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SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS BETWEEN KAZAKHSTAN AND TURKEY IN 1991-2022

Abstract. The first country to recognize the independence of Kazakhstan was Turkey. Kazakhstan and Turkey are brotherly, related states with a shared history. Since 1991, Kazakhstan and Turkey have been developing relations in various spheres. One of these spheres is education and scientific cooperation. The relationship between Turkey and Kazakhstan has deep historical roots, reflected in their common origin, shared spiritual foundations, and brotherly ties. The main factor that brings the two countries closer is their shared origin, similarities in religion and culture, and their ethnolinguistic proximity. For the development of any state, the level of education and literacy of its population is paramount. The relevance of studying the educational and scientific connections between Kazakhstan and Turkey is examined based on several key themes. By comparing the educational systems of the two brotherly nations and analyzing their histories, scientific conclusions can be drawn regarding their similarities and differences, as well as the potential for further cooperation in this field.

Keywords: Kazakhstan, Turkey, history, science, culture, education, communication.

Нұржан Қоңырбаев, Бағдаулетова Асия

ҚАЗАҚСТАН-ТҮРКИЯ АРАСЫНДАҒЫ ҒЫЛЫМИ БАЙЛАНЫСТАР 1991-2022 ЖЖ.

Аңдатпа. Қазақстан тәуелсіздігін алғаш мойындаған ел - Түркия. Қазақстан мен Түркия туыс, тарихы бір, бауырлас мемлекеттер. Қазақстан мен Түркия 1991 жылдан түрлі салаларда байланыс орнатып келеді. Соның бірі оқу-ағарту және ғылыми байланыстар. Түркия мен Қазақстанның қарым-қатынасының бастауы тереңде, түбі бір туысқандығында, біртұтас рухани негіздерінде көрініс тапқан. Екі мемлекетті жақындастыратын басты фактор - екі халықтың түбі бір туыстығы, діні мен ділі бір, этнолингвистикалық жақындығы бар. Кез-келген мемлекеттің дамуы үшін ең бірінші халықтың оқу-сауаттылығы маңызды. Қазақстан-Түркия: оқу-ағарту және ғылыми байланыстарына қатысты зерттеу нысанын алудың өзектілігі бірнеше тақырыптар негізінде қарастырылады. Екі туысқан елдің оқу, білім жүйелерін салыстыра отырып, тарихи талдап, ғылыми қорытындылар жасау.

Түйін сөздер: Қазақстан, Түркия, оқу-ағарту, тарих, ғылым, мәдениет, білім, байланыс.

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НАУЧНЫЕ СВЯЗИ МЕЖДУ КАЗАХСТАНОМ И ТУРЦИЕЙ 1991-2022 ГГ.

Аннотация. Первой страной, признавшей независимость Казахстана, стала Турция. Казахстан и Турция - родственные, исторически связанные, братские государства. С 1991 года между Казахстаном и Турцией устанавливаются связи в различных сферах. Одним из направлений является образование и научные связи. Начало отношений между Турцией и Казахстаном уходит глубоко в историю, проявляется в их единстве происхождения, духовных основах. Главным фактором, сближающим два государства, является родство двух народов, единая религия и язык, этнолингвистическая близость. Для развития любого государства в первую очередь важна грамотность народа. Актуальность выбора объекта исследования, связанного с образовательными и научными связями Казахстана и Турции, рассматривается на основе

нескольких тем. Сравнивая системы образования двух братских стран, исторически анализируются и делаются научные выводы.

