as the main formula of salvation.

No crisis cannot be overcome in cases where countries, starting from their own close circles, respect their independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and display a collective stance, regardless of a large or small state.

Together with the incidents in Ukraine, we are witnessing the disappearance of the "small state" concept. Moreover, the resistance (However, it is a question of how it will turn out), given by Ukraine against Russia which is a superpower is also significant in terms of showing that the war does not provide any benefit in solving the problems ahead.

In short, now is the time for every country, from Japan to England, to open the gate of dialogue for current-potential crises and to act together to overcome these difficulties. All the states of the world should build peace hand in hand before it is too late. It is possible!



ANKASAM OUTLOOK

Reform Process in Central Asia-Caucasia: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Armenia

The Eurasian region, which has emerged as the heartland of the "New Big Game" within the framework of the changing international system, continues to be the scene of direct and indirect interventions and reckonings. In this context, "center-periphery" relations have gained more importance for the states of the region at a time when the ruptures in geopolitical fault lines are increasing day by day and the region is trying to destabilize the region through current-potential crisis areas.

In this context, we come across three types of center-periphery relations: Firstly, the nation-states within themselves, secondly, what nation-states are trying to achieve with the countries and historical geographies in their immediate environment-dominated/priority regions, thirdly, nation-states' policies towards becoming a "World State".

The future of center-periphery relations, which is based primarily on the unity of the state-na-



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tion in the nation-state building processes, is undoubtedly equivalent to the fate of countries. The problems faced by the countries that cannot achieve this, especially survival, are obvious.

In regions or countries, where power struggles are witnessed, states are not only based on ethnic-religious or sectarian differences, but also, we are witnessing that attempts are made to destabilize and bring them to their knees through mismanagement, in this context, especially on socio-economic and political problems. What happened in the Middle East and African countries before and after the "Arab Spring" and the example of Afghanistan, gives us a lot of insight.

Apart from giving an idea, we see that in all nation-states activate their independence reflexes, it is inevitable for them to enter a restructuring process in line with their historical, geographical and country realities. In other words, a state in line with the realities of the new world order under construction and a strong center-periphery structure are of great importance for the independence and sovereignty of nation-states, and the future of their territorial integrity and unitary structures.

Regionally strengthened cooperation (building regional center-periphery) is undoubtedly essential for nation-states to become much stronger from this process, especially at a time when the power struggle, which is carried out mainly by close circles, intensifies. This undoubtedly requires a visionary leadership and a historical sense of mission.

The Truth Kazakhstan Reminds: Independence Comes with Wisdom

Although the recent events in Kazakhstan have come to the fore with an undesirable crisis dimension, the state mind embodied in the person of President Qassim-Jomart Tokayev and his team, and that the crisis was overcome with the least cost should not be ignored.

President Tokayev's calls for reform to strengthen the state-nation unity, which has largely dominated the "State to the Nation" speeches since 2019 has once again confirmed in January 2022, and this early detection has played a significant role to prevent expansion and deepening of the events.

To put it more concretely, the following five priorities in President Tokayev's speech, in 2019 titled "Constructive Social Dialogue, the Basis for Stability and Development of Kazakhstan" were quite remarkable in terms of determinations for the process and setting a roadmap for it: 1. "Modern Effective State"; 2. "Ensuring the Rights and Safety of Citizens"; 3. "Fast Growing Inclusive Economy"; 4. "The New Era of Social Modernization"; 5. "Strong Regions and Strong Country".

The third address to the nation titled "People's Unity and Systematic Reforms Are a Solid Foundation for the Welfare of the Country", delivered on September 1, 2021, conveyed President Tokayev's determination to "build a strong, just and progressive state" that considers the realities of the country-region-world. It was remarkable in that it showed up once again.

These issues, which stand out as important milestones in the "State with the Voice of the People" process, undoubtedly point to a very comprehensive reform process aimed at the trust of the people in the system. President Tokayev, after the events in Kazakhstan, has started to carry out these reforms with concrete applications from speech to action without delay.

President Tokayev's determination during the events, and the steps he took to restructure the state within the scope of the "New Kazakhstan" movement, and the reforms he put into practice, undoubtedly have a great impact on the future of the region as well as the welfare, peace and security of the Kazakh people. Kazakhstan's understanding of cooperation to share its potential-richness with her geography brings the country to the fore as an independent and sovereign state in the new world order, together with the region. It seems that the understanding of "a strong country with the region" will show itself more clearly with more comprehensive reform movements in the upcoming period.

