

CASI Research Proposal

Kazakh-GCC: dynamic, problems and perspectives of cooperation

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Since gaining sovereignty of the Republic of Kazakhstan was faced with the need to develop and conduct its own foreign policy.

Kazakhstan's Foreign Policy Concept which defined by the President Nursultan Nazarbayev ("The strategy of the formation and development of Kazakhstan as a sovereign state", 1992) are "the formation of a favorable external environment and support for sustainable development of the country on the basis of political and economic reforms".

In difficult conditions the leadership of Kazakhstan has had to form a foreign policy approve the international status of the country. Adhering to the principle of multi-vector, Kazakhstan established diplomatic relations with almost all countries of the world, including the countries of the GCC.

There are main research questions:

- How to relate the potential of Arab vector in foreign policy of the Kazakhstan?
- What are the main interests and areas of cooperation between Kazakhstan and the countries of the GCC?
- What is the position of Kazakhstan in resolving international security issues within the framework of the OIC?
- How to provide with the help of diplomatic tools mutually beneficial cooperation of Kazakhstan with the GCC countries?
- What are the dynamics and further prospects of multilateral cooperation?

This research examines the dynamic of the relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and GCC countries in 1992-2015; identification of the main factors determining the character of that process. Author's main theoretical puzzle is analyze evolution of attitude Kazakhstan's foreign policy to developing countries (GCC) in the context of the implementation of the reforms and opening up regime.

Referring to the theory of Raymond Aron (2003) about "diplomatic behavior never dictated by a mere balance of forces", this research is reveal the relevance of diplomatic-strategic international cooperation on an example of Kazakh-GCC relations.

The general methodology of the study constitute scientific theories of political schools, exploring the problems of modern political processes, the provisions of the system and comparative-historical approaches to the study of international relations.

The main research methods were problem-chronological, comparative analysis, content analysis of documents, method of expert evaluations. Academic contribution of author— in studying developing states strategies from the perspective of knowledge production—is aimed at the growing International

Relations literature on Foreign Policy practitioners, international communities and agencies.

Author`s main motivation, however, is to acquire more knowledge about features of international relations between developing countries of the world. What are the specific of building mutual beneficial cooperation between new and diverse players in world politics?

The scientific novelty of the research lies in attempt to determine the place and significance of the Kazakh-Arab cooperation in the promotion and implementation of the foreign policy both sides, strengthening the sovereignty and international authority of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the GCC countries. This study is complex, in the short and long-term perspective it revealed the dynamics of the evolution of bilateral and multilateral relations between Kazakhstan and the GCC countries in the economic, social and cultural fields, analyzed the priority areas of cooperation between these countries.

The comparative insights into Kazakh-GCC countries` cooperation produced by this research are thus relevant to scholars, policymakers and organizations who deal with developing relations with Arabic countries.