Ключевые слова: *Казахстан, Турция, образование, история, наука, культура, знания, связь.*

INTRODUCTION

It is well known that one of the uniquely important tasks of historical science is to shape public consciousness and carry out an educational function. One of the most significant issues among historical studies is the exploration of the spiritual essence of society. Among these is the historical examination of educational and scientific ties between Kazakhstan and Turkey, two brotherly nations sharing the same religion and language. In general, after analyzing domestic and foreign scientific research related to the educational and scientific connections between Kazakhstan and Turkey, we see the need to study this topic more thoroughly. There are only a few scholarly works concerning educational relations between Kazakhstan and Turkey. Most of them primarily cover political, diplomatic, and cultural ties between the two countries. Therefore, we consider educational and scientific relations between Kazakhstan and Turkey to be important. This article undertakes a study that is relevant to contemporary Kazakh society - aimed at preserving the integrity of the national code and national consciousness formed through the historical understanding of the Kazakh people in the context of globalization, as well as revitalizing historical memory.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

During the writing of this article, objectivity and comparative analysis methods were employed. Facts and agreements related to educational, scientific, and cultural ties between Kazakhstan and Turkey were examined. Documentary analysis methods were applied to the protocols between the two countries. Interdisciplinary approaches were also used comparatively.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The ties between Kazakhstan and Turkey date back to the 1930s. Turkey's first president, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, said in 1933, «Today we are friends with the Soviet Union; under its governance are brothers with the same language, faith, and origin. We cannot wait for them to come closer to us; we must come closer to them through strengthening spiritual bridges - bridges

of language and faith» (Kozganbaeva 2018, 74). This statement reflects the fraternal relationship Turkey has maintained with Kazakhstan since the 1930s. Official relations between Kazakhstan and Turkey began in 1990, when Turkey's Minister of Culture Namık Kemal Zeybek and Kazakhstan's Culture Committee signed an agreement on cooperation in education, scientific projects, exchange of specialists and scientists, and joint cultural events (Agreement Protocol 1990, 5-6). These documents addressed educational assistance, cooperation between higher education institutions, exchange of students and scientific staff, joint projects, and establishing cultural centers involving youth from both countries. These initiatives offered significant opportunities for citizens of both brotherly nations. Since then, ties in various fields including education and science have expanded.

On March 2, 1992, diplomatic relations were officially established between Kazakhstan and Turkey. Subsequently, on April 12, 1992, Turkey opened its first embassy in Kazakhstan, and in October 1992, Kazakhstan opened its first embassy in Ankara. Kazakhstan's first President, Nursultan Nazarbayev, stated, «Kazakhstan and Turkey have always been closely connected as kindred and related nations. Our shared history, language, and faith bring us even closer. As two major Turkic states, Kazakhstan and Turkey have many joint tasks. We must fully utilize our opportunities bilaterally and multilaterally» (Tuymebayev 2012, 6). Here, Nazarbayev's mention of bilateral and multilateral foundations includes education and science sectors as well. In 1996, on the 5th anniversary of friendship and relations between Kazakhstan and Turkey, documents noted that «educational and scientific relations between Kazakhstan and Turkey gained momentum primarily due to cultural and art days held in 1991, 1992, and 1996» (Kazakhstan–Turkey: Five Years of Friendship and Relations 1996, 10-11). Recognizing the importance of education, mutually beneficial schools and educational institutions were opened. Exchange programs for students and faculty were also established. The first Kazakh-Turkish lyceums were opened in Kazakhstan for boys and girls; these institutions achieved significant successes in national and international competitions. Today, these lyceums have been renamed as Education Innovation Lyceums, although their education systems remain unchanged. M.B. Mukhamedov, in his works, scientifically analyzed various relations between Kazakhstan and Turkey. He noted, «To foster deeper relations, on May 1, 1992, in Almaty, an agreement was signed on cooperation in education, science, culture, and sports» (Mukhamedov 1999, 29). This agreement prioritized education and science. Based on these agreements, the spiritual capital Turkistan city hosts the International Kazakh-Turkish University named after Khoja Akhmet Yassawi - the first international

university in Kazakhstan. Diplomas from Yassawi University are recognized as equivalent in Kazakhstan, Turkey, and the Turkic world. Moreover, cooperation in education between Kazakhstan and Turkey was formalized on May 19, 1992, in Ankara via a protocol signed by Kazakhstan's Ministry of Education and Turkey's National Ministry of Education. The protocol outlined key educational cooperation measures: studying each other's educational systems and curricula; exchanging specialists, students, teachers, literature, and teaching materials; awarding scholarships; organizing international educational contests and competitions; and establishing Turkish language centers in Kazakhstan.

