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IRAN AND CENTRAL ASIA

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Preamble

Iran is one of the largest countries in South-West Asia and key regional actors (players) in the Middle East, Central Asia. According to the UNESCO definition and Iran itself - or rather, the north-east part of Central Asia. The geopolitics of the region becomes a value close to the Iran Central Asia: it naturally creates a set of regional interconnections and conflicting dependencies. The common border - is also a factor of all known threats and challenges today.

The relations between Iran and the countries of Central Asia remain a number of outstanding issues and difficulties which require settlement. Here are some of them:

- The lack of clear strategies and objectives of CA cooperation with Iran, hence - the lack of high-grade results. First of all, the Central Asian states should declare their own,

according to an independent position on Iran possible.

- The difference in the socio-economic models, as well as political and ideological approaches in their mutual relations.

- Confessional factor in the relationship between Iran and the Central Asian states is not yet decisive, but some "friction" that could lead to Sunni-Shiite contradictions occurs.

Civilization factor: a single space with a long association with the common historical heritage of the Islamic culture, traditions, etc. often becomes a tool in the political argument of Iran in relations with Central Asian countries. In general, Iran is trying to reduce the anti-Iranian sentiment, expanding cooperation with Central Asia and the skilful use of anti-Western sentiment.

Brief History

Immediately after the overthrow of Iran in 1979. The secular regime of the Shah Reza Pahlavi came to power Shiite clerics, whose leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, proclaimed a thesis on the export of the Islamic revolution. In his opinion, there were three ways to do this.

First, the military. The second method - sabotage, such as special operations among the Shiite Diaspora. The third area of export of the Islamic revolution - ideological and cultural studies.

From the standpoint of the Iranian worldview, there are three great Asian civilizations: Chinese, Indian, and Persian (Iranian Persian considered the greatest). Therefore, Iran is seeking to become a superpower in the region - the most strong and powerful. As a result, he is now set itself the military and political objectives that bear aggressive character as secret, and obviously in relation to the neighbouring countries and abroad.

Currently, geography involving Iranian military advisers, Shiite

militias, arms transfers in all kinds of military conflicts are not inferior, perhaps even the United States. It is - part in clashes in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, Bahrain, the border provinces of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, ethnic and religious strife in Eritrea, Djibouti, Sudan, the Horn of Africa and in West Africa (Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia and Nigeria), the annexation of the disputed island territories, permanent military threat against Israel, the border conflicts with the Kurds and Turkey. At the same time the ruling Iranian clergy is not considered to whatever losses were among his subjects. Only in the Iran-Iraq war of 1980-1989 years has killed more than 700,000 Iranians.

Iran's interests in Central Asia

Contacts between the two regions began to develop in a very ancient times. U peoples of Iran and Central Asia share many common traditions. A powerful consolidating factor in the life of the peoples of the region was the philosophy and poetry

of Sufism represented in the region, mainly Orders Naqshbandi and Yassavi.

In terms of the actual embargo by the West seeks to weaken Tehran's international isolation by increasing contacts with Central Asia and gain there of influence in various spheres - the ideological, cultural and socio-economic. Iranian diplomacy in Central Asia aimed at a gradual complete install in all spheres with a view to contribute to overcoming the isolation of Iran.

Ideological aspects of convergence is emphasized. In practice, the "soft power" in this area expressed in the activities of the Iranian cultural centers in the region.

The economic interests of Iran lie in the plane of energy cooperation. By participating in the creation of pipeline systems of Central Asia, Iran is seeking to bring its energy to the regional market. Simultaneously, the Iranians are actively building the power plant in order to strengthen its control over the region's energy.

Much attention is paid to the development of bilateral relations, cooperation in the transport sector through the promotion in the creation of transport system in Central Asia. Examples include - entry in 1996 into operation area Tejan-Sarakhs-Mashad, and in 2014 a direct railway route Kazakhstan - Turkmenistan - Iran, which is part of the international transport corridor "North - South", designed to ensure transport links from the Baltic States to India . Promising project trans-Afghan transport corridor - railway and a highway along the line Termez - Mazari Sharif - Herat - Mashad, leading to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas (Persian Gulf) and Chabahar (Indian Ocean).

In recognition of the adviser Iranian Vice President for Agriculture, Water Resources and Environment, Isa Kalantari, Iran is an unprecedented ecological catastrophe in history, mainly due to the shortage of water resources. Therefore, Iran intends to purchase water in Tajikistan, which form significant

amounts of all water resources in Central Asia. As a water source considered Tajik Alpine Lake Sarez, the volume of water which is about 16 cubic meters. km., as well as cross-border waterways. Tehran, Kabul and Dushanbe have already agreed to establish a joint water and energy corridor that from Tajikistan through Afghanistan to Iran was to ship drinking water, and in the opposite direction - oil.

Since the energy projects implemented in Tajikistan, Iran (Sangtuda-2) without taking into account the interests of other participants in the cross-border water, causing legitimate protests downstream Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, Iran seeks to neutralize and suppress their resistance to using various levers. In particular, with the help of gas "blackmail" and Turkmenistan 'rail blockade' of Uzbekistan, which more than once have been denied the purchase of already agreed gas volumes and delivery of goods on the Iranian railway network, respectively.

Moreover, Iran has allowed himself and attempts to direct intimidation and interference in the affairs of sovereign states, voicing criticism of the multi-vector foreign policy of Uzbekistan for his allegedly "pro-American" course.

