



The Peerian Journal

Open Access | Peer Reviewed

Volume 6, May, 2022.

Website: www.peerianjournal.com

ISSN (E): 2788-0303

Email: editor@peerianjournal.com

"People's Diplomacy" - An Important Factor for the Development of Regional Cooperation

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Annotation: The article discusses the role and importance of «people's diplomacy» in the development of good-neighborly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between the Central Asian states, and its differences from state diplomacy. He also spoke about the content and essence of the initiatives to make Central Asia a more stable, economically developed, and highly developed region.

At the same time, the ongoing geopolitical processes around the region, the concept of «regional cooperation» and the content and essence of the initiatives put forward at the Summit of Central Asian leaders to strengthen security and stability in the region were revealed.

Keywords: Central Asia, the region, diplomacy, «people's diplomacy», regional cooperation, security, and stability.

Today, at a time of growing globalization, ensuring peace and security in the Central Asian region is one of the most pressing issues facing the countries of the region, which in turn requires further deepening of interstate relations.

Located in the heart of Central Asia, Uzbekistan has a direct interest in transforming the region into a region of stability, sustainable development, and good neighborliness. A peaceful, economically developed Central Asia is the most important goal and the main task we are striving for. Uzbekistan is a strong supporter of dialogue, practical cooperation, and strengthening good neighbourliness [1, www.president.uz].

At present, a lot is being done in the trade, economic, transport, communication, cultural and humanitarian spheres, as well as security and stability, based on close neighborly and mutually beneficial cooperation between the countries of the Central Asian region.

In this regard, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that mutually beneficial relations with Central Asian countries have reached a new level. We support development as the most important tool", - he said [2, www.president.uz].

In addition, the expansion of contacts at the level of neighboring countries and the active use of "people's diplomacy" mechanisms also enrich the relations between the countries of the region.

In general, diplomacy is a complex method of implementing foreign policy, as well as a multifaceted mechanism that guarantees the state equal and equal participation in international relations based on international law and appropriate procedures [3, p. 15].

Let's explain the concept of "people's diplomacy".



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At the same time, we can see that in many cases the concept of "people's diplomacy" is interpreted in many sources as a form of socio-political, cultural relations of public associations that are not part of the government.

The term "people's diplomacy" was first coined in 1965 by Edmund Gullion, a former American diplomat and dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Taft University (USA). This concept is still widely used by scientists and practitioners around the world.

Theorist E. Gullion defines the term "people's diplomacy" as follows: "People's diplomacy deals with the influence of public opinion on the formation and conduct of foreign policy. It covers international relations beyond traditional diplomacy, the formation of public opinion by the government in the country, the interdependence of private groups and interests, and on the other hand, reporting on international affairs and their impact on politics, relations between diplomats, and foreign correspondents, and intercultural communication. learns the process of communication" [4, www.uscpublicdiplomacy.org].

If we pay attention to E. Gullion's opinion, we can see that he defined the concept of "people's diplomacy" on a large scale and that his ideas reflect his relevance today. Because he demanded that public opinion be taken into account in the formation and conduct of the foreign policy of the state. It has also been recognized that "people's diplomacy" encompasses the relations of international relations that go beyond traditional diplomacy.

Uzbek researcher R.T. According to Juraev, "people's diplomacy - is a legitimate necessity of generality and individuality, which includes all forms of relations, ie social, economic, political, cultural dialogue and all segments of the population - workers, peasants, intellectuals, religious and party figures, students, schoolchildren" is a common form of international relations.

People's diplomacy is the expression of the interests of the people and the government. It reveals the socio-political goals of the people and the government" [5, p. 24].

Professor A. Faizullayev, on the other hand, is interested in "people's diplomacy" "... is an important part of the foreign policy aimed at explaining the goals and values of the state to the general public, creating a positive image of the country and advancing its interests in the international arena, improving relations between" [6, www.gazeta.uz].

This notion is a new reality in international relations, but it has taken its firm place as a much-needed resource uniting peoples in the modern world today.

It is known that the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on September 19, 2017, at the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly proposed to hold a consultative meeting of Central Asian leaders.

This Summit of Central Asian Leaders is a noble initiative aimed at further strengthening such a good neighborly environment and friendship between peoples. This initiative is supported by all countries and international organizations in the region.

The first Summit of Central Asian Leaders was held on March 15, 2018, in Astana (now Nur-Sultan), the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It discussed the development of political, trade, economic and humanitarian cooperation between the countries of the region, the joint fight against terrorism, religious extremism, drug and arms smuggling, and strengthening security and stability in Central Asia.



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Also, at the Second Summit of Central Asian Leaders in Tashkent on 29 November 2019, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that the talks were held in the spirit of traditional friendship and mutual understanding stressed that.

- We are closely linked by a common history and culture, a single sacred religion, a similar mentality, spiritual and moral values and traditions, as well as inseparable friendship. All this serves as a solid foundation for our mutually beneficial cooperation aimed at uniting the potential of the Central Asian states for the welfare and prosperity of our peoples, - said Shavkat Mirziyoyev [7, www.president.uz].

At the meeting, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev stressed the need to agree on a common vision for multilateral cooperation in Central Asia and put forward five important initiatives.

particular, the *first direction* is the development of trade, economic, and investment ties. To make full use of the competitive advantages of our region, which has a large market, natural raw materials, and significant human resources;

The second direction is the establishment of the Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group of Central Asian countries, as well as the organization of regular multilateral meetings of Deputy Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers;

The third direction is the creation of a platform for cultural and humanitarian exchange under the motto "Central Asia - a common past, a common future";

The fourth direction is to solve and solve the complex water and environmental problems of the region;

The fifth direction is to ensure regional stability and security and to establish working mechanisms for the operational cooperation of law enforcement agencies and special services of our countries to counter modern threats and challenges on a large scale [8, www.uza.uz].

In addition, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that the holding of the second Consultative Meeting once again confirms the mutual interest, open dialogue with countries, and readiness to take joint decisions on the most pressing issues of regional development.

The third Central Asian Summit, scheduled for autumn 2020 in Bishkek, the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic, has been postponed to 2021 due to a coronavirus pandemic. After that, in 2021 6 The third Central Asian Summit of Heads of State was held in August at the Avaza National Tourism Zone in Turkmenistan.

Noted at the meeting that it is important to restore the process of regional cooperation, to this end, to make greater use of the potential of "people's diplomacy", parliaments, civil society institutions, and the media [9, www.president.uz].

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the leaders of Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan based on mutual interests w, will bear fruit in the near future and will bring mutuallyshortlyons with Central Asian states to a new level.

All the above-mentioned initiatives encourage the effective use of the opportunities of "people's diplomacy" to ensure stability and security in the Central Asian region, create favorable conditions for extensive cultural and humanitarian exchanges in the region, and strengthen good neighborliness and partnership between states.



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In conclusion, "people's diplomacy", in contrast to state diplomacy, has many positive and influential features evaluation is possible.

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