These bilateral agreements defined specific practical steps and future plans benefiting both brotherly countries. Furthermore, in 1992, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) was established to coordinate various projects and programs between Turkey and Turkic states - including education, agriculture, military, entrepreneurship, culture, and tourism. This demonstrates Turkey's comprehensive support for newly independent Turkic states. Such support positively contributed to Kazakhstan's economy in the early independence period. Currently, scientific and educational ties between Kazakhstan and Turkic states continue to improve. Scientific conferences involving individual and joint participants are regularly held between scholars of both countries. This has enhanced scholarly cooperation and opened new directions. Unlike early independence years, when Turkey lacked similar extensive ties with countries such as England, China, Korea, the USA, and France, today Turkey's relations with Kazakhstan are more developed historically.

The 1999 Turkish-language book by F. Budak, «Kazakhstan: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow,» helped introduce Kazakhstan's history, economy, culture, and social life to Turkey, strengthening scientific ties. In 2000, scholars from Yassawi University published conference proceedings on Kazakhstan-Turkey scientific, educational, and cultural relations (Conference Proceedings 2017, 20-21). The article highlights that many relations between Kazakhstan and Turkey focus on education, science, culture, and religion. Teacher and student internships, scholarships, and the establishment of scientific laboratories were discussed. The university also publishes the journal «Young Turkistan» which covers the history, language, ethnography, science, education, and Turkic peoples' relations from a scholarly perspective (Bulyutay 2001, 5). Kazakhstan hosts two joint universities and 28 educational lyceums (formerly Kazakh-Turkish schools). The International Kazakh-Turkish University named after Khoja Akhmet Yassawi and Suleyman

Demirel University are operational. Additionally, in Istanbul's Zeytinburnu district, where many Kazakhs reside, the Abay School was opened in 2003 with the participation of Nursultan Nazarbayev. On the 175th anniversary of Abay Qunanbayuli, Abay Avenue and a monument bust were inaugurated in Zeytinburnu with participation from Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tileuberdi and Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu. Elementary schools named after Farabi were opened in Erzurum and Muş (Kazakhstan-Turkey Relations 2025, 2-3). These reflect the brotherly ties between the two countries. Numerous conferences are held regularly at Turkish universities and research centers on topics related to Kazakhstan-Turkey relations. Scholars from both countries have conducted extensive research and published books, scientific works, and informational articles.

Currently, the Turkish government annually allocates more than 200 scholarships under «Turkey Scholarships» and «Turkey Bursaries» programs for Kazakh citizens to study at universities in Anatolia. The first year focuses on Turkish language study; students must pass a language proficiency exam to continue to the main academic programs. Comparing tuition fees, Kazakh universities are several times more expensive than Turkish universities. Therefore, middle-class families in Kazakhstan whose children cannot gain grants to study their desired specialty locally often choose Turkish universities. While this is beneficial in some respects, it may also cause youth to quickly adapt and settle abroad. Istanbul University opened the Al-Farabi Eurasian Research Center and runs student exchange programs with leading universities in Turkey and Kazakhstan, including «Mevlana» programs. Turkey hosts 15 monuments, 9 cultural centers, 4 schools, 18 streets, and 12 parks named after Kazakhstan (Kazakhstan-Turkey Relations, 1-2). However, the number of students and graduate students from both countries does not yet fully reflect the population's eagerness for education. More universities and increased cooperation are needed. To promote Kazakh prominent figures in Turkey, 1993 was declared the Year of Khoja Akhmet Yassawi, 1995 the Year of Abay, 1996 the Year of Zhambyl, and 1998 the Year of Kurmangazy. The centennial of M. Auezov and the 5th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Turkey were celebrated in 1997. During these events, Abay's works were translated into Turkish and published (Early Stages of Cultural and Scientific Relations between Independent Kazakhstan and Turkey 2025, 1-2). Over 100 works of Kazakh poets and writers have been translated into Turkish with Turkey's support. Scientific conferences have been held at Turkish universities. Since 1992, the «Large Student Project» in Turkey has invited students from Turkic-speaking states and autonomous republics, including Kazakhstan, to study

