



KAZAKHSTAN'S MULTI-VECTOR FOREIGN POLICY AND REGIONAL APPROACH: ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS

Dr. Syed Muhammad Farhan
Research Scholar
Federal Urdu University
Karachi - Pakistan
shahfarhan84@gmail.com

Muaz Ullah Khan
MS scholar
Bahria University
Islamabad - Pakistan
muazullahkhanbuic@gmail.com

Dr. Nawab Sher
Lecturer
Department Of Political Science
University of Peshawar
Peshawar - Pakistan
nawabsher80@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This article serves a purpose of explaining the multi-vector foreign policy of Kazakhstan under theoretical framework. The largest landlocked country that is caught in between two communists nuclear weapon states still manages to assert its identity and sustained its sovereignty. How Kazakhstan emerged as regional economic giant of Central Asia and how Kazakhstan has managed to have good bilateral ties with Russia, China and US without becoming its client state. It is not only the member of multilateral forums but also actively participating in regional and international organizations. The role of ex-President Nazarbayev and its legacy of “multi-vector diplomacy” as a benchmark for economic and diplomatic success. Moreover, how these economic and diplomatic ties are safeguarding its ethnic Kazakh identity. It also explains Kazakhstan's influential role in regional and international disputes including its



contributions for making the region of Central Asia as nuclear weapon Free Zone (NWFZ). How the multi-vector foreign policy of Kazakhstan has managed to shape the “New Great Game” for its own benefits by using the competing interests of Great Powers against each other. And lastly it explains the liability of new elected president Tokayev to continue following the legacy of Ex-President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

KEYWORDS: Kazakhstan, Multi-Vector Foreign Policy, Nazarbayev, Constructivism, US, China, Russia.

INTRODUCTION

Kazakhstan's 30 years of sustained independence, economic development and respectable global image owes much to its multi-vector foreign policy and regional approach. Kazakhstan, being the largest landlocked country of the world caught in between two nuclear weapon states- Russia (ex-superpower) at the north and China (emerging superpower) at the east still manages to assert its independence. Kazakhstan's soft image with its prevailing regional influence and international recognition is of well cognizant. A state without becoming a client state has managed to maintain positive ties with all the major powers like China, Russia, US, and European Union, as well as maintaining its membership of NATO, SCO and CSTO at the same time. Nur Sultan (Astana) has close trade and cordial diplomatic ties with Beijing but yet it is not dominated by the Beijing. On the other hand, Kazakhstan consists large ethnic Russians minority (23%) yet it is immune of Russian influence. Being the former state of USSR, Nur Sultan (Astana) has asserted its sovereignty as well as maintained fraternal relations with Moscow (Aimar, 2018). For Kazakhstan sharing borders with Russia and China are of immediate concern but at the same time the influential significant ties with EU and US particularly in the domain of security and trade cannot be neglected which requires maintenance. Kazakhstan's economic performance has left many awestruck since its rapid economic growth due to the reforms made by the state and utilizing its natural resources (abundant of hydrocarbons), has reduced poverty, and helped the country to achieve the status of upper middle-income economy within the first decade of independence. In 2000s, the Kazakhstan's economy was declared as market oriented by US and EU, where its annual GDP growth was between 9 and 13 percent till 2006 (Johan, 2009). Moreover, Kazakhstan's dismantling of its active warheads has made the region nuclear weapon Free Zone (NWFZ) (Kucera, 2013).

Nur Sultan (Astana) has always advocated for peaceful engagement through multilateral platforms to address regional problems. The sudden resignation of the President



Nazarbayev after 30 years on March 19, 2019 was surprising for the people of Kazakhstan and the world of course. This article will conceptualize and explain Kazakhstan's multi-vector foreign policy under theoretical framework. It will further explain how the multi-vector foreign policy has played role in the economic growth and diplomatic success achieved by Kazakhstan along with its influential role and assertion of its identity without having a major conflict. And lastly, how Kazakhstan has been able to sustain its sovereignty and been able to shape the "New Great Game" by using the competing interest of the Great Powers, will the new President Kassym Jomart Tokayev be able to maintain the legacy of President Nazarbayev?