On the other hand, it is obvious that the steps to be taken should be spread over time. Because it is known that some revolutions made in haste and imposed from above do not give the expected results in the medium and long term. In this context, it is necessary to remember Mr. Tokayev's statements that his country needs a language reform and a comprehensive examination. Mr. Tokayev said, "We need to carry out a language reform. And here the point is not a quick transition to the Latin alphabet. This issue needs to be approached with all seriousness."^[1] statements are noteworthy. Because the reforms must be skillfully planned and implemented meticulously. Similarly, the President of Kazakhstan displays an example of wise leadership by approaching the protests in the country with common sense. Mr. Tokayev and his colleagues, who do not compromise on the national security and territorial integrity of Kazakhstan, are fighting against the terrorized groups on the street; it does not ignore the masses, who voice their democratic demands in good faith. As a matter of fact, the steps he took to eliminate the inequality in income distribution confirm this assumption. However, time is needed in the construction process of New Kazakhstan.

Route of Reform in New Uzbekistan: Third Renaissance

During the Kazakhstan protests, where geopolitical fault lines in Central Asia were tried to be activated, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko made a strange statement warning Uzbekistan. Although that statement points out that some actors, who are disturbed by the reform processes in Uzbekistan, may take various initiatives to destabilize this country, the new Uzbekistan focused on creating a prosperous society under the leadership of Mr. Mirziyoyev, and it is obvious that he strives for peace and stability.

In fact, New Uzbekistan is experiencing the "Third Renaissance" period due to the policies of Mr. Mirziyoyev and his team.

The roadmap of the Third Renaissance implemented under the leadership of the New Uzbekistan Movement led by Mr. Mirziyoyev, is based on constructive cooperation developed within the framework of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of states.

Here, while the Tashkent administration made the state one of the most respected members of the international community; also aims to return the developed relations to the country as an investment in the economic sense. Uzbekistan is also carry-

ing out a series of human rights and democratization reforms to reassure investors. Thus, he envisions a bright future for his own people. Therefore, the development goals of New Uzbekistan can be summarized as "Strong relations with states and international organizations, strong economy and strong democracy."

In line with those goals, the Tashkent administration has focused on integrating with the world with the initiatives and breakthroughs it has made since Mr. Mirziyoyev became President. In this context, Uzbekistan, on the one hand, turns its geopolitical position, which provides Central Asia-South Asia connectivity, to an advantage; on the other hand, the Central Asia-Caspian Sea-Caucasus-Turkey-Europe route; that is, it is opening up to the world using the Middle Line. In addition, Uzbekistan is calling on all states that a different future is possible with the peaceful relations it has developed. As a matter of fact, in the face of the Afghanistan problem, which may turn the Eurasian geography into a ring of fire, Tashkent reveals that a peaceful future is possible in which all states will gain through its approach that prioritizes humanitarian diplomacy and its efforts to include Afghanistan in international projects.

Uzbekistan turns its peaceful policies into investments for the economic development of the country. In other words, Tashkent transforms the constructive relations it has established with the world into economic input. Thanks to this, inflation, which was 18.8% in December 2017, decreased to 10% in December 2021. Now the target is to reduce inflation to 5% by December 2023. ^[2] The Tashkent administration adopted the 2022-2026 Development Strategy in order to increase the purchasing power of the people, to increase the per capita income to 4000 dollars, to create employment and to eliminate unemployment.

The aim here is to expand sectors such as energy, chemical industry, pharmaceutical industry, renewable energy, furniture, agriculture, animal husbandry and tourism, thanks to the reforms to be made. For this reason, Uzbekistan turns to liberalization processes, makes privatization moves against monopoly and finally adapts to its free economy. The success of all these requires meeting the expectation of foreign investment.

Under the leadership of Mr. Mirziyoyev, Tashkent, which wants to offer its people a prosperous future, strives for the New Uzbekistan to be a state that respects human rights based on democratic values. It would not be wrong to say that this effort is also reassuring for the investor. Therefore, Uzbekistan, which

has made important reforms under the visionary leadership of Mr. Mirziyoyev and signaled that it will continue to do so, is walking resolutely towards its 2026 Goals.