in Turkey. Between 1992 and 2002, 2,450 students from Kazakhstan studied in Turkey, with 180 in secondary education and 2,270 in higher education (Abzharova 2017, 173). Currently, tourism, military, and medical specialties in Turkey are in high demand. Joint courses, seminars, and internships would be mutually beneficial for citizens of both countries, also providing cost-effective options for Kazakhstan. Turkish scholar Mustafa Bostancı noted, «In the 2011–2012 academic year, 175 higher education scholarships were granted from Turkey to Kazakhstan. Additionally, 50 scholarships were allocated to Turkish-origin residents of Kazakhstan. By 2015, over 3,000 Kazakh students had graduated from Turkish universities, with over 700 still studying» These figures may be underestimated. According to Emre Bursa in the 2016–17 academic year 2,015 Kazakh students were enrolled in Turkish universities: 1,048 female and 967 male. Distribution of students according to their educational programs:

1. Associate degree - 112 (37 girls, 75 man)
2. License - 1249 (530 girls, 719 man)
3. Post graduate - 406 (256 girls, 150 man)
4. Doktor - 248 (144 girls, 104 man)

The largest number (202 students) study at Istanbul University (Emre Bursa 2017, 13). These numbers are expected to grow. Since 1990, leaders of Kazakhstan and Turkey have maintained bilateral meetings in education, science, and culture. These meetings have yielded continuous scholarly and institutional cooperation. Studying the Kazakh diaspora living in Turkey since 1953 provides insight into their real living conditions in education, science, arts, and politics. Between 1991 and 2022, numerous documents were signed between Kazakhstan and Turkey on various cooperation areas. Several PhD, doctoral, and candidate dissertations have been defended on these topics. Studies have been conducted on Hasan Oraltaı, Khalifa Altay, Mustafa Öztürk, the migration history of Kazakhs in Turkey, and the ethnography and traditions of Turkish Kazakhs. These works have served as bridges between the two countries. Currently, Turkey is the country with which independent Kazakhstan's scholars maintain the most scientific contacts. Recently, several joint projects on IT technologies have been implemented between the two countries. The Organization of Turkic States has signed memorandums and strategies on cooperation among IT hubs and digital human capital systems among member states, including Kazakhstan and Turkey (Kanay 2000, 4-5). IT is currently the most promising and rapidly developing sector globally. Turkey has recently advanced its IT sector and ranks among the top ten arms exporters worldwide. Kazakhstan must also

master new technologies to counter cyberattacks and other emerging threats. Kazakhstan's first President (1991-2019), Nursultan Nazarbayev, said, «We are Turkic-speaking states and will do our utmost to strengthen relations with Turkic-speaking countries» (Nazarbayev 2006, 267). In the early years of independence, Kazakhstan signed many bilateral agreements. Turkey and Kazakhstan began economic, cultural, humanitarian, and scientific cooperation first. These efforts resulted in agreements among leaders, ministers, and regional heads. Turkey became Kazakhstan citizens' first school for cultural, educational, scientific, and humanitarian professional experience exchange.

CONCLUSION

As an independent country, Kazakhstan's relations with Turkey will not weaken but grow stronger. Numerous ties exist between Turkey and Kazakhstan in economics, culture, trade, military, medicine, education-science, humanitarian aid, and IT technologies. Currently, the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States headquartered in Istanbul, the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking States in Azerbaijan, the International Turkic Academy in Astana, the International Turksoy Organization in Ankara, the Turkish Business Council, and the Nomadic Civilizations Centers in Bishkek strengthen Turkic peoples' unity in politics, science, education, culture, and national sports. For further development of educational ties between the two countries, stability and peace are first needed in both states. Second, economic potential is required to develop better programs. To implement large projects, financial support and special programs from both countries are necessary. Moreover, over ten sister-city partnerships exist between Kazakhstan and Turkey. It is expected that the ties between these brotherly countries will develop intensively, and our unity and actions will stem from the same source. Long live Turkic unity!

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