The disassociation from the Soviets started in 1986, when 3000 people took part in protest against the removal of ethnic Kazakh (Dinmukhamed Kunayev) by the Soviet regime and replacing it with ethnic Russian (Gennadiy Koblin) as the head of Communist Party of Kazakhstan (CPK) [2]. Later on in 1989, Nursultan Nazarbayev became the head of CPK, with bringing language reforms and in 1990 he was elected as the first Kazakh President by the Soviets. On October 25, 1990, he declared Kazakhstan's sovereignty. And after the disintegration of the mighty USSR, Kazakhs declared an official independence on December 16, 1991, under the presidency of Nursultan Nazarbayev [Vronskaya, 1993].

The state was facing difficulties in the early years of independence, keeping its sovereignty and landlocked geography in view, there was a dire need for a policy which could sustain the independence of newly born state and boom its economy. Despite of having abundant resources the state was geographically isolated. To have access to the outer world and to increase its export opportunities, the President Nazarbayev opted for multi-vector foreign policy which has become a unique feature of Kazakhstan's sustained independence and developmental model from the last three decades till date (Sinor, 2021). Kazakhstan an ex-soviet state declared its independence 30 years back on December 16, 1991. The largest landlock country with amateur political system was naive to address domestic administrative issues as well as international issues. Geographically isolated from the world with abundant of natural resources and sharing its border with two communist giants-Russia and China, asserting its identity and safeguarding its sovereignty was a big challenge for Kazakhstan. The state despite of having abundant of natural resources but was geographically isolated and access to the international market posed hurdle in its economic development.

Kazakhstan being the testing site of Soviet's nuclear weapon suffered a lot in its environment degradation, the presence of active nuclear warheads in a newly born state was a big threat to the state sovereignty and the region also, dismantling of these active nuclear stockpiles and making the region nuclear weapon Free Zone (NWFZ) was



milestone for the Kazakhs. Central Asia is of great interest for the Great Powers like Russia, China, U.S and EU but due to multi-vector foreign policy of Kazakhstan it has successfully managed to maintain positive relations with all the great powers. Through diplomatic tactics the state has successfully managed interest of external powers for its own benefits. Kazakhstan has been able to accomplish a lot within three decades. However, asserting identity as well as maintaining sovereignty and the maintaining of Nazarbayev's legacy is still a big challenge for the new President Tokayev.

It is clear that Kazakhstan has achieved way more than any other Central Asian states have in the last three decades. This ostensibly is because of its multi-vector foreign policy and regional approach. The research covers different aspects of multi-vector foreign policy of Kazakhstan i.e. economic growth and diplomatic success. The research provides theoretical discourse and adds valuable knowledge in conceptualizing in policy of Kazakhstan. This also includes the influential role of Kazakhstan at multilateral forums. Explains and critically analyse its bilateral relation with Great Powers i.e. Russia, China and U.S. Research also includes how multi-vector foreign policy safeguards ethnic Kazakh identity and how Kazakhstan has been able to assert and sustain sovereignty with maintaining respectable global image. Lastly it also explains the concerning liability regarding the continued legacy of President Nazarbayev by the new elected President Kassym Jomart Tokayev (Aiman, 2021).

Research methodology is an important aspect of research. In order to get effective results, it must be chosen very carefully. To have sound understanding of Kazakhstan's multi-vector foreign policy my research is based on qualitative method and secondary available data i.e. pre-existing sources such as published articles, journals, books, newspapers as well as publications by governmental and non-governmental organizations.

BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA, CHINA, AND U.S: ASSERTING IDENTITY AND SUSTAINED SOVEREIGNTY

Kazakhstan has rationally maintained and balanced relation with each of the Great Power. Kazakhstan shares a border with China and Russia. On the other hand, it has positive relation and strategic partnership with U.S due to its geo-strategic location. For Kazakhstan maintenance of ties with East and West are of equal importance. President Nazarbayev and its multi-vector diplomacy has triumphed in maintaining good ties with three of them yet acted independently.



RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA: ASSERTING SOVEREIGNTY AND MAINTAINING BILATERAL TIES

Sharing its longest border with Kazakhstan i.e., 4,254 miles and the largest ethnic Russian minority (23%) in Kazakhstan increases matter of concerns in bilateral relations for both the states. Kazakhstan was and still is a gateway for Russians to enter Central Asia because whenever, the Tsarist used to invade Central Asia, they had to pass through Kazakhstan. They first invaded Kazakhstan in 18th Century and then marched towards the rest of Central Asian states. Kazakhstan remained under the influence of Russia since 18th Century (Ali, 2013). Kazakhstan has been important to Russia for multiple reasons, the very first reason is that it shares a direct border with Kazakhstan. Secondly, because of its ethnic Russians minority in the north of Kazakhstan. In the mid of 20th century, the ethnic Russians and Russian speakers became dominant in Kazakhstan and making ethnic Kazakhs population as minority (30-40%) in their own country and key positions were also held by ethnic Russians (Nurgaliyeva, 2016). The nuclear testing site of USSR, Semipalatinsk also known as polygon is also present in the modern day of Kazakhstan. Keeping the harsh realities of past, Kazakhstan still manages to maintain close relations with Russia under economic partnership, accords, treaties, and cooperation in security domains.