Condition for Permanent Peace in the Caucasus: Integration of Armenia with the World

Nikol Pashinyan, who came to power with the Velvet Revolution in 2018, has a mindset that argues that it is not difficult to imagine a different future in the Caucasus, where ethnopolitical conflicts come to the fore.

In this sense, the Moscow Declaration of 10 November 2020, signed after the Second Karabakh War, seems to have paved the way for the establishment of regional peace. The way to establish lasting peace in the region is through Armenia's successful normalization processes with Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Although Pashinyan became the target of social events that broke out after the Second Karabakh War and was exposed to a coup attempt, he was able to successfully overcome the difficulties he faced in domestic politics. In particular, the overwhelming victory in the early elections held after the Second Karabakh War shows that the Armenian community wants change. The direction of change is shaped by the demand for peace.

The main difficulty that slows down the pace of change in Armenia is that the politicians known as the Karabakh Clan, and their supporters still advocate pro-occupation policies. However, the occupation leads to the isolation of Armenia from the international community. This impoverishes the Armenian people. However, some processes that came to the fore with the idea of the Six Cooperation Platform proposed in the context of normalization efforts and promising with important steps in this direction will facilitate the integration of Armenia to the West, as well as open the door for the country to achieve geopolitical and geoeconomic gains through various projects, especially the Middle Line. In a scenario where all Caucasian countries will gain, Armenia can become the center of transportation and energy projects.

At this point, it is essential to state that more than a year has passed since the Second Karabakh War and to state that concrete steps must be taken to determine the Armenia-Azerbaijan border and open the Zangezur Corridor. Because Pashinyan, who survived the political chaos in the country with great success, became the leading actor of the country's politics after Armen Sarkisyan resigned from the Presidency. As a matter of fact, it is predicted that the candidate of Pashinyan's party, the Civil Contract Party, will be elected President. Therefore, Pashinyan is in a stronger position than ever to implement his ideal foreign policy. Considering that Pashinyan is a person who strives for Westernization goals, it is not abnormal to expect him to take decisive steps in this regard. This is what the society wants.

As a result, the states that gained their independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union gained 30 years of experience in the fragile Eurasian geopolitics and are now taking a determined stance towards becoming a strong state. In this context, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Armenia are at the forefront of the states that take steps towards liberalization in economy, domestic politics and foreign policy and take care to establish strong ties with the world. At a time when imperial states with global ambitions want to stage the New Great Game with a new version, the reform processes carried out in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Armenia increase the belief that a different future is possible in which peace is built. Moreover, these reform processes promise a prosperous future to the peoples of the mentioned countries.

[1] "Токаев заявил, что Казахстану нужна языковая реформа", Central Asia, <https://centralasia.media/news:1763375>, (Date of Accession: 20.02.2022).

[2] Eldor Tulyakov, "Economic Development as a Priority in the Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2022-2026", ANKASAM, <https://www.ankasam.org/economic-development-as-a-priority-in-the-development-strategy-of-uzbekistan-for-2022-2026/?lang=en>, (Date of Accession: 17.02.2022).



ANKASAM ANALYSIS

Russian Chess in the Ukrainian Quag

The Ukrainian intervention of Russia is the biggest security concern that happened in Europe since the Cold War era. The primary development which is led to the escalation of the Russian aggression is the reproaching of Europe by Ukraine. This situation was harming the Russian ties, Russian diasporas, the image

of super-power, and its interest such as energy and trade. With related to this, the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin has stated the following:[1]

"For Russia, the ongoing militarization of Ukraine by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the United States (USA) or the presence of



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İŞBİLEN**

Western troops on its territory and Ukraine's membership in NATO is unacceptable. Such steps are red lines that should not be crossed for our national interests."

Addressing the West about Russia's "red lines" in his annual address to the nation, Putin clearly expressed that if these are crossed, there will be an "asymmetrical, fast and harsh" reaction.

