

ABSTRACT

**on PhD thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements
in specialty 6D050200 – Political Science
titled «Integration projects of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Eurasian
space» by Dossymkhan Yenglik**

Relevance of research subject. Modern ongoing processes of globalization and change in international political system determined the scientific interest towards detailed investigation of integration processes within the Eurasian zone as one of the most significant global political trends of our times.

The factors, which have impacted the growth of interest in the subject of integration are currently related first of all to remaking of the world after fall of bipolar system, which was marked by new countries coming to the world forefront.

According to researchers' observations more than eighty different initiatives of such kind and unions of supra-national nature were launched around the world since the middle of 50-ties of the XX century. Along with that less than 15% of supra-national unions went through the test of time and proved to be efficient as a whole. In this connection one of remarkable and interesting examples for study of regional integration are integration processes developing on the territory of Eurasia.

Eurasian community is an exclusive research platform, which constitutes a remarkable example of integration and disintegration processes going on inside thereof as well as phenomenon, which has not yet found proper theoretical in-depth study in modern political science.

The subject of this dissertation research has theoretical as well as practical significance.

First, the process of integration relations development within the Eurasian zone bears special relevance. Eurasian integration is a dynamically developing process, which has a special way of evolving and developing.

Second, the Eurasian zone is a part of world economy. Political and international challenges and shifts arising on the world forefront do not circumvent the Eurasian region, which impacts interests of international players of Eurasian zone.

Third, one of the main roles in formation and development of integration projects within the Eurasian zone is played by Kazakhstan – a country, which is an initiator of many integration projects.

Regardless of multiple researches held the subject of the dissertation does not cease to be relevant since integration processes are constantly developing and the choice of the right vector of foreign policy concerning integration into regional unions is the most important task of the state.

Chronological frames of research. The chronological frames of the dissertation cover the period from the moment of declaration of the Republic of Kazakhstan independence till the 2021 (1991-2021).

The purpose of research is performance of a comprehensive analysis of the Republic of Kazakhstan integration projects within the Eurasian space.

The purpose of research is divided into the following **objectives**:

1. to give theoretical justification of integration processes and phenomenon of “integration”;
2. to develop a concept and identify peculiarities of formation and development of integration processes within Eurasian space;
3. to perform analysis of legal regulation of activity of integration unions, in which Kazakhstan participates;
4. to identify phases for formation of integration processes within Eurasian space in the period from 1991 to 2021;
5. to analyze modern status and prospects for development of active projects at the example of CIS, EEU, CSTO, SCO;
6. to assess political-economic potential of Kazakhstan in development of Eurasian integration processes;
7. to identify possible risks of Kazakhstan in EAEU structure (hold expert's analysis).

The object of the research is integration projects of the Republic of Kazakhstan within Eurasian space.

The subject of the research is the processes of formation and development of integration projects in the Eurasian space with the participation of the Republic of Kazakhstan (on the example of the CIS, EAEU, CSTO, SCO).

Scientific novelty of this research is that dissertation is a comprehensive investigation of initiatives and projects of integration cooperation on the territory of Eurasia as well as of the role and place of the Republic of Kazakhstan in integration processes under state-of-the-art geopolitical conditions.

The significant results of research, which are characterized by scientific novelty, are:

1. in the course of study it was possible to identify different approaches in study of integration cooperation and reasons for diversity of interpretation of “integration” phenomenon, and the author's formulation of this concept was also derived;
2. the fundamental idea of Eurasian integration was conceptualized and author's division of periods of Kazakhstan integration cooperation from 1991 to 2021 was identified with consideration of COVID-19 post-pandemics period;
3. analysis of legal base of integration unions within Eurasian space was carried out;
4. the current state of the integration projects considered in the work (CIS, CSTO, SCO, EAEU) and the prospects for their further development are studied;
5. current political-economic potential of Kazakhstan in the EAEU and that when joining the EAEU was considered;
6. besides information taken from official sources the expert polling data are the additional data in this scientific work. As per results of expert polling analysis the opinions prevailing in the domestic politological community regarding risks and prospects of development of regional integration projects were identified.

Statements brought on for argumentation:

1. The phenomenon of integration has not found a unified interpretation to date in the scientific environment; the diversity of interpretation of this phenomenon is explained by a number of reasons. The first reason is that the term “integration” is considered by scientists from economic or from political viewpoint, which causes disagreements and complicates development of a unified definition. The second reason is diversity of form, types, structures and kinds of integration unions being established. Differences in opinions basically pertain to issues of union forms, structure, function, basic integration actors as well as dominating roles