After the collapse of USSR in 1991, President Nazarbayev promoted an idea to maintain close cooperation with Russia through Eurasian Union to overcome energy and economic problems. Landlocked and domestic issues compelled Kazakhstan to maintain fraternal ties with Russia. Russian imported Hydrocarbons from the newly born state. As soon as Russia started to assert its economic and political influence over the region again, President Nazarbayev keeping Kazakh identity and fear of being dominated by external power again, he again restored the power through the policy of economic soft balancing and using multi-vector diplomacy relying on the key players beyond the region i.e. China and the West. Assertion of its identity and state survival was the key motive of Kazakhstan and its president at that time. President Nazarbayev with the diversification of Baku- Tbilisi Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline and Kazakhstan-China oil pipeline, not only decreased its dependence on Russia but turns to be competitor in foreign market (Nurlan Zh, 2016). Kazakhstan being the member of Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Russian led organization since 1992, still have condemned Russian act of invading Ukraine in 2014. In 2018 being the non-permanent of UNSC, Kazakhstan abstained to support the draft proposed by Kremlin against the coalition airstrike in Syria. Although Nursultan (Astana) has asserted its identity against the Moscow, still manages to have close ties in the domain of energy, transport, space and also agriculture sector. Both are founding member



of SCO and CSTO. Additionally, both are part of Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and Commonwealth of Independent states (Dzhilkishinova, 2018).

Kazakhstan is a significant partner in foreign trade for Russia. In 2012 mutual trade increased by 8.5% when compared to 2011. In 2015, Treaty on EAEU gives condition for “barrier-free trade” which reduced the cost of transportation as well. Moreover, in 2018 the trade turnover between Kazakhstan and Russia was amounted \$11.3 billion (8% increased) in the first 8 months of that year. Economic and development in trade relations can be quantified from the creation joint ventures and its operations has contributed a lot to the development. More than 31,000 joint ventures which includes foreign participations were signed in Kazakhstan till October 2018 and among them, nine thousand-nine hundred consist of Kazakh-Russians (Zheng, 2003). Hence, bilateral relations between Russia and Kazakhstan are based on economic, trade security and mutual respect each other's sovereignty.

RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES: DENUCLEARIZATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Following the disintegration of USSR, on December 25, 1991, the United States was the first country to recognize the independence of Kazakhstan within ten days and opened its Embassy in Almaty in January 1992 which was later relocated in Nursultan (Astana) in 2006. Ever since, the independence of Kazakhstan, both the states have maintained and developed strong bilateral relation and enhanced strategic partnership. For Kazakhstan extending relations towards the West was necessary i.e., finding friends beyond the region was time of necessity and fear of not being dominated by its neighbouring communists Giants-China and Russia. On the other hand, Presence of active nuclear warheads and implying democratic principles were U.S major matter of concerns. In 1993, President Nazarbayev decided to renounce to dismantle active nuclear warheads with closing of Semipalatinsk sites (Burak, 2019). And with the U.S assistance they sealed the last tunnel in 2000 and making the region NWFZ.

Kazakhstan became the partner of NATO peace program and still supports it. Kazakhstan supports U.S. war on terrorism after 9/11. Moreover, an agreement with IAEA was concluded by Kazakhstan's government in 2015 to host a low-enriched uranium bank and received first shipment in 2019. Over 275\$ million was provided by to Kazakhstan to eliminate Weapon of Mass Destruction. Apart from this, Kazakhstan has received funds from U.S particularly for security domain like (International Military Education, Foreign Military Financing Program, and other training programs). Including Joint Ventures and Participating in military exercises which are funded by U.S. for example Steppe Eagle,



Viking, Eager Lion and Shanti Prayas etc (Grove, 2019). Despite of being landlocked location, Kazakhstan has been able to become the 81st largest trading partner of the United States. In 2019, the estimated total amount of two-way trade was \$2 billion. Keeping Kazakhstan's oil and gas sector in view, firms from the U.S. has invested \$10 billion. On November 30, 2015, Kazakhstan joined World Trade Organization (WTO).