As it is known, Ukraine's former President Viktor Yanukovich, acting under the guidance of Russia at the end of 2013, has shelved Ukraine's economic cooperation with the European Union (EU). The pressure for Ukraine to become a member of economic unions that have not yet been established brought Yanukovich against the public. As a result, Yanukovich began to be called a "traitor" and "incompetent" in the eyes of the public. Protests which are known as "Maidan Incidents" took place across Ukraine upon the said developments. Putin, on the other side, has been taken the opportunity to order the annexation of Crimea and then tried to legitimize this under the name of "Operation to Rescue Crimea".

In his speech in March 2014, Putin has warned that the steps of US diplomats to include Ukraine in the alliance before the NATO Summit in 2008 "will be a hostile act against Russia". However, after the recent events, Putin said, "Our Western partners and Ukraine have crossed the line." He declared his goal of restoring Russia to the status of great power in Eurasia.[2]

Europe is facing an increasing threat as Russia builds more and more troops on its border with Ukraine. The deep divergences between European countries, and within the countries themselves also constitute an impediment for the formation of a unified West. NATO and EU officials have repeatedly stated that they will impose heavy sanctions on Russia in case of an attack on Ukraine. Despite these statements, no consensus has yet been reached on the best way to deter Russia.

Germany, France, and England, which are the three strongest countries in Europe in terms of economy, military, and population, follow different paths in their domestic and foreign policies regarding Ukraine. Other EU member states are on different sides according to their geographical proximity to Russia, historical origins, economic cooperation, and energy dependency. One of the vivid examples of these differences is that British Air Force planes followed a flight route around Germany over the North Sea and Denmark while delivering anti-tank weapons to Ukraine. The fact that Germany did not allow Estonia to deliver German-origin howitzers to Ukraine later showed that there was a division in Europe in terms of whether to supply weapons to Ukraine or not. Moreover, Germany has long resisted the USA's inclusion of the Nord Stream 2 Natural Gas Pipeline in the sanctions to be imposed on Russia.

In response to Germany's mentioned stance, Tobias Ellwood, Chairman of the British Defense Committee, has expressed his dissatisfaction with the fact that planes had to circumnavigate Germany for the armament of Ukraine. He further has stated that they did not formally request more flights in order to avoid conflict and not embarrass Germany and that there was no coordinated NATO effort to assist Ukraine.[3]

France, within the framework of the "Charles de Gaulle idea" that continues in the country, intends to keep NATO in the background and create a security mechanism under the leadership of the EU. In this framework, the Paris administration has benefitted from the Ukraine Crisis as an opportunity. In his speech at the European Parliament, French President Emmanuel Macron has emphasized that the EU should follow a separate path in its efforts to reduce tensions between parties, from NATO and the USA and that it is significant to begin a dialogue with Russia.

Speaking before his visit to Moscow, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said, "I think one of Russia's long-standing goals is to cause strife among us, and we will not allow it.[4] Despite this statement by Blinken, the different interests of Europe bring the mentioned countries against the USA. The Baltic states are seeking a strong reaction led by the USA. However, the dependence on Russian gas in the rest of Europe is around 40%. All these factors make it troublesome to adopt a stronger approach in Europe. While the contraction in the energy supply causes the prices to increase; this aggrandizes the possibility of harming the voters.

Russia is pushing the limits, patience, and political solidarity of the opponent by using the war method called "Hybrid War" with the moves it makes. With all its activities, Russia is aspiring to weaken NATO's political solidarity and deepen the split in opinions. The timing of Putin's challenge is quite remarkable. The "Partygate" scandal was triggered by the revelation that Prime Minister Boris Johnson gave a party in violation of the epidemic restrictions in the UK, France's election, and the establishment of a new government in Germany after 16 years of leadership by Angela Merkel, all these create serious crises within the Western Alliance. This situation strengthens the positions of both the USA and Russia in Europe.

With the start of the war, not only for Ukraine; at the same time, all Europe was faced with a shocking reality regarding their security architecture. Thus, Italy's desire to sell luxury goods and Germany's desire to maintain easy access to Russian natural gas came to an end. At the extraordinary meeting in the Parliament, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz made statements that would turn the country's foreign policy 180 degrees after the Cold War. By increasing Germany's military spending to protect its freedom and democracy, Scholz stated that they will create a special fund of 100 billion euros to rapidly develop the Armed Forces and that they will adhere to NATO's spending target in the future. In addition, Scholz expressed that they will cease the Nord Stream 2 Natural Gas Pipeline and build two port terminals on liquefied natural gas (LNG) to diversify the energy sources of Germany.

