ABSTRACT

Dissertation work for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
8D05202 - Geography

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Kazakh-Chinese economic relations from the perspective of the new economic belt of the Silk Road

Relevance of the topic. The dissertation is devoted to the study of Sino-Kazakhstani economic relations on the New Silk Road Economic Belt. The relevance is due to the current conditions and the impact of Kazakh-Chinese economic relations on the socio-economic development of the Kazakh section of the New Silk Road Economic Belt.

It is well known that the Silk Road is the road linking China and Europe. Kazakhstan is an important neighbor of China in Central Asia and an important link in China's "One Belt and One Road" initiative. Individual projects within the framework of international financial institutions and treaties, determining the coherence of the participants, determining the strengthening of strategic mutual trust between the two countries, analysis - strengthening the interaction within the cooperation of the New Silk Road Economic Belt and how to minimize the links in the logistics system of the transport chain on the best routes. Analyzing regulatory and legal compliance, establishing a regional cooperation mechanism, cooperation in the regional context and exploring ways to cooperate through inclusiveness and participation. Mutual benefit to the project participants. The thesis examines the history and significance of Kazakhstan-China relations, analyzes the peculiarities and problematic ways of bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and China, the potential of Kazakhstan's relations with its neighbors as a way out of the current situation.

In terms of geography, Kazakhstan's modern transport and logistics system is of great importance in the whole Central Asian region and is gradually being integrated into the international transport system, the thesis will analyze the policy measures related to the development of Kazakhstan's local transport infrastructure in the region. After the launch of the Silk Road New Economic Belt initiative, the relations between our two countries have reached a whole new level. Since then, our relations have acquired a completely new character and quality of bilateral relations. With the emergence of the New Silk Road Economic Belt, our economic and humanitarian ties have been further strengthened. Through this project, our two countries are not only cooperating in the economic field, but also expanding opportunities in other areas such as infrastructure, logistics and transportation, new energy, clean low-carbon technologies and digital economy.

The purpose of the research was to develop theoretical and methodological provisions for the development of Kazakhstan's section of the New Economic Belt of the Silk Road is aimed at creating conditions that ensure the economic efficiency of the entire socio-economic system, including investments.

Objectives of the research.

1. To analyze the theoretical provisions of China's economic reform from the standpoint of evolution, target orientation and competitiveness within the emerging bipolar and - multipolar world, in which the New Silk Road Economic Belt can be considered as an indicator of successful development of Kazakhstan-China economic relations.

2. To disclose the current geo-economic situation in the zone of Kazakhstan's section of the New Silk Road Economic Belt, based on the interests of Kazakhstan and China.

3. To identify the current and predicted dynamic trends in the functioning of the New Economic Belt of the Silk Road on the territory of Kazakhstan.

4. To analyze the possible economic risks in the Kazakhstani section of the New Silk Road Economic Belt.

5. To develop science-based provisions for the RK and PRC aimed at creating conditions for parity cooperation in the region, taking into account mutual interests.

The object of the research is the Kazakhstan section of the New Economic Belt of the Silk Road.

The subjects of the research are regularities and trends in the development of Kazakh-Chinese economic relations within the framework of the Kazakh section of the new economic belt of the Silk Road.

Theoretical and methodological base of the research: empirical, comparative, statistical and alternative analysis.

Within the framework of the New Silk Road Economic Belt project, the following indicators of economic development can be selected to study the state of the economies of Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan:

- GDP - this is the main indicator of national economic accounting and an important measure of the economic situation and level of development of a country or region;

- GDP per capita - this indicator allows assessing the level of economic well-being of the country's population;

- GDP growth rate is a dynamic indicator of the degree of change in the level of economic development over a certain period of time and the main indicator of the dynamism of the country's economy;

- The level of infrastructural development is an assessment of the availability and quality of infrastructure, which is important for economic growth and investment attraction.

The relationship between economic dependence and economic growth rate is used to reflect the economic situation between CA countries and China in the context of the New Silk Road Economic Belt, and to show whether the New Silk Road Economic Belt can be an important factor in the sustainable economic growth of CA countries. According to the needs of the article, we have systematized and calculated the main data, thereby identifying the relevant trends in the dynamics.

The dynamic trends in the functioning of the New Silk Road Economic Belt on the territory of Kazakhstan are reflected in three main directions:

- Kazakhstan-China economic relations;

- State of infrastructure realization;
- Transit potential of Kazakhstan.