Kazakhstan has assisted United States' efforts in Afghanistan and participation in Afghan transportation and projects related to infrastructure and development. Despite of alleged and not so democratic practices in Kazakhstan, it still enjoys the prestigious and respectable global image in the eyes of U.S. and not intervened by U.S. President Nazarbayev has managed to maintain relations across the region successfully without being dominated by U.S. Bilateral strategic ties between U.S. and Kazakhstan have been constructive, cooperation among the two states in different domains and relevant issues has also been noted by scholars and analysts. Whereas, the efforts of Kazakhstan are not gone unnoticed by Washington too.

RELATIONS WITH CHINA: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY SECTOR

Ex-Soviet state and China shares a border of 1,533 km long, making Kazakhstan the second biggest neighbour of China. The bilateral relation among the two states started right after the disintegration of USSR. Respecting the choice of newly independent Kazakh's people, Beijing officially recognized Kazakhstan in December 1991 following the establishment of new Sino-Kazakh diplomatic relation in January 1992 and the first official visit to Kazakhstan by Chinese Premier Li Peng's add value to its bilateral relations (Paxton, 2014). For Kazakhstan, decreasing its dependence on Russia was core concern. First step to deepen relations in security, economic and political domain with Sino started right after the resolving border issue in 1996 and signing a "Supplementary Boundary Agreement in 1997 between President Nazarbayev and Premier Li Peng. Right after solving border issue, SCO mechanism was put forward by China (Altynsarina, 2019).

Projects like pipelines (From Kazakhstan to China) ensured to guarantee advance bilateral ties among the two states in energy sector making Kazakhstan an important energy supplier to meet the demand of Chinese firms. Chinese companies have invested heavily in Kazakhstan's hydrocarbon industry, which have given a new life of opportunity to them and economic development. The bilateral ties improved more after the launch of the "New Silk Road Project" by the President Xi Jinping in Astana in 2013, which gave a clear message to Russia that Kazakhstan is no more its backyard. Apart from this, \$30billion investment deal had been signed between two states which will surely lead to construction



of new big roads and infrastructure. Moreover, construction of port at “Khorgos Gateway Dry Port” adds importance to Kazakh and Chinese relation. Among Commonwealth of Independent States. Kazakhstan is second in ranking when it comes to bilateral commercial relations with China. Due to increase economic terms between the two states and love for China and its culture, we have witnessed the increase number of students from Kazakhstan to China (Chebotaryov, 2020).

It is because of President Nazarbayev's multi-vector foreign diplomacy that Kazakhstan has been able to receive (\$35.8 billion) Chinese FDI in the domain of agriculture, transportation and oil mining. Since, both the states are striving to diversify its economy through increase connectedness. Hence, Kazakhstan despite of being the largest landlocked country, has been able to put itself in the list of countries which will get beneficiary from the Chinese “Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)”. Albeit, the Chinese investment in the region is beneficiary but it is seen as China's Expansionist policies in Central Asia by many experts. Since, China is the world's most populated country and experts believe that China would carve its population through colonies after buying territories beyond its boundary wall. In response to this, Kazakhstan's administration despite of having good bilateral commercial ties never allowed its territory to be sold to Chinese citizens or even allowed to live segregate in the state (Cornell & Frederick, 2020). Two areas are atter of concerns among the two state the first is terrorism and the second is the Uyghurs living in Kazakhstan and Ethnic Kazakhs living in China, Nursultan (Astana) has cooperated to keep an eye on Uyghurs living in Kazakhstan. Despite of having good ties but the arrest of Konstantin Syroyezhkin (former Soviet KGB Agent) in 2019, who was accused of providing important classified documents to Chinese agent. After making this news public, it gave clear signals to Beijing that they are vigilant enough of every step they take (Tulepbayeva & Rachel, 2020).

To summarize Sino-Kazakh bilateral relations, both the states are striving hard to improve their relations. Kazakhstan is the most important energy supplier for Beijing. Despite of increased investment in energy sector and other projects. Kazakhstan still manages to keep its territorial integrity and sovereignty above everything.