Before the war started, Germany has argued that deadly weapons should not be delivered to Ukraine, despite the pressure from the EU and NATO. However, after the war started, it made a sudden change of course and has decided to send 1000 anti-tank and 500 Stinger anti-aircraft defense systems in its stocks to support the country. Moreover, weapons-producing countries in Europe often have some legal authority to resell or donate weapons to third parties. Considering that most of the weapons produced in Europe are German suppliers and Franco-German partnership, this has caused Europe to be late in the Ukraine issue compared to NATO and the USA.

As a result of the decisions taken by Germany, it was announced that it would authorize the Netherlands and Ukraine to send 400 rocket-propelled grenade launchers, and it would send 9 howitzers to Estonia. On the other side, the Netherlands has announced that it will send 200 Stinger anti-aircraft defense systems; Belgium, 2000 machine guns and 3,800 tons of fuel; Estonia and Latvia fuel, Javelin armored weapons and medical supplies support; Czech weapons and ammunition;

Slovakia has announced that it will send ammunition, diesel, and kerosene. With the departure of Germany's senior Chancellor Angela Merkel, Macron sees himself as the only remaining experienced leader in Europe. Beyond preventing war, it also desires to determine Ukraine's status, returns Europe to diplomacy, and ultimately establish a greater "European sovereignty" and a new security order on the continent. Supporting this idea, Scholz has stated in his last speech that his country will try to build new generation battle tanks and aircraft with its European partners, especially France, and that these projects will be among their priorities. Further, Germany will equip Eurofighter jets with new electronic warfare systems and will procure American F-35 stealth fighter jets in case of a possible nuclear conflict.

After the Cold War, West Germany had around 500,000 soldiers before reuniting with former East Germany. This number was reduced to 180,000 troops over time, and the poor condition of the army's equipment was at times ridiculed. The Russia-Ukraine War has revealed that it is now a necessity for the EU to be autonomous in the field of defense and security. The issue of securing the northern wing of Europe with England, Canada, Iceland, and Sweden and the southern flank with Turkey started to come into prominence. In addition, the strategic solidarity of the member states within themselves, especially between the north and the south, is now taken more seriously. It is clear, however, that without the United States, Europeans cannot give a coherent response to Russia. The EU's foreign and security policy requires decisive unanimity. The priorities of the countries are also different from each other. While the southern wing aims to focus on the Mediterranean and migration; Eastern Europe puts Russia first. Moreover, the political and strategic instincts are also divergent. While France is in favor of having military power; it is biased towards a US-dominated NATO. Germany, on the other side, adopts the alliance; however, it refrains from using force for historical reasons. The UK has left the EU completely. While this emerging equation creates a dilemma in Europe; it also makes European domination impossible. However, no assumptions seem to change the significance of this requirement.

In order not to be a pawn in this dangerous game played, Europe will try to make the US's position clear in the next process and will take the necessary military and diplomatic measures to prevent Russia's attitude. Finally, the decision of Europe to remove Russia from the foreign exchange transfer system (SWIFT) was published in the EU Official Journal. These steps have contributed to Putin's blow to the integration of the EU and the collective solution of the problems by highlighting all the issues



that the EU ignores. Even though the EU has also implemented important sanctions by acting together, it should not be ignored that Russia has not yet played its last trump card against the sanctions. It is seen that the Kremlin follows a reciprocity-strategy based upon the dose and effect of the sanctions.

[1] Anatoly Antonov, "Red Lines' on Ukraine, Ties with China and More", Russian Council, <https://russiancouncil.ru/en/analytiks-and-comments/comments/red-lines-on-ukraine-ties-with-china-and-more/>, (Date of Accession: 08.03.2022).

[2] Jonathan Masters, "Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia", CFR, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/ukraine-conflict-crossroads-europe-and-russia>, (Date of Accession: 08.03.2022).

[3] Liz Sly, "A Divided Europe Confronts Russia with Conflicting Goals on Ukraine", Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/01/23/europe-divided-ukraine/>, (Date of Accession: 08.03.2022).

