

Chapter 18

The Challenges of Maintaining Regional Security in Central Asia Amid Modern Threats

Ravshan Goziyev

Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

This article examines multi-faceted challenges to regional security in Central Asia, a region currently off-balance due to the intricacies of a rapidly changing global security landscape. Regional security is quickly acquiring all the most salient features of contemporary security paradigms, reflecting a leadership shift towards cooperative approaches in dealing with shared threats. In this paper, the possible directions for strengthening regional security cooperation are viewed concerning dialogue, transparency, and shared responsibility of Central Asian countries.

INTRODUCTION

Regional security in Central Asia has come to the forefront against new threats and challenges to the modern security system. This paper tries to project the different dimensional problems the Central Asian countries face in their attempt to provide regional security. Central Asia is an essential region because of its geographical location, rich natural wealth, and cultural diversity. However, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, coupled with the rise of new global threats coming from terrorism,

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transnational crime, and cyber warfare, further exacerbated security concerns in the region.

This article primarily focuses on dissecting Central Asia's current regional security situation. It delves into the critical threats and examines the strategies of the Central Asian states in response to these challenges. The paper pays particular attention to unravelling the intricacies and interdependencies of the security landscape that define the region, aiming to provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing security dynamics in Central Asia.

This article is essential because it views the region's security environment from a current perspective. Central Asia's integration into the global economic and political systems heightens the need for security strategies against traditional and non-traditional threats more than ever before. This article identifies that regional cooperation and international support and assistance are needed to decrease security threats and stabilise Central Asia.

The current research gains even greater topicality against changes in the global security landscape. The rise of new powers, shifting alliances, and a new definition of global security norms all go deep to the core of Central Asia. This article attempts to enrich the scholarly discourse by adding some valuable input on how the countries of Central Asia, with their unique potential, can meet those challenges by strengthening their security frameworks and contributing significantly to regional and global stability.

1. THE CONCEPT OF REGIONAL SECURITY IN SECURITY PARADIGMS AND THE INCREASING SIGNIFICANCE OF ITS IMPORTANCE

Regional security is a state of safety, stability, and order within a particular geographic area or region, mostly referring to protecting states against foreign threats and domestic challenges. This is one of the central concepts in grasping international relations and political science because it says much about the activities of nations sharing a given region, how they interact, and at times cooperate, conflict, and build mechanisms for regional security. In his "People, States, and Fear: An Agenda for International Security Studies in the Post-Cold War Era", regional security is defined by Barry Buzan (1991, p.393) as the interaction of states within a particular geographic area wherein the security concerns of each state cannot be considered independently of the others. He introduces the term Regional Security Complexes, which refers to regions where states are linked in terms of security, as pointed out by Buzan, with the notion that the security of a state is inextricably linked with the security of the others within that particular region. In the research paper "Explaining

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