

**REPORTS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

ISSN 2224-5227

<https://doi.org/10.32014/2019.2518-1483.172>

Volume 6, Number 328 (2019), 88 – 94

JEL [341.1/8](#)

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**TO THE QUESTION ABOUT SOURCES OF DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN AND USA**

**Abstract.** It should be noted that the bilateral Kazakh-American partnership is part of the geostrategic and national interests of the United States not only in Kazakhstan, but also in the entire Central Asian region. However, it is Kazakhstan that is the most reliable partner of the United States in Central Asia, as Kazakhstan is politically stable, has significant economic potential, huge reserves of mineral resources, qualified technical personnel. Therefore, a certain political and economic presence of the United States in the center of the Eurasian continent is important for maintaining the geopolitical balance, stability, security, and prosperity of the region. During the first decade of independent development, Kazakhstan became open to the United States in political, economic, environmental, cultural and educational areas. Every year, various American senators visited our country, meeting both with government and with the public. United States in their faces looked like a great country, deserving of attention by its good example in building a market economy and a democratic society. The relationship between the two States is a strategic partnership. This applies not only to the economy, but also to the achievement of common global security objectives.

**Key words:** international relations, cooperation, international legal principles, norms of international law, strategic partnership, energy partnership, international markets, delivery of resources, global energy sources, security.

Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the United States, on December 25, 1991, was the first country to recognize Kazakhstan's independence. The United States opened its Embassy in Almaty in January 1992 and then relocated to Astana (renamed Nur-Sultan in 2019) in 2006. The United States opened a Consulate General in Almaty in 2009. In the years since Kazakhstan's independence, the two countries have developed a strong and wide-ranging bilateral relationship.

The development of a comprehensive partnership with the United States is one of the main priorities of our country's foreign policy. Political dialogue is being consistently developed at all levels, including the highest one.

Kazakhstan is the 79th largest trading partner of the United States, with a total of \$2.1 billion in two-way trade in 2018. U.S. firms have invested tens of billions of dollars in Kazakhstan, concentrated in the oil and gas sector. Kazakhstan has made some progress in creating a favorable investment climate, although serious problems remain, including corruption and arbitrary enforcement of laws and contracts. A U.S.-Kazakhstan Bilateral Investment Treaty and a Treaty on the Avoidance of Dual Taxation have been in place since 1994 and 1996, respectively. In 2001, Kazakhstan and the United States established the U.S.-Kazakhstan Energy Partnership. Kazakhstan became a member of the World Trade Organization on November 30, 2015.

The official visit of the President of Kazakhstan to the United States was an important milestone in the development of the Kazakh-American strategic partnership and gave renewed impetus to the further development of the full-scale and multifaceted engagement between Astana and Washington. In particular, the two leaders decided to establish an enhanced strategic partnership between the two countries. The specific nature of the relations between the United States and Kazakhstan and the stated intention to expand cooperation in all spheres of strategic partnership for the benefit of both countries were clearly demonstrated by the results of the visit, the issues discussed, the depth of the talks and the high level of trust [1].

The Strategic Partnership Dialogue (SPD) has been operating under the chairmanship of the heads of foreign offices since 2012. In view of the Commission's importance, its working groups were upgraded to the Committees, whose first meetings were held on March 8-9, 2016, in Washington. The 5th SPD review session was held on November 30, 2017, in Astana, which was attended by officials of all interested government agencies.

U.S. Government assistance to Kazakhstan focuses on combating transnational threats (trafficking in persons, narcotics, terrorists, and weapons of mass destruction materiel), improving the functioning of the judiciary, promoting an increased public role for civil society and mass media, maintaining Kazakhstan's open investment and trade environment, helping the government provide effective social services, and supporting Kazakhstan's efforts to increase its production of low-cost clean energy [1]. Kazakhstan and the United States belong to a number of the same international organizations. Kazakhstan is a member of the United Nations, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and North Atlantic Cooperation Council. Kazakhstan held a nonpermanent seat on the UN Security Council in 2017-2018, held the chairmanship of the OSCE in 2010 and held an OSCE summit in Astana in December 2010. It is an active participant in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Partnership for Peace program. Kazakhstan also engages in regional security dialogue with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Kazakhstan founded the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). Kazakhstan is also a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Kazakhstan is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

According to Kazakhstan's customs authorities, bilateral trade with the United States amounted to 1.636 billion dollars in 2017, including exports from Kazakhstan to the US reaching 392.3 million dollars and imports from the U.S. to Kazakhstan worth 1.244 billion dollars.