Realizing that in the predominantly Sunni Central Asia to Iran would be difficult to find enough fellow to achieve Shiite dominance in the region, the Iranian political establishment considering the absorption of Tajikistan and Afghanistan as part of a "Greater Iran" under the concept of "Aryan Unity". Ministers of Defense of Iran and Tajikistan have long signed an agreement on military cooperation. That is, there is an attempt of revival of the Persian Achaemenid Empire, which the princes for a long time occupied the ancient states of Central Asia - Bactria and Sogdiana. Creating, thus, a powerful anti-Turkish unit in the region and taking control of energy flows and transport communications, Iran will try to turn Central Asia into a raw-material

appendage in order to take advantage of its vast natural resources and human potential. Declaring at the same time that this it carries out its mission to "unite the Muslim Ummah."

At the same time in Tehran is aware that in order to avoid counteracting his plans from other regional players in Central Asia, it is necessary to achieve a certain consensus of key stakeholders of the Great Game. The most powerful external forces in Central Asia were China and Russia. However, due to the fact that Russia has been involved in large-scale confrontation with the West, she was due to overspending of resources had to slow down, and in some cases and curtail its expansion in Central Asia. Fearing that lost by its position can be taken under the control of China or the United States, Russia deems most beneficial help to strengthen Iran's influence here, as opposed to global heavyweights. Instead, Russia may require a more active involvement of Iran in the Syrian conflict and joint political

steps to mutually section of the Caspian Sea by the Central Asian Caspian states. Therefore, Iran needs legitimization in the regional international structures. In future full membership in the SCO can give Iran an opportunity to increase its influence on the formation of a regional Central Asia relations system.

Central Asia benefits from cooperation with Iran

Cooperation with Iran gives CA countries additional opportunities to diversify its external relations, fits well into the multi-vector policy and balancing between the different centres of power.

The economic and political Iran's weight in the Middle East and the Islamic world is important for the Central Asian republics of the second economy of the region, its industrial capacity, resources, and of course, the world's largest oil reserves, high technology, infrastructure, etc. - all these attractive side. Iran to the growing economies of the region.

The implementation of transit transport potential of Iran can have both optimistic - will economic leap in the region. Central Asia and China will have access to the Persian Gulf - and security threats.

The optimistic scenario can assume a more active convergence countries, people in the future, the dynamics of the conflict-of multilateral relations.

Proposed Central Asia steps to building relations with Iran

Its consolidated position of the countries of Central Asia must firmly make it clear to Iran that its activities in the region, it should be guided by the rules established by local players. Not Iran, taxation of sanctions siege, Central Asians conditions dictate.

Central Asian countries need to do everything to facilitate the construction through their territory of transport corridors between China and Europe in the framework of projects of the Great Silk Road and TRACECA, using the Caspian Sea ports for transit to Turkey and the EU. Thus, Iran's monopoly will be broken

to alternative communication through the Persian Gulf. A Central Asian countries, as a result, will be able to transport their loads in all directions of the compass: north - the Baltic, the east - the East and the South China Sea, the south - the Persian Gulf and West - Europe. It is clear that if in such circumstances, Iran will try in some way to speculate on their communications, it will simply lose customers.

It is the Central Asian countries, and not foreign authorities will have to decide the fate of Iran's membership in the SCO. Since the main objective of the organization is to ensure peace and security in the region, and its inhabitants themselves must determine whether the applicant for accession to the basic principle of association. And if the candidate himself stuck in dozens of local and regional conflicts, and can not bring peace to his own house, it is not premature if his membership in the SCO? After all, it will bring not peace, but strife and discord. First let

restore order at home. This should be a prerequisite.

The Central Asian countries, bearing in mind the nostalgia for his great-past of Iran, should establish a reliable system of checks and balances in a relationship with him. For example, Iran's attempts to increase its influence in the region must be balanced by greater involvement in business projects in the region of Europe and Southeast Asia, to increase competition.

Strength and especially the intelligence agencies should intensify their contacts with a greater number of relevant structures of foreign partners on the creation of joint "Iranian dossier", the contents of which would give an idea of backroom plans and intentions regarding Iran Central Asia. I think that particularly Israeli experts could have a very substantial assistance in this matter.

CA has to express its political support to the Iranian authorities in their fight against illegal actions of the so-called LIH or Daishev.

However, you must specify on the inadmissibility of the brutality and inhumanity committed by Shiite militias controlled by Iran against Sunni prisoners who are subjected to medieval tortures and burned alive. The country is a signatory to the UN Charter on Human Rights, should not fall to the state of primitive cannibalism.

Conclusion

The position of Iran in the region and the world at the moment is extremely unstable.

The country consumes huge resources, including and human, for the export of the revolution, has spoiled relations with both its neighbors and with the powerful global centers of power. This led financial and economic downturn and a sharp decline in living standards. Projected failures in Syria, Yemen, etc. will determine a social explosion in the country, as more than half of the population, as shown by the presidential elections, tired of religious rule "Rahbar" limiting

personal freedom and discriminatory rights of women. If at the same time will increase and the external pressure, which can not be excluded after the change of president in the United States, the division in society can lead to the fragmentation of the state on Kurdistan South Azerbaijan, Baluchistan and other "camps".

Therefore, the most interested party in collaboration with CA is precisely Iran, for whom access to new markets may facilitate its internal economic situation. Consequently, the Central Asian countries need to seize the initiative in the trade, economic and other cooperation with Iran and to dictate the agenda of their interests. To do this, Iran should feel firm position of the Central Asian partners.

I would like of course to both Iran and Turan (CA) forgotten past scores to each other, when in response to the Persian aggression inhabiting the territory of Central Asia Massagets Tomiris, Hephthalites warriors Turkic khanate, Samanids, Khwarizmshahs and Timurids crushed the invaders, but instead hostility and

mistrust have opened a new page in relations of mutually beneficial cooperation and brotherly neighborliness. However, vigilance, of course, it does not hurt. Timely use of the principle: «Sivispacem, parabellum - If you want peace, prepare for war", has always served as a stern warning to the aggressor and curb its excessive ambitions and appetites.