KAZAKHSTAN'S INFLUENTIAL ROLE AND ACHIEVEMENTS: PEACE THROUGH ENGAGEMENT

Kazakhstan's closing of Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site right after its independence and President Nazarbayev's renouncing of the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal of the world to make the region NWFZ (Nuclear Weapon Free Zone) has increased its credibility in the West (Leonard, 2021). Dismantled active nuclear warheads and successfully asserted



itself as an economic powerhouse. According to World Bank, it ranked 25th for investment attraction and increased its GDP per capita from \$700 to \$10,500. The country has ranked 51st Germany trading partner. The country has proven to have ninth largest oil reserves (Escobar, 2021). Kazakhstan is the member of almost every regional and international organizations like EEU, CIS, NATO partner for peace, CSTO, SCO, OIC, OSCE, UN etc. Apart from this, Kazakhstan is the only Central Asian state to get the non-permanent membership of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) back in 2017-2019 and advocated for non-proliferation and disarmament as their core priority. Apart from this they have also put forward the 2030 and 2050 strategy, to achieve the status of developed country by 2030 and by 2050, Kazakhstan will be at position where the countries of the world would aspire to have economic relations with Kazakhstan (Tokayev, 2020).

The President Nazarbayev have advocated for multilateral forums and its foreign policy preferences shifted from bilateralism to multilateral platforms. Actively Participated in OIC, SCO, The Council of Interior Ministers, The Council of Turkic-Speaking States including strengthening ties with ASEAN, The League of the Arab States, and many other regional and international organizations. Kazakhstan is not only a member but contributor also to ensure peace, stability, and security. Kazakhstan promotes equally beneficial and predictable friendly relations with everyone (Nursultan, 2019).

In the three decades, Kazakhstan has proven to be an important mediator in international disputes. It all started when Kazakhstan along Russia intervened in the conflicted Armenian and Azerbaijan in 1991. The important influential role in Tajik civil war in the first decade of independence and reiterated to have peace in Afghanistan. In 2013, President Nazarbayev hosted two summits on Iran nuclear program which helped taking matter to Geneva and led to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Kazakhstan has also advocated to decrease tensions between Turkey, Russia, and the West. Kazakhstan also intervened and persuaded Russia not to resolve its dispute militarily with Ukraine in 2014. In 2015, when Russian Jet was shot down by Turkey at Syrian border, again President Nazarbayev intervened and successfully persuaded both the leaders to resolve the issue through table talks. Kazakhstan also played constructive role in Syrian crisis leading to "Astana Talks", which involved important actors like the government of Syria, groups of oppositions including external powers- Russia, Turkey, and Iran (Kurc, 2018). Hence, Kazakhstan has not involved in a dispute which are far away from its land but have mediated in a conflict which have affect directly or indirectly on its geopolitical stability of Eurasia.



KAZAKHSTAN MULTI-VECTOR FOREIGN POLICY AND “NEW GREAT GAME”

The New Great Game in Central Asia is among the three Great Powers and other regional actors. Kazakhstan's multi-vector foreign policy has managed to shape the New Great Game in such a way which benefits the Kazakh's people and safeguards its sovereignty. Kazakhstan and Russia share a rich history of economic interdependence and political proximity. One might think that Kazakhstan is bound with Russia's destiny. But we have seen that Kazakhstan has asserted its identity and sovereignty against Russia and to reduce its dependence, Kazakhstan has expanded its relation towards the energy markets of Europe and China which has resulted to limit Russia's influence. Moreover, Kazakhstan's membership in regional and international organization has secured its identity and managed to “Enmesh” Great Powers in the region.

President Nazarbayev, pro activist policies and participation in organizations led by Great Powers like SCO, NATO and CSTO has built complex interdependence and positive sum not only for Kazakhstan but for the whole of Central Asia. For example SCO project is seen as an opportunity to expand its influence in the region by Beijing but for Nursultan (Astana) it acts as venue to manage relation between China, Russia and Kazakhstan. Similarly, BRI between China, E.U and Kazakhstan. The interconnectedness in the regional organization makes the conflict costly. Simultaneously, for U.S dismantling of nuclear warheads and prevalence of democracy was core concern, but Kazakhstan saw it as an opportunity to make alliance beyond the region and balance relation with Russia and China. The influential and respectable role of President Nazarbayev in organizations has made it possible to expand its diplomatic influential role beyond the region. Kazakhstan has allowed the Great Powers into their territory through economic integration that whenever there would be clash amongst them it will result in harsh consequences for others too. So, President Nazarbayev have always reiterated on multilateral forums in Central Asia to lock the Great Powers in regional organization in such a way which will make them to avoid conflict and dig out positivity (Y. N. 2013).

