

THE ROLE OF TERMEZ AS THE GATEWAY TO SOUTHERN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract.

This paper investigates the development and current features of interregional connectivity policy. And it considers the function of the city of Termez in enhancing geopolitical, economic and cultural connections between Central Asia and South Asia. A scientific study of the stages — starting with ancient trade routes and ending with transport and logistics projects realized in the post-colonial years are considered. The research confirms the importance of Termez's strategic geographical position for tightening regional integration, maintaining stability and extending economic cooperation

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Interregional connectivity policy has been lately becoming one of the key priority directions in contemporary international relations. (3) The speed of the globalization process, development of transportation and communication networks further reinforced, economic integration also deepened the interdependence between countries. In this way, interregional links have become not only the means of economic cooperation, but a factor for maintaining political stability, security and rapprochement. This policy is intended to foster an atmosphere of trust amongst states, grow trade volumes and create infrastructure that encourages sustainable development. Historically speaking, the cross-regional transport reflects a complicated one influenced by trade routes, migrational movements, religious and intellectual exchanges and diplomatic activities. The Great Silk Road, especially, is the one of the earliest global integration systems in human history between diverse civilizations. Along this road, trade not only goods but also scientific and technological knowledge as well religious ideas and cultural values were transmitted. In this context, Central Asia has been a natural bridge between the East and the West throughout history. The city of Termez as the “gate” from South Central Asia, has an important place in this history. Sitting at the confluence of the Amu Darya, the city blossomed as a stopping point for ancient trade caravans. Archaeological evidence indicates that Alexander the Great founded one of his many cities at Termez. The city was an intermediary for relations between India, Iran, and China. Termez was not

just the center of commerce, it was also a scientific and religious territory that turned into an area for conversation in culture among civilizations. The geopolitical importance of Termez took on renewed dimensions in the post-independence period. Uzbekistan's foreign policy priorities Ramadan defended regional cooperation, construction of transport corridors and development of economic relations with South Asia as Uzbekistan's Foreign Policy Priorities. By this matrix of thought Termez developed as a logistic centre and diplomatic scene; it turned into an economical link. As a city on the border with Afghanistan, Termez is of strategic importance for regional security and stability, humanitarian cooperation and trade controls. Thus, modern Termez is a concrete illustration of inter-regional policy in practice and an example for the development of economic, political and cultural cooperation between Central Asia and South Asia. It is geographic position and its historical background would certainly remain significant if the regional cooperation advance. Interregional connection-trading The relations of inter-regions were traditionally closely tied with the trade relationship among human beings. The Great Silk Road was a worldwide network, connecting Central Asia with Europe, India and China. For this channel served not only the trade in merchandise, but also in knowledge (science and religion) and cultures. One such major junction was Termez. Archaeological discoveries show that Suzhou was an international commercial center as far back as 2500 years ago. From Termez, links were maintained with India, Iran, and China. Trans-regional order was not only an economic reality; it was also political. Inter-regional cooperation and eliminating opponent from power kept empires stable." As Kushan power extended, its major centre (such as Termez) became a powerful political force in the region. Termez is a naturally transit place when it comes to geography. The city also grew wealthier from trade along the Amu Darya. Medieval Termiz was one of the centers of the Islamic culture. The city has historically been / the city is strategically located along the Afghan border. Troops, merchant caravans and diplomatic missions crossed it. In the Timurid period Termez was a well fortified military stronghold. Regional cooperation was one of the foreign policy priority directions following independence of Uzbekistan. Termez eventually became a functional epicentre of this policy. Access to South Asian market through Afghanistan, was described as one of the strategic objectives. In Termez:

- international rail construction introduced
- logistics centers were established
- free of charge economic zones were established
- international trade centers were constructed

Such a modest policy of inter-regional connectivity has converted the connectivity concept into a beast that drives real economy. Today Termez functions as:

- a transport and logistics center
- a center of energy projects
- a humanitarian aid corridor
- a framework for trade integration

Termez is central to the afghan rebuilding efforts, providing assistance to the local economy and stability of the region.

Transport Corridors and Globalisation The transport corridors have now emerged as the power matrices of states under globalisation. Crossing the territory of Termez railway projects provide a chance to connect Uzbekistan with the ports of Indian Ocean and new possibilities for exports.

In the emerging geoeconomic terrain, Termez is moving towards becoming:

- a transit gateway
- a trade center
- a diplomatic platform
- a center of regional integration

Conclusion

Policy of landfill interregional connectivity has a long history and is developing at new stages in the modern time. Termez is at the heart of this trend. “Its geographical situation plays a vital role for the connection of Central Asia with South Asia. In the perspective, it will continue to become even more significant: the city can become one of the fundamental reliability and economic equality bastions in whole region.

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