The received factual, stock and cartographic materials are processed, statistical characteristics are calculated. Comparative and descriptive analysis of the data was performed. The accuracy of the data was assessed using statistical criteria such as correlation coefficient, determination and efficiency, index of agreement, average absolute and standard error.

The scientific novelty of the research lies in a comprehensive geo-economic analysis of bilateral economic relations between Kazakhstan and China, which identifies the directions of sustainable economic development. For the first time, the prospects and problems of Kazakhstan's relations with China are systematically studied.

Theoretical and practical significance.

The theoretical and methodological basis of the dissertation research is based on the development of leading scientific schools and their representatives in the field of geographical science, geoeconomics, international relations, etc. The dissertation considers the current state of the use of innovative methods of spatial analysis and territorial organization of productive forces in the Kazakhstan section of the new economic belt of the Silk Road. Scientists and professors from many countries worked in the field of research of Chinese-Kazakhstani economic relations on the Silk Road Economic Belt:

The theoretical significance of the obtained research results lies in obtaining new scientific knowledge about the globalization of geographical economy and economic trade. The study of the problems of economic relations between China and Kazakhstan on the Silk Road Economic Belt. The results obtained are a scientific and practical platform for the development of modern economic cooperation aimed at accelerating the interaction and innovative development of border regions and more effective use of geopolitical relations in order to strengthen economic and trade cooperation between the parties and improve the well-being of their peoples.

The practical value and significance of this paper in providing an analytical approach that determines the impact of the current bilateral economic relations between Kazakhstan and China since the introduction of the “One Belt and One Road” initiative. The results of this study can make an important contribution to the development of programs and projects aimed at developing joint strategies for the harmonization and mutually beneficial development of economic relations between Kazakhstan and China.

The main provisions (results) to be defended.

1. studying the functioning of the new economic belt of the silk road.
2. Analysis of data on trade and investment between Kazakhstan and China and the impact of these economic indicators on the growth rate of Kazakhstan's economy.
3. Assessment of the transit potential of Kazakhstan is the basis for reflecting the dynamic trends in the functioning of the new economic belt of the silk road on the territory of Kazakhstan.
4. Identification of possible economic risks along the Kazakhstan section of the new economic belt of the silk road and methods of response to them.

General characterization of the work performed. The work is sufficiently reflected:

- scientific and theoretical prerequisites for the formation of the New Economic Belt of the Silk Road, its essence and significance;
- the stages of formation of the "One Belt and One Road" initiative;
- the importance of Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, as geographically located in the center of Eurasia and convenient for creating logistic hubs and links between China and Europe;
- indicators of sustainable economic development in Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, are characterized;
- data on trade and economic relations between the countries of Central Asia and China, as well as statistical data on the characteristics of trade and economic relations between Kazakhstan and China (US$ million) are given (Table 2.2. fig.2.8 pp.29-30), flows of direct investments of China in the countries of Central Asia, from 1992 to 2022 (US$ million) (fig.2.11. p.43,), volume of accumulated direct investments of China in the countries of Central Asia, from 2003 to 2022 (US$ million) (fig.2.12. p.45);
- data on foreign trade dependence of Central Asian countries on China from 2013 to 2022 are shown (Fig.2.14. p.49);
- data characterizing the dependence of foreign investments of Central Asian countries on China from 2013 to 2022 are shown (Fig.2.14. p.49);
- correlation coefficients between economic dependence of Central Asian countries on China and GDP growth rates of Central Asian countries are shown (Table 2.5, Fig.2.15. p.50);
- indices of infrastructure development in Kazakhstan is shown (Fig.3.1. Table 3.1. p.54-55);
- directions of the Silk Road Economic Belt are shown (Fig.3.6. p.60), and factors of influence on transit potential are shown (Fig.3.21, 3.22, 3.23, 3.24. p.71-72);
- the literature review on the topic of this thesis covers recent work by leading scholars from around the world;
- the dissertation work is written with the involvement of a great number of modern sources of recent years, mainly 2016-2022, (132), including foreign;
- References to literary sources are formalized in accordance with the established requirements.

On the materials of the dissertation research published 8 printed works, including 2 articles in the journals included in the base Scopus, 3 articles in the republican scientific journals from the list of the Committee for control in the sphere of education and science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 3 articles in the materials of international conferences.

The structure of the dissertation. The dissertation is set out on 109 pages and consists of definitions, notations and abbreviations, introduction, 4 sections, conclusion and list of used sources of 132 names, 78 of them in foreign languages; contains 6 tables, 47 figures and 3 appendices.