

History of National Diplomacy as Fundamental Legacy of Foreign Policy

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Emphasizing the need to expose the basic foundation of the "historical roots and unique heritage of Uzbek diplomacy during the period of independence," our esteemed President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev's initiative to research the "History of Uzbekistan's Diplomacy" has become a solid scientific publication. It would not be an exaggeration to say that this study is a significant chapter in our national political and cultural life. Benevolent behind it might be the tremendous intellectual effort of eminent historians, orientalist, ethnologists, cultural experts, and international relations experts.

From ancient times to the present, this study thoroughly highlights turning points, the impact of interstate relations on world history, and the great interconnection of historical events in our region and worldwide. It illuminates the complicated and sometimes delicate elements of international relations. Knowing the book will help us understand and comprehend the whole scope of diplomacy, including Uzbekistan's foreign policy in a time of fast changes in the world and regional growth. Designed by a group of prominent scholars in the field of foreign policy, distinguished academics from the Diplomatic and National Universities and the Academy of Sciences, such as *Sherzod Abdullaev, Abdujabbor Abduvohidov, Ulugbek Khasanov, Rahmon Farmonov, Mehriniso Abdurakhmonova, Nigora Allaeva, Shuhrat Mukhamedov, Sevara Polatova, Olga Kobzeva, and Shohistakhon Oljaeva*, this work has become a solid contribution for deep and thorough analysis of strategic priorities of New Uzbekistan's foreign policy.

To further enhance the book, seasoned ambassadors and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan diplomats actively provided official documentation, scientific and practical insights, and images. I thank everyone who helped to produce, publish, and gracefully display this book for the world. By now, I am sure that "History of Uzbekistan's Diplomacy" will be a vital scientific resource on diplomacy and international relations modern-day, laying the groundwork for future studies in this area. We would advise young scholars to review this book carefully and use it to direct their research. Thus, I would like to discuss the main lines of New Uzbekistan's diplomacy briefly.

First, under the new foreign policy doctrine presented by our valued president, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has become a "driving force" for promising developments in the Central Asian area since 2016.

We have shown that regional conflicts may be settled not by war but by pragmatism, honest communication, and diplomatic discussions. Uzbekistan, located in the center of Central Asia, has prioritized increasing connections with the surrounding nations. This diplomacy has produced hitherto unheard-of valuable effects based on mutual respect, equality, and cordial communication.

For instance, effective agreements have been achieved for boundary delineation and reopening of border checkpoints. Treaties covering the joint use of water resources and energy security have been signed. Regional state trade has expanded dramatically, and new transportation hubs are under development.

These steps have set a strong basis for further economic contacts, regional collaboration, and exchanges. The efficient building of systems to support regional cooperation has given these favorable changes new impetus. Uzbekistan creates regional identity primarily through open and honest communication, pragmatic problem-solving strategies, and a foundation of mutual respect.

Due to New Uzbekistan's diplomacy, the Central Asian area has become a cohesive and autonomous topic of international relations, acknowledged by the world community. Established on the initiative of our President, the Central Asia International Institute is committed to increasing good practices in the region and transforming it into a venue of stability, security, and collaboration.

Second, Uzbekistan's approach toward Afghanistan has drastically altered during the last eight years. It has actively engaged in all kinds of conversation to help solve the Afghan problem and was among the first to create open, mutually confident contacts with the Taliban regime.

Uzbekistan acts as a "bridge" between the Afghan government and the world community to improve ties. Uzbekistan has started active collaboration with the Afghan government on security issues, particularly the battle against world terrorism. We urge all countries to interact with Afghanistan's de facto government and provide the people with thorough help. Afghanistan is now seen as a strategic possibility to increase interregional collaboration, not a cause of regional issues and dangers. Thus, Uzbekistan's primary focus on Afghanistan is economic diplomacy via infrastructural projects. It also uses pragmatic diplomacy to foreshadow this nation's hazards and security concerns.

Third, Uzbekistan's diplomatic success in guaranteeing security is building friendly ties with every international and regional institution. Apart from conventional international collaboration, Uzbekistan has started high-level security initiatives, such as the UN Counter-terrorism Office, BRICS, the Organization of Turkic States, and the meetings of the Central Asian National Security Advisors.

Establishing permanent Joint security commissions with necessary worldwide powers like the United States, the European Union, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, and Turkey marks a new tool of Uzbek diplomacy. These bilateral and multilateral systems help to seek sensible cooperative solutions and enable in-depth debates on security challenges in a complicated geopolitical setting.

Fourth, in guaranteeing security, Uzbekistan's diplomacy does not follow any bloc or coalition based on antagonism. In this sense, we follow the basic principle that Uzbekistan does not belong to military-political blocs. Moreover, it forbids installing foreign military bases or facilities on its territory. The country's armed forces never engage in combat actions overseas or peacekeeping missions.

However, diplomacy is closely tied to national and regional security in our global age. Under our respected President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan's active and pragmatic foreign policy seeks to raise its long-term, multifarious, mutually beneficial ties with all nations to a new level. In the end, this helps us to fulfill the honorable objective of ultimately guaranteeing the interests of every person in our country and thus attaining the welfare of our people.