It's been more than three decades; we have not seen any major conflict or dispute amongst them which could affect the sovereignty of Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan has been able to assert its identity and safeguard its sovereignty and it is because of the multi-vector foreign policy of Kazakhstan that have attracted FDI and made Kazakhstan richest of all the Central Asian states.

WILL THE LEGACY OF NAZARBAYEV CONTINUE?



The sudden resignation by the President Nur Sultan Nazarbayev in 2019 was surprising for everyone. Many questions raised regarding the Kazakhstan future and President Nazarbayev's continuation of its policies especially the multi-vector foreign policy. Even after resignation and leaving office, ex-President Nazarbayev is still in power because of the various posts acquired by him in 2010 and the passing of bill which has made him "Leader of the Nation". Also, in 2018, he became the head of the national Security Council for lifetime after the bill was passed in the Parliament. Simultaneously, the Security Council was transformed and empowered to exercise power above all the state structures which includes security agencies, ministries, and local administrations. In his announcement, Ex-President made it clear that he will be playing role in determination of the future of Kazakhstan. This means that he still holds the most powerful seat in the governing structure of the state. The newly elected President is also his choice. Kassym Jomart Tokayev is known to be the most trusted and loyal lieutenant to the ex-President Nazarbayev so it is rare to deviate from current policies projected by Nazarbayev. Experts reiterate on the fact that former President has been preparing his succession for years to avoid problems emerging because of geopolitics after him (Кампи, А. 2020).

The newly elected President Tokayev is surely a choice for a reason by Nazarbayev, Tokayev was Director General of UN office at Geneva and also in 2011 he was a Personal Representative of the UN Security-General to the Conference on Disarmament. He has also served as Deputy and First Deputy Minister of Kazakhstan's Foreign Affairs in 1992 and later in 1994-1999 as Minister of Kazakhstan's Foreign Affairs. Tokayev was appointed as Deputy Prime Minister and in the same year of 1999 he was promoted as Prime Minister until 2002. Apart from Tokayev has also served as Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Senate in the Parliament of Kazakhstan. Keeping all the political engagement in view, makes him suitable to be on the driving seat of Kazakhstan. He is trained by Nazarbayev himself. The legacy of Ex-President Nazarbayev would likely be continued as the very first thing newly elected Kassym Jomart Tokayev did was renaming the capital city Astana as Nursultan to honour the Nur Sultan Nazarbayev (Strakes, J. E. 2013). And since, Nazarbayev is still the head of Nur Ottan Party (ruling party) and keeping the political culture of Kazakhstan (Asian Values), President Nazarbayev legacy will continue under the Presidency of Kassym Jomart Tokayev.

CONCLUSION

Almost three decades have passed, the multi-vector foreign policy of Kazakhstan has successfully managed to keep its relation with all the important actors within the region and across. The country has been actively participating in International Affairs and contributing. The economic and diplomatic success owes much to its multi-vector foreign



policy led by its Ex-President Nazarbayev. We have witnessed the country is a member of SCO, NATO, CSTO at the same time and on the other hand it has dismantled its active nuclear warheads. We have also witnessed that Kazakhstan is the only state of Central Asia to achieve the status of non-permanent member of UNSC from 2017-2019. Apart from this, the country has actively participated in resolving regional and international disputes which has increased its credibility as a peace-loving nation. The country has no major dispute and never been to war in the past three decades also. Kazakhstan has been a member of almost every international and regional organizations. The country has achieved a lot within three decades which is a success story. Kazakhstan has suffered for seven decades before the independence under soviet regime. For Kazakhstan, safeguarding its ethnic Kazakh identity is first priority which they will never compromise. This is why they have been actively participating in regional and International Organizations actively so that if their sovereignty and identity is challenged, they will use the multilateral forums as a tool to safeguard it. Ex-President Nazarbayev will still remain an important factor in shaping the policies of Kazakhstan because of the key position he holds. The multi-vector foreign policy which was led by ex-President Nursultan Nazarbayev has successfully managed and since, the newly elected president Tokayev was trained by Nazarbayev himself so it is obvious that he will also be following the footprints of Nazarbayev.



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