

PLACE AND ROLE OF ISLAM IN REGIONS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

KANYBEK KUDAYAROV, AYGERIM MAKSYMBEKOVA.
CENTRAL ASIAN POLICY OF CHINA IN THE MATERIALS
OF THE EXPERT COMMUNITY OF TÜRKIYE

*Keywords: Türkiye's analytical
centers; China's policy in the region;
China; Central Asia; Russia; energy
resources; logistics; trade and economic
relations.*

Kanybek Kudayarov,
PhD(Hist.), Research Associate,
Center for Interdisciplinary Research,
INION RAN
e-mail: kana83068306@gmail.com

Aygerim Maksymbekova,
MA(Hist.), Department of International Relations,
Ala-Too International University (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)
e-mail: kana83068306@gmail.com
© A. Maksymbekova 2025

Citation: Kudayarov K., Maksymbekova A. Central Asian Policy of China in the Materials of the Expert Community of Türkiye // Russia and the Muslim World, 2025. № 3 (329). P. 20–31. DOI: 10.31249/rmw/2025.03.02

Abstract. The article endeavours to review the materials of the analytical centers of Türkiye for the study of the Central Asian vector of

China's policy in the region. Despite the periods of bilateral 'thaw' and 'chill' between Türkiye and China, as well as ideologically loaded foreign policy rhetoric, Turkish experts have generally adopted a fairly consistent and objective approach when analyzing the geopolitical and economic stance of the People's Republic of China in Central Asia.

Among all the analytical centers examined in this paper, the materials of INSAMER, ANKASAM, AVIM and SETA deserve special attention.

Speaking about the works as a whole, we should note that the presented in the reviewed materials assessments of the described events and trends concerning China's policy in Central Asia are rather general and similar in nature.

Before reviewing China's Central Asian policy, it is necessary to briefly address the current state of Turkish-Chinese relations. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1971. Since then, bilateral relations have repeatedly experienced "ups and downs."

Economically, the People's Republic of China (PRC) is viewed through a dual lens – as both an investor and a competitor in the Turkish market. "The Belt and Road Initiative"¹ holds significant importance, with Türkiye assigned a crucial role in the logistics chain connecting China to Europe.

China is Türkiye's largest trading partner in Asia and its third-largest globally. Infrastructure projects like the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route and BRI substantially align Beijing and Ankara. However, the existing trade balance² favors China over Türkiye, a situation dissatisfactory to the latter, which seeks to narrow the gap through tourism revenue. For instance, the number of Chinese tourists visiting Türkiye in the first seven months of 2024 reached 230,819 – a 102,46% increase compared to the same period last year [1]. Türkiye plans to further expand its tourism capacity and estimates its potential at 10 million Chinese tourists annually.

Politically, Türkiye positions itself as a protector of Turkic or Turkic-speaking populations worldwide and the primary