[4] "Secretary Antony J. Blinken at a Press Availability", State, <https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-at-a-press-availability-14/>, (Date of Accession: 08.03.2022)



ANKASAM ANALYSIS

Approaches of Central Asian Turkish States towards Russia-Ukraine

On February 21, 2022, Russia has officially recognized the independency of Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics, which are separatist groups in the southeast Ukraine. On February 24, 2022, the country has announced that they have started a "special military operation" towards Ukraine early in the morning. After those developments, the crisis escalated more. As a response to those actions, Western countries has declared that they will apply new sanctions towards Russia. In that period, when

the tension increased, many countries has applied sanctions; while Central Asian Turkish States has expressed that they are defending the peaceful resolution of the conflict. Besides that, those countries did not express any support to the sides of the war. In that context, it should be highlighted that those countries have close connections with both Russia and Ukraine, based on common history. Therefore, those states believe that the problem should be solved by diplomatic means.



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The first solid call for the mediation has brought by Kazakhstan. Thus, Kazakhstan has expressed that they are ready to host the negotiations to solve the crisis between Ukraine and Russia.

Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi has said in his speech of United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council in the following:[1]

"Both Russian and Ukrainian people are brothers of us. That's why we are concerned. We are ready to help about using mediation services to be used."

In that sense, it can be said that Kazakhstan has called to the international society and sides of the dispute, for solving the crisis with the diplomatic ways

Approach of Kazakhstan to the question has showed that in addition to the peaceful discourse, states are sensitive about the independence, sovereignty, and territorial unification. Because, Kazakhstan Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed before the call for mediation, that there is not an agenda of recognizing separatist structures of Donetsk and Luhansk. The most important reflection of this is the expressions of Mr. Tileuberdi about intervention of the military of Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) as a peacekeeping force:[2]

"You know that CSTO Charter limits the usage of military or peacekeeping forces. Those are only used in CSTO. Recently, Secretary General of CSTO has mentioned a possible appointing peacekeeping forces to Donetsk and Luhansk. As he said, this is a hypothetical question. Which means, it is impossible in practice. For a possible appointment United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) decision and duty are needed."

About war between Russia and Ukraine, Tashkent also expressed the similar views. Thus, according to Mr. Sherzod Asadov, Press Secretary of the Presidency of Uzbekistan, all disputes should be resolved solely based on international law. The Tashkent administration also defends this. Adding that Uzbekistan has traditionally had friendly relations with both Russia and Ukraine, Mr. Asadov said, "We are interested in ensuring peace, stability, and sustainable development in our region. All disputes must be resolved within the framework of international law." [3] made his comment.

Turkmenistan, which successfully combines her neutrality with her foreign policy, is in favor of developing peaceful, friendly, and mutually beneficial relations with the countries of the region and the world states. For this reason, the Ashgabat administration under the leadership of Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov advocates the peaceful resolution of the conflict in accordance with international law.

As a result, it can be stated that the Turkish states and countries in Central Asia are in favor of a peaceful and diplomatic solution. At the same time, this approach also reflects the multi-vector foreign policy understanding of the regional states. Considering that the peoples of the region have historical and cultural ties with both sides of the war, it can be argued that the approach of the regional capitals is consistent and prudent.

[1] "Тлеуберди заявил, что Казахстан готов предоставить площадку для переговоров России и Украины", Inform, <https://informburo.kz/novosti/chernovik-kazakhstan-gotov-predostavit-ploshadku-dlya-peregovorov-rossii-i-ukrainy>, (Date of Accession: 02.03.2022).

[2] "Казахстан не может отправить миротворцев в Украину в рамках ОДКБ – Тлеуберди", Zakon, <https://www.zakon.kz/6007577-kazakhstan-ne-mozhet-otpravit-mirotvortsev-v-ukrainu-v-ramkakh-odkb-tleuberdi.html>, (Date of Accession: 01.03.2022).

[3] "«Узбекистан занимает взвешенную, нейтральную позицию» — пресс-секретарь президента", Gazeta Ru, <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2022/02/26/statement/>, (Date of Accession: 03.02.2022).



Combining the Counter-Terrorism Efforts of Central Asian Countries and States Around the World, the Tashkent Declaration is a Great Achievement of Uzbek Diplomacy

Humanity has reached tremendous achievements and high limits in recent years. However, people still do not feel safe and secure due to the risks that are globalizing in parallel with the progress of the world. Undoubtedly, one of these risks and threats is international terrorism. The whole world is aligned oneself in the fight against this evil, yet terrorism is still in existence in its manifestations.

