

**AFGHANISTAN: A NEW PAGE IN THE STUDY**

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**Abstract:**

It is known that at the moment, the importance of Afghanistan is urgent both on the global and the regional scale. The issue of Afghanistan for Central Asia is not only on the permanent agenda of the governments of the region, but also an urgent issue for the international community in terms of ensuring security and promoting cooperation. From this point of view, the study of socio-political processes in Afghanistan has scientific and practical importance. "Afghanistan. Dictionary-reference" prepared by Professor I.I.Bobokulov satisfies the scientific needs of researchers in the field of international relations and Afghan studies.

**Keywords:** Afghanistan, Central Asia, geopolitical situation, sustainable development, regional security.

**Introduction**

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One of the main issues on the agenda of the political development of the world today is the issue of Afghanistan, this country, which has long been a source of instability and danger that affects the stability and development of Central Asia and regional security. The study of political, economic and geopolitical processes in Afghanistan from a scientific point of view has always been in the focus of attention of foreign and regional specialists.

It should be noted that one of the most powerful Central Asian studies programs in the United States in the second half of the 1990s was the Atlantic Council of the United States (ACUS). The main ideas of this program were expressed later in 2005 in the study of "Greater Central Asian cooperation for Afghanistan and its neighbors" by Professor F.Starr, head of the Institute of Central Asia and the Caucasus (an analytical center at J.Hopkins University in Washington). In it, the author called for considering the five Central Asian republics of the former Union, as well as Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and India as a single region and conducting a single regional policy in this area.

Central Asian countries, including the Republic of Uzbekistan, are interested in ensuring stability in Afghanistan. In the development strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the period of 2022-2026, the development of the multifaceted relations of Uzbekistan with Afghanistan and support for its socio-economic recovery is emphasized [1]. In its foreign policy, our country has been seriously emphasizing the issue of Afghanistan and will continue to support the economic recovery of Afghanistan, the development of its transport, production, energy and social infrastructures. A stable, developing Afghanistan is a guarantee of the regional security of Central Asia.



### Literature Review

A number of scientific works related to the study of Afghanistan have been carried out. The issue of Afghanistan is always considered a topic that is in the attention of academic circles, expert analysts and researchers. Researcher Sh.I.Akmalov studied the influence of the issue of Afghanistan on modern Pakistan-Iran relations in his candidate's thesis [2]. Researcher R.M.Alimov's monograph entitled "Central Asia: common interests" analyzes the current geopolitical situation in Central Asia and it is emphasized that Afghanistan has become a weak object of geopolitical confrontation of major power centers, a "convenient outpost" for advancing the geopolitical interests of major countries in the world and the region [3]. The scientific work of UWED professor N.O.Tulyaganova is dedicated to the study of the influence of the Afghanistan factor on the new security system in Central Asia [4]. Researcher R.R.Rashidov's scientific work examines the issues of state formation in the current situation in Afghanistan [5]. In the study of the researcher S.Boronov, the classic geopolitical theories, the interests of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the approaches of external actors were expressed in the study of Afghanistan [6].

### Research Methodology

In this article, based on the nature of literature and scientific approaches, comparative analysis, content analysis in political sciences was used. The scientific works of specialists who have conducted research on the topic were consulted.

### Analysis and Results

It can be said that the uniqueness of this dictionary-reference prepared by professor I.I.Bobokulov in the field of scientific works in political sciences related to Afghanistan is explained by the comprehensiveness of the author's work. The dictionary contains a list of abbreviations, general information about the country, aspects that are important from a geopolitical point of view, i.e. the country's nature, climate, population, history, religious beliefs, foreign policy, the evolution of Uzbekistan-Afghanistan relations, the increasingly important field of transport and economy, characteristics and the field of literature and art, which has been very close to Central Asia since ancient times, is presented in a convenient form for readers.

It should be noted that when thinking about the peoples who lived in the territory of Central Asia and Afghanistan in the past, and the cultural and scientific communication between them, it is appropriate to take into account the approaches of the famous American political scientist S.F.Starr [7].

From the point of view of geopolitics, which is a political science, it can be seen in the following case that the important aspects are covered by the author through specific figures.

Afghanistan is a mountainous, landlocked country located in the extreme eastern part of Southwest Asia. It is recognized as belonging to all three regions, as it is located at the geographical intersection connecting Central and South Asia and the Middle East.

The area is 652,864 thousand square meters. is km. The population is more than 38 million people. Afghanistan borders Iran to the west, Pakistan and the People's Republic of China to the south and east, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan to the north. The total length of the Tajik-Afghan border is 1344 km, its main part is about 1136 km. It runs along the Panj/Amu Darya. The Turkmen-Afghan border (length of 800 km.) partly falls on the Amudarya, and the main part falls



on the plain. The Uzbek-Afghan state border with a total length of 143 km runs along the Amudarya. Afghanistan is a subtropical country, and 80% of its territory is occupied by mountains and plateaus [8].

Based on this reality, the names of the regions of the country and their place in the modern geopolitics of Central Asia are scientifically based opinions. We can see this in the case of the Voxon Corridor, which is becoming more and more important today. The dictionary says that this is the location of the heartland and the area where the interests of Central Asia, the People's Republic of China and other powers intersect.

Information about socio-anthropology, which is attracting more and more scientific interest in today's research, is also presented by the author. It is inevitable that these data will play a key role in the study of Afghanistan and its political processes.

