

THE MAIN ISSUES AMONGST CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

(The territorial conflicts constitute prime reasons for disagreements in Central Asia)

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ABSTRACT:

Territorial conflicts have been a main source for different issues amongst Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. These conflicts stimulate other economic and political disagreements. Sokh is an Uzbekistan's enclave in Kyrgyzstan. Tajikistan claims to have Samarkand and Bukhara from Uzbekistan. However, the governments have been incurring with these problems more reasonable for a few last years.

KEYWORDS: Central Asian territorial issues, enclave, Sokh, Samarkand and Bukhara, political disagreements, border disputes, since the last presidential elections in Uzbekistan.

INTRODUCTION:

Territorial disagreements have always been rather serious problems amongst Central Asian countries. The shortage of water or different claims in terms of the original ownership over certain areas exacerbated the relationships between the countries in the part of the world. All of countries in Central Asia constitute post – Soviet Republics, and during their dependence on the Soviet Union, their territories were divided based on argumentative issues. As a consequence, these problems continued after mass-independence of five Central Asian Republics at the commencement of the 1990s. Thenceforth, certain conflicts have been emerging based on the territorial problems of these countries. Notable examples of these issues are Sokh disputes and other border problems.

On the other hands, the resolution of territorial disputes is obviously emotional and goes directly to each country's definition of national interests. No nation wants to make territorial concessions. Nonetheless, the failure to resolve border issues prevents neighbors from normalizing relations and dealing with pressing social and economic issues. Thus it is important that any territorial differences be resolved on a mutually acceptable basis in accordance with the standards of international law and practice

Regarding the contemporary problems, territorial problems barely appear amongst these countries. However, this issue tends to reflect other political or economic disagreements. Hence, when Tajikistan claims the original ownership over Samarkand and Bukhara which are located in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, it might initiate to encourage other problems to render Uzbekistan uncomfortable with the commercial issues with Tajikistan. Nonetheless, the Republic of Uzbekistan has been incurring with these problems more reasonably, particularly since 2016 when the exchange of the government happened in Uzbekistan.

Moreover, it should also be noted that according to the statistics of 2019, Uzbekistan has eminently great exchange of merchandise that is estimated 5.2 billion dollars with its neighbors, and this amount was approximately 100-150 million dollars in 2016. This undoubtedly means that the relationship of the Republic of Uzbekistan has had a dramatic increase since the last presidential election and exchanging the President in 2016. Within this amount, the product exchange with Tajikistan and Turkmenistan increased 5 times, whilst Kyrgyzstan had 8 times higher commercial activities with Uzbekistan. Additionally, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan increased mutual product exchange to 1 billion dollars per year from 2016 to 2019.

Meanwhile, on the 5th of September in 2017, the President of Uzbekistan made an agreement in terms of border issues with Kyrgyzstan, afterwards on the 10th of March in 2018 with Tajikistan on this issue. Consequently, all of the control points along the borders of the countries were removed. Notwithstanding agreements and commercial improvements, there remained certain problematic issues like Sokh because the demand of Tajikistan on Samarkand and Bukhara seemed to be eased after the mutually rigid agreements.

Sokh constitutes Uzbekistan's enclave in the territory of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

Regarding the conflicts on Sokh, the last one happened on the 3rd of June in 2020.

On the 5th of June, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the President of Uzbekistan, gave a speech to Sokh and Fergana people, which includes the Sokh region, showing testimonial about the neighbor country, and afterwards, on the 11th of June, the same attitude was followed by the Kyrgyz President as well. Indeed, the Sokh conflict constitutes a regular problem, however, the official governments have tried to tackle this dispute more sensibly. For instance, the presidents of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have been following the friendly atmosphere mutually.

To recapitulate, albeit various recent reformations, the territorial problems have remained one of the deepest problems in Central Asia, and this might reflect the problems in other spheres as well. For instance, in commercial relationships. However, on account of mutual and immediate attitudes, the friendly atmosphere has tended to recover so far.

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