We remember that the UN has developed a global strategy to combat international terrorism, one of the most significant issues of modern times more than 15 years ago. Because terrorism was seen as a serious threat to the sustainable development of every nation, people, region, and population, the whole world deduce that progress was impossible without overcoming it. It is obvious that no country can



Sodik SAFOEV

offer resistance stand-alone against terrorism. It is possible to achieve the expected result only with the joint efforts of all states, international structures, and non-governmental organizations.

One such effort was the recent high-level international conference titled "Regional cooperation of Central Asian countries within the framework of the Joint Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy" held in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan.

In the speech of the President of Uzbekistan, Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the conference participants, he highlights the necessary mechanisms for interstate cooperation on a global and regional scale, in line with the necessity for full-scale counterterrorism. Worldwide dangerousness, solely to be overcome together, there is no other way.

Holding a high-level conference in Uzbekistan is symbolic noteworthy. Speaking to the participants of the conference, Mr. Mirziyoyev has expressed concrete views in different areas aimed at coping with this global problem. Consequently, the fight against terrorism is the center of gravity of Uzbekistan's leadership. In this sense, Tashkent had the right to host the international conference in question.

The nature of the threat may change in the course of time. For instance, when the concept of cyber terrorism emerges, it becomes much more problematic to control the situation regarding cryptocurrencies. There is no doubt that these factors also serve to finance terrorist activities in our region.

Mr. Mirziyoyev has stated that as a solution to the problem, it is necessary to direct the youth people to the right path and to endeavour with them actively. Terrorist groups often strive to bring young people who have no experience of life without a broad worldview into the fold. This is clearly evident from the terrorist groups operating in different parts of the world.

It is significant that representatives of international organizations and foreign experts participating in this prestigious forum actively support all initiatives and proposals put forward by Uzbekistan.

A key point of the international event was the adoption of the Tashkent Declaration and the updated Joint Plan of Action. It is possible to say that the Tashkent Declaration was a great success of Uzbek diplomacy.

According to its substance and importance, the document in question is a coherent and logical extension of two counter-terrorism declarations. These documents; the Samarkand Declaration on increasing the role of young people in countering violent extremism and terrorist radicalization; and the Dushanbe Declaration on the sources of its financing, including international and regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism and organized crime such as drug trafficking.

The Tashkent Declaration and the updated Joint Action Plan play a crucial role in unifying the efforts of Central Asian countries and the whole world in the fight against terrorism. This was also emphasized by the forum participants.

Naturally, the successful implementation of the agreements and tasks which is defined in the Tashkent Declaration and the Joint Action Plan demands great responsibility from the parliamentary representatives. However, it is also a serious necessity to strengthen the cooperation of Central Asian parliaments. After all, bilateral and multilateral partnerships serve as a substantial and effective mechanism for discussing and promoting all counter-terrorism measures.

This respectable international conference held in Tashkent and of the accepted Tashkent Declaration has great importance in accelerating the efforts of the world community to combat terrorism. The next goal is the consistent implementation of the tasks has described here.

ANKASAM IN PRESS

7 March 2022

Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Studies (ANKASAM) Chief Advisor (Energy) Dr. Cenk Pala's evaluations on the Russia-Ukraine War Energy Crisis were published in Cumhuriyet Newspaper.

7 March 2022

ANKASAM President Prof. Dr. Mehmet Seyfettin Erol evaluated the Uzbekistan-Pakistan relations to the Uzbekistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dunyo News Agency.

8 March 2022

ANKASAM Energy Chief Advisor Dr. Cenk Pala evaluated the energy dimension of the Russia-Ukraine War on TVNET.

8 March 2022

ANKASAM International Relations Specialist Dr. Dođacan Bařaran evaluated the Russia-Ukraine War on TVNET.

8 March 2022

ANKASAM Eurasia Expert Dr. Sabir Askerođlu evaluated the Russia-Ukraine War on TVNET.

9 March 2022

Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Studies (ANKASAM) International Relations Specialist Dr. Sabir Askerođlu evaluated the importance of Odessa in the Russia-Ukraine War to Haber Global.