Afghanistan is a multi-ethnic country. The Pashtuns (Afghans) are the largest ethnic group, accounting for more than 45% of Afghanistan's population. This Pashto-speaking people lives mainly in the south and east of the country. They are also present in the western and northern provinces. The next places are occupied by ethnic Tajiks - about 30%, Hazaras - more than 10%, Uzbeks - 9-10%, as well as Turkmens, Kyrgyz, Khoraymoks, Baluchs and others. Tajiks, Hazaras and Choraymoks speak different dialects of the Dari language. Uzbeks, Turkmens and Kyrgyz are Turkic-speaking peoples. The Uzbeks, who are considered the largest Turkic people of the country, live in all regions of Northern Afghanistan, in particular, Juzjan, Faryab, Samangan, Saripul, Balkh, Kunduz, Tahor, Badakhshan, Baghlan, and the capital Kabul and Herat [8].

In socio-psychological sciences, the question of affiliation is always considered one of the topics of scientific interest. Of course, the scientific heritage of E.Erikson is of great importance in this. Today, in modern political studies, the issue of affiliation is also attracting great interest in scientific circles. An example of this is the political scientist F.Fukuyama's "Identity". The desire for recognition and the politics of denial".

While continuing the above existing scientific traditions, Professor I.Bobokulov also paid attention to the issue of religious affiliation, which is of great importance in the Afghan society. The issue of religious affiliation is a factor affecting all political processes in the world today, and Afghanistan is no exception. The basis of the existing government and the social structure of the society are derived from this indicator.

Almost all of Afghanistan's population is Muslim: more than 85% are Sunni, and the rest belong to the Shia sect. Hazaras are the main Shia ethnic group. Also, Qizilbash, a certain part of mountain (Pamir) peoples, Khoraymok and some Pashtun tribes also belong to this sect. Among the Sunnis, the Qadiriya and Naqshbandi sects are widespread. At the same time, the dictionary covers the activities of Islamic movements, parties, religious leaders, and the US-Taliban negotiations in Afghanistan.

Scientific approaches, which were explained by theorists in terms of information society and technological changes, have become a reality today. Developed countries are definitely in the first place in this field. But what is interesting is that natural reserves form the basis of taking the first steps from the technological point of view.

In this matter, Afghanistan also has sufficient reserves. According to the author, the total value of the available natural resources in Afghanistan is estimated at 1 trillion US dollars (3 trillion in some sources). Northern Afghanistan is rich in hydrocarbons and has been exporting gas to



Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan since the 60s of the 20th century. One of the world's largest copper mines is located in Logar region. The PRC invested 3.5 billion dollars in this sector (Aynak copper mine).

From a geostrategic point of view, it should be noted that Afghanistan's existing natural reserves, namely oil, gas, coal, silver, gold, cobalt, iron ore, and rare earth elements are considered important reserves in today's industrial development. A 2010 Pentagon report noted that Afghanistan could be the "Saudi Arabia of lithium". If we take into account the fact that the world's automotive industry is shifting to the production of electric vehicles with lithium batteries, the demand for lithium will increase even more.

According to an article in "The Diplomat" magazine, the value of minerals and rare earth elements in Afghanistan is estimated at 1-3 trillion dollars [9].

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Taking into account the above existing situations and the conflicting interests of various major actors in Afghanistan, the influence of the Afghanistan factor on stability in Central Asia, the Central Asian countries are acting based on their own interests on the issue of cooperation with Afghanistan.

Speaking about the evolution of mutual cooperation, this dictionary reveals the practical significance of the meeting of the parties to the conflict in Afghanistan in Tashkent in 1999 within the framework of the dialogue group "6 + 2" of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and international conferences on the topic "Peace process, security cooperation and regional partnership" held in March 2018.

Today, the issue of Afghanistan is gaining global importance and has a great influence on foreign policy. As the researcher S.Boronov pointed out, the geodiplomacy of Uzbekistan to solve the modern Afghan problem is considered a powerful lever of Tashkent's policy in the region [10].

In the monograph of the researcher A.A.Umarov, the geopolitical situation in Afghanistan, the interests of major countries were analyzed deeply, and Uzbekistan's approach was highlighted [11].

The importance of the Afghan factor in ensuring stable development in the Central Asian region is also recognized by the international community. This approach can be observed in the new strategy of the EU in Central Asia, adopted by the EU, and based on it, close cooperation with the EU and Central Asian countries has reached a new level in terms of quality, at the "Central Asia-European Union" summit held in the capital of Kazakhstan in October 2022.

At the international conference on the interdependence of the European Union and Central Asia "Global Gateway to Sustainable Development" held in Samarkand, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Joseph Borrell reminded that an international order based on clear and transparent rules will ensure the safety and freedom of investments of people and companies.

The basis of this approach is not only the issue of stability in Central Asia, but also the role of Afghanistan in this process. It should not be forgotten that the EU, as one of the world's power centers, together with the USA, participated in ensuring stability in Afghanistan and entered into negotiations with the powers that came to power. As the main reasons for this, this country remains a source of threats such as migration and drugs for the EU, and Brussels is acting independently



in the fight against these threats and in making full use of the available transport and logistics opportunities in the region.

In addition, Brussels invested 11 billion euros for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, surpassing the USA (10 billion euros) [12]. The above-mentioned opinions and considerations show that the eyes of the great power centers of the world are focused on the territory of Central Asia and Afghanistan, and encourage the further expansion of researches serving sustainable development and ensuring regional security.

In the previous scientific studies of Professor I.I. Bobokulov on the issues of ensuring regional security in Central Asia, the Afghanistan factor was widely covered from the political and legal point of view [13].

From this point of view, the researches of Professor I.I. Bobokulov are of great scientific importance in the context of today's geopolitical situation, and it is inevitable that they will become a prelude to further fundamental scientific works.

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