According to the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the gross inflow of foreign direct investment from the United States into Kazakhstan's economy amounted to 30.6 billion dollars between 2005 and September 31, 2017. The main investment sectors are mining, real estate, lease and services to enterprises, financial activities, activities of professional organizations, associations and alliances.

The U.S. is the second largest investor in Kazakhstan after the Netherlands. Furthermore, the announcement in July 2016 that TengizChevrOil plans to reinvest 36.8 billion dollars into the Future Growth Project and Wellhead Pressure Management Project the Tengiz field contributed to the increase of trust of the U.S. and international investors in Kazakhstan's economy.

Despite the instability in the global economy, American companies continue to demonstrate an interest in the Kazakhstani market. In recent years, companies such as Primus Power, Spancrete, Uber, Starbucks, McDonalds and Netflix have entered the Kazakh market.

Murat Laumulin insisted: "The creation of favorable conditions for economic cooperation between the United States and Central Asian countries is discussed on a regular basis at the Council meeting of the U.S. Central Asia Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). The last meeting was held on December 11-13, 2017, in Almaty" [2, P.21]. A key instrument in the energy cooperation is the Kazakhstan-U.S. Energy Partnership. Within the framework of the visit of the presidential delegation to the EXPO-2017, headed by the Deputy Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette on August 28, 2017, a meeting was held with the Minister of Energy Kanat Bozumbayev. The Joint Statement by Co-Chairs of the Kazakhstan - U.S. Energy Partnership was signed at the meeting. According to the document, the sides agreed to raise the level of engagement to the Strategic Energy Dialogue and outlined specific areas of cooperation, such as renewable energy, nuclear energy and energy security.

Over 28 years, more than 70 interstate, intergovernmental and interagency agreements have been signed. Efforts are made to enhance the treaty and legal basis. On December 6, 2016, an interstate Agreement on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters (MLAT) came into force. Kazakhstan became the first country in Central Asia and the third in the CIS (after the Russian Federation and Ukraine) to conclude such an agreement with the United States. On September 11, 2017, the Agreement on the Improvement of International Tax Discipline (FATCA) was signed in Astana. The Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the United States of America on Support for Commercial Rail Transit of Special Cargo through the Territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Connection with the Participation of the United States of America in Efforts for

the Stabilization and Reconstruction of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan was signed on September 21, 2017. On November 10, 2017, Kazakhstan ratified the Inter-American Convention on Extradition of 1933. An Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of United States of America on Assessing Air Navigation Service Fees for State Aircraft was signed on January 12, 2018. This facilitates visits to Kazakhstan by the U.S. official delegations to Kazakhstan, including congressional delegations.

Murat Laumulin in his another work stressed: “Dialogue on democracy and human rights remains an important component of the strategic partnership between Kazakhstan and the United States. The visit of the Minister of Religious Affairs and Civil Society of Kazakhstan, Nurlan Yermekbayev, to Washington took place on May 9-10, 2017. During the meetings with representatives of the U.S. Administration, issues of ensuring rights and freedoms in Kazakhstan and countering religious extremism and terrorism were discussed” [3, P.27].

The United States was the first country to recognize our independence and establish diplomatic relations with Kazakhstan in December 1991. During the short period since then, bilateral cooperation has intensified in almost all areas and the relationship between the two countries has been firmly established at the level of strategic partnership.

Political dialogue at the highest level creates the necessary conditions to further strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation with the current U.S. administration. The constructive and cordial relationship between the two leaders, Nursultan Nazarbayev and Barack Obama, is one of the most important facilitators of the growing partnership [4]. Our leaders meet each other annually on the margins of various international events. The previous such meeting took place during the G20 summit in St. Petersburg in September 2013. The leaders also regularly exchange messages on contemporary issues. The close and trust-based relationship between the two leaders was once again reaffirmed during their recent phone conversation, which covered strategic partnership issues and the situation in Ukraine.

As President Obama pointed out in his congratulatory message to our head of state on the occasion of our Independence Day last year, although the strategic partnership between our countries “is young, it continues to develop, reflecting the cooperation between our governments and people.” Given the United States’ recognition of Kazakhstan’s international leadership in nonproliferation, the next meeting of our leaders is scheduled to take place during the Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague on March 24-25. The meeting will give the leaders an opportunity to compare notes on topical issues on the bilateral and international agendas. President Obama has said he appreciates President Nazarbayev’s leadership on nuclear nonproliferation, which has led to “growth and prosperity in his own country.”