9 March 2022

ANKASAM International Relations Consultant Dr. Kadir Ertaç Çelik evaluated the Russia-Ukraine War on Bengütürk TV.

9 March 2022

ANKASAM Chief Advisor to the President, Retired Ambassador Aydın Nurhan, evaluated the Russia-Ukraine War in A Haber.

9 March 2022

ANKASAM International Relations Specialist Dr. Dođacan Bařaran evaluated the Russia-Ukraine War on Ülke TV's Akřama Dođru.

ANKASAM IN PRESS

10 March 2022

ANKASAM International Relations Consultant Dr. Kadir Ertaç Çelik evaluated the Russia-Ukraine War on TVNET.

10 March 2022

ANKASAM Chief Advisor to the President, Retired Ambassador Aydın Nurhan, evaluated the Russia-Ukraine War in the program of Ülke TV Öđle Ajansı.

10 March 2022

ANKASAM International Relations Specialist Dr. Dođacan Bařaran evaluated the Russia-Ukraine War on Lider TV.

10 March 2022

ANKASAM Chief Advisor to the President, Retired Ambassador Aydın Nurhan, evaluated the Russia-Ukraine War on TVNET.

10 March 2022

ANKASAM Eurasia Expert Dr. Sabir Askerođlu evaluated the Russia-Ukraine crisis on Ülke TV.

10 March 2022

ANKASAM International Relations Consultant Dr. Kadir Ertaç Çelik evaluated the Antalya Diplomacy Summit and Russia-Ukraine Negotiations at TRT Arabi.

10 March 2022

ANKASAM International Relations Consultant Dr. Kadir Ertaç Çelik evaluated Antalya Diplomacy Summit and Russia-Ukraine Negotiations on TVNET.

10 March 2022

ANKASAM Chief Advisor to the President, Retired Ambassador Aydın Nurhan, evaluated the Russia-Ukraine War on Habertürk TV.

10 March 2022

ANKASAM International Relations Consultant Dr. Kadir Ertaç Çelik evaluated the Antalya Diplomacy Summit and Russia-Ukraine Negotiations in Kanal B.

ANKASAM IN PRESS

11 March 2022

ANKASAM Eurasia Expert Dr. Sabir Askeroğlu evaluated the Russia-Ukraine War on Ülke TV.

11 March 2022

ANKASAM President Prof. Dr. Mehmet Seyfettin Erol evaluated the Russia-Ukraine War on Ülke TV
Ülkede Bugün program.

11 March 2022

ANKASAM International Relations Specialist Dr. Doğan Başaran evaluated the Russia-Ukraine War on ON4 TV's İşin Özü program.

11 March 2022

Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Studies (ANKASAM) Chief Advisor to the President, Retired Ambassador Aydın Nurhan, answered Banu El's questions in A Haber.

11 March 2022

Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Studies (ANKASAM) Chief Advisor to the President, Retired Ambassador Aydın Nurhan, was the guest of Haber Türk Özel program hosted by Mehmet Akif Ersoy on Haber Türk.

13 March 2022

ANKASAM President Prof. Dr. Mehmet Seyfettin Erol evaluated the Russia-Ukraine War on TRT Haber.

13 March 2022

ANKASAM Chief Advisor to the President, Retired Ambassador Aydın Nurhan, evaluated the Russia-Ukraine War on Habertürk TV.



The latest issue of the International Journal of Crisis and Politics Studies, an international peer-reviewed journal operating within the Ankara Center for Crisis and Politics Studies (ANKASAM), has been published. Academic Keys, ASOS Index, CEEOL, Cite Factor, DRJI, Index Copernicus, Ideal Online, Research Bible, Sindex and TUBITAK DERGIPARK databases are scanned by our journal can be accessed via the link below.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CRISIS AND POLITICAL STUDIES VOLUME VI, ISSUE I

JOURNAL OF REGIONAL STUDIES

The latest issue of the Journal of Regional Studies, an international peer-reviewed journal operating within the Ankara Crisis and Political Research Center (ANKASAM), has been published. Our journal is scanned by Academic Keys, ASOS Index, CEEOL, Cite Factor, DRJI, Index Copernicus, Ideal Online, Research Bible, Index and TUBITAK DERGIPARK databases. You can reach our journal via the link below.

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