American experts also note the successes of Kazakhstan’s diplomacy. Frederick Starr, chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins University, believes that “Kazakhstan has managed to do what no other country has done: maintain cordial and balanced strategic partnerships with China, Russia and the United States.” In his opinion, “U.S. links with Kazakhstan are among this country’s most promising relations in the Muslim world.”

Richard Weitz, senior fellow and director of the Centre for Political-Military Analysis at the Hudson Institute, notes that “Kazakhstan’s growing role in its extended neighbourhood advances significant U.S. interests.” He states that through “its increasing economic engagement in Eurasia – which has involved direct investment and trade as well as support for improving regional commercial and transportation infrastructure – Kazakhstan is helping transform Central Asia and the Caspian region into an ‘arc of opportunity’ rather than an ‘arc of crisis.’”

A visit by Kazakhstan’s Foreign Minister Erlan Idrissov to the U.S. in July 2013 gave a significant impetus to the development and strengthening of bilateral cooperation and was groundbreaking in a number of key directions.

The co-chairmanship of the Strategic Partnership Dialogue Commission was elevated to the heads of foreign ministries. Among all Central Asian states, the U.S. has established a Strategic Partnership Dialogue Commission only with Kazakhstan, while with other countries in our region Washington conducts annual bilateral consultations. Another main outcome of the visit was the launch of the mutual issuance of five-year visas from August 1, 2013. The high level and intensity of the foreign minister’s meetings with heads of key U.S. agencies indicated recognition of Kazakhstan’s growing political importance by official Washington as well as its readiness to be Kazakhstan’s partner in implementing the

Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy and the National Concept of the Transition to a Green Economy through the participation of advanced corporations [5].

The November 2013 visit to Washington, D.C., by Minister of Defence Adilbek Dzhaksybekov acquired a critical urgency in the context of the U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2014. During the visit, Dzhaksybekov and U.S. Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel and other officials had a comprehensive exchange of views on regional security issues, as well as the strengthening of military and technical cooperation.

It is also important that contacts were established with enterprises of the U.S. defence industry complex and bilateral military-technical cooperation was brought to a qualitatively new level.

As a practical follow-up to the meetings, a number of major U.S. defence companies plan to take part in the KADEX defence technology exhibition in Astana in May 2014.

Overall, cooperation in this area is developing in accordance with the third five-year plan for military cooperation for the period 2013-2017, which was signed in November 2012.

The plan provides for the development of peacekeeping capacities (including through the Steppe Eagle military exercises); assistance in the field of military education; the establishment of contacts between defence companies and training for special operations units of Kazakhstan's armed forces, including psychological training.

In the law enforcement sphere, the official visit of Prosecutor General Askhat Daulbayev to Washington last December, the first in the history of bilateral relations, and his meetings with the U.S. Attorney General and the head of the FBI laid a good foundation for the development of a constructive partnership.

Interparliamentary relations have also been revitalised and mutual visits of parliamentary delegations take place.

The unprecedented participation of 30 U.S. congressmen and senators in the Kazakhstan-American Conference and the reception on the occasion of Kazakhstan's Independence Day in December 2013 is evidence of the growing interest in our country. The number of members of Congress in the Friends of Kazakhstan Caucus on Capitol Hill is growing.

A parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Speaker of the Senate of Kazakhstan Alexander Sudyin visited Washington in May 2013 to mark the 10th anniversary of the success of the initiative of our President to convene and host the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

In honour of Kazakhstan's delegation, Congressman Eni Faleomavaega handed to Senator Sudyin his Congressional Record statement recognising Kazakhstan's contribution to promoting interfaith dialogue. The U.S. congressman thanked Kazakhstan and President Nazarbayev for his initiative to convene the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions 10 years ago, noting that today "it has become an effective forum in which the leaders of world religions may promote a unified approach to achieving the most important goal – the establishment of inter-religious dialogue."

Andrei Chebotarev reminded, that "Kazakhstan and the U.S. continue to maintain dialogue on nuclear nonproliferation. The Americans have always appreciated Kazakhstan's contributions in this area, singling out Kazakhstan as an example for other countries" [6, P.19]. Most recently, U.S. Senator Ed Markey chose to announce his introduction of the SANE Act (Smarter Approach to Nuclear Weapons Expenditure) to the Senate at a reception organised by the Embassy of Kazakhstan in the historic Kennedy Caucus Room of the U.S. Senate. This indicates the value he places on cooperation with Kazakhstan in the field of nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. The reception was part of the PNND (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament) Assembly, where Kazakhstan's delegation included Senator Byrganym Aitimova and member of the Mazhilis of Kazakhstan Viktor Rogalev, as well as representatives of the online education and petition initiative, the ATOM Project.

The relocation of the International Science and Technology Centre in Kazakhstan, as well as the creation of the International Atomic Energy Agency's low-enriched uranium fuel bank and the construction of the Central Reference Laboratory in Almaty are among the breakthrough projects in the field of nonproliferation coming in the near future. Another of Kazakhstan's concrete contributions to nonproliferation, the U.S. believes, came in the hosting of two rounds of talks between Iran and the six nations of international mediators in Almaty, which helped launch the actual mechanism of a diplomatic resolution to the Iranian nuclear programme.

Our two governments pay special attention to creating favourable conditions for the development of investment and trade and economic cooperation. The volume of U.S. foreign direct investment in Kazakhstan in the first half of 2013 amounted to \$1.2 billion, 12.8 percent more than in the same period in 2012. Most American foreign direct investment goes to the mining industry (18 percent), real estate and business services (16 percent), the financial sector (5 percent) and activities of professional organisations and industry associations (3 percent).

Mutual trade during the nine months of 2013 amounted to \$1.9 billion, which is 5.6 percent more than that of the first nine months of 2012. Major American companies such as Boeing, General Electric, Hewlett-Packard and others have accomplished their business plans in Kazakhstan. Some companies have been successful in establishing joint ventures. One success story is the joint venture of GE Transportation and Kazakhstan Temir Zholy to manufacture locomotives. As part of its strategy of business expansion, this joint venture plans to manufacture and assemble diesel engines.

American companies are also leaders in terms of investment in Kazakhstan's energy sector. The Joint Kazakh-American Commission on energy partnership plays an important coordinating role in energy cooperation between the two countries. It aims to develop and implement a detailed and concrete action plan in all areas of energy partnership. The work of the commission over the past years has shown that cooperation in the field of renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean energy technologies is becoming increasingly important. In a short period of time, both sides have managed to establish a permanent expert dialogue and advanced to implementing specific projects. The 10th meeting of the commission is scheduled to take place this year.

An important event in Kazakhstan-U.S. bilateral cooperation is the international exhibition EXPO 2017. The main theme of the exhibition corresponds to the long-term objectives that U.S. President Barack Obama has set for his country, namely achieving full development of energy-saving and alternative energy technologies by 2033.

Work on the scientific and technological track within the framework of the Kazakhstan-U.S. Strategic Partnership Commission and its establishment in the form of a separate Joint Commission on Scientific and Technological Cooperation last year facilitated important steps in the development of long-term cooperation in this area. The inaugural meeting of the commission took place in June 2013 in Astana, which resulted in the adoption of a joint action plan for 2013-2015. In recent years, the number of U.S. industrial and manufacturing companies interested in entering Kazakhstan's market has grown [7, P.49].

Today, the United States sees Kazakhstan as a reliable partner and a regional leader in Central Asia, a country that effectively transmits domestic successes into the world arena and makes significant contributions to global and regional security.

Ex-President Nazarbayev's state-of-the-nation address, "Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy: New Political Course of the Established State," has been positively received by U.S. official, analytical and business circles. The address gives a new opportunity for widening bilateral collaboration, especially in the field of investment, technology and innovation.

USA officials and experts believe the address is a solid and positive road map that clearly identifies Kazakhstan's development priorities for the long term. Our focus on an innovative economy and sustainable development should give a powerful boost to the work of the Strategic Partnership Dialogue, whose agenda intersects with the ambitious goals of the 2050 strategy [8, P.47]. We will need to maintain a dynamic foreign policy in order to reach the goals of joining the world's 30 most developed countries and creating a favorable environment for attracting new technologies and investment.

According to American experts, implementing long-term programs will ensure political stability and economic development. U.S. business circles also positively note the economic initiatives outlined in the address and underline the ambitious and timely priorities that will play an important role in the transformation of Kazakhstan's economy [9, P.120]. The strategic partnership between Kazakhstan and the United States is experiencing a new stage of growth, exemplified by our common strategic goals and similar approaches to achieving them.

In the conclusion we would like to note, that Kazakhstan has attracted significant foreign investment since independence. The U.S. is one of Kazakhstan's most important economic partners. Bilateral cooperation was affirmed by President Donald J. Trump and President Nursultan Nazarbayev at the White House in January 2018. The two leaders resolved to strengthen cooperation in trade and investment, and

people-to-people relationships through regular high-level meetings within the framework of an [Enhanced Strategic Partnership Dialogue](#). Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who was sworn in as the new President of Kazakhstan on March 20, 2019, reaffirmed his commitment to continue the country's foreign and economic policy. Kazakhstan is the most efficient and investment-friendly transit hub for the greater Eurasia region. By 2020 the country aims to become a key logistics hub for Eurasia and beyond by developing transportation and export centers on the territory. Kazakhstan and the US have established a robust trade relationship that has generated skilled jobs in both countries. Kazakhstan imports annually from the U.S. high tech medical equipment, industrial machinery and livestock.

**З.К. Аюпова, Д.Ө. Құсайынов**

### **ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫ МЕН АҚШ АРАСЫНДАҒЫ ДИПЛОМАТИЯЛЫҚ ҚАТЫНАСТАРДЫҢ БАСТАУЫ МӘСЕЛЕСІНЕ**

**Аннотация.** Айта кету керек, Қазақстан-Американдық әріптестік АҚШ-тың ұлттық геостратегиялық мүддесінің құрамдас бөлігі болып табылады, ол тек қана Қазақстан мен емес барлық Орта Азия өңіріне бағытталған. Бірақта тек қана Қазақстан Америка құрама штаттарының Орталық Азия өңіріндегі ең сенімді серіктесі, себебі Қазақстанда саяси тұрақтылық бар, экономикалық мүмкіндіктері де берік, минералдық ресурстарға бай, кадрлық потенциал да, техникалық мамандарда кәсіби деңгейде дайындалған. Сондықтан да белгілі дәрежедегі АҚШ-тың саяси және экономикалық Орталық Азиядағы қатысулары осы өңірдегі геосаяси балансты сақтауға, тұрақтылық пен қауіпсіздікті қамтамасыз етуге әсерін тигізеді. Тәуелсіздіктің алғашқы он жылдығында Қазақстан АҚШ үшін саяси, экономикалық, экологиялық, мәдени және білім бағытында ашық саясат ұстады. Жылсайын біздің елімізге Американың әртүрлі сенаторлары келіп кездесулер мен келіссөздер өткізді, өкімет мүшелерімен және қоғам белсенділерімен пікірлесті. Олардың арқасында АҚШ сый-сияпатты қажет ететін, мейірімді үлгілермен, нарықтық экономиканы құруға көмектесетін ұлы мемлекет ретінде көрініс тапты. Екі мемлекеттің арақатынасы стратегиялық сипатқа ие болып өзінің жемісін бере бастады. Бұл тек қана экономикалық бағытында емес, әмбебап сипаттағы қауыпсыздық мәселелерін де қамтиды.

**Түйін сөздері:** халықаралық қатынастар, ынтымақтастық, халықаралық-құқықтық принциптер, халықаралық құқық нормалары, стратегиялық әріптестік, энергетикалық әріптестік, халықаралық нарықтар, ресурстарды жеткізу, жаһандық энергия көздері, қауіпсіздік.

УДК [341.1/8](#)

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### **К ВОПРОСУ ОБ ИСТОКАХ ДИПЛОМАТИЧЕСКИХ ОТНОШЕНИЙ МЕЖДУ РЕСПУБЛИКОЙ КАЗАХСТАН И США**

**Аннотация.** Следует отметить, что двустороннее казахстанско-американское партнерство является частью геостратегических и национальных интересов США не только в Казахстане, но и во всем Центрально-азиатском регионе. Однако именно Казахстан является наиболее надежным партнером США в Центральной Азии, поскольку Казахстан политически стабилен, имеет значительный экономический потенциал, огромные запасы минеральных ресурсов, квалифицированные технические кадры. Поэтому определенное политическое и экономическое присутствие США в центре евразийского континента является важным для сохранения геополитического баланса, стабильности, безопасности и процветания региона. За первое десятилетие независимого развития Казахстан стал открытым для США по политическим, экономическим, экологическим, культурным и образовательным направлениям. Ежегодно нашу страну посещали различные американские сенаторы, проводившие встречи как с правительственными кругами, так и с общественностью. США в их лице выглядели как великая страна, заслуживающая внимания своим добрым примером в построении рыночной экономики и демократического общества. Отношения двух

государств носят характер стратегического партнерства. И это касается не только экономики, но и достижения общих глобальных целей, касающихся безопасности.

**Ключевые слова:** международные отношения, сотрудничество, международно-правовые принципы, нормы международного права, стратегическое партнерство, энергетическое партнерство, международные рынки, доставка ресурсов, глобальные источники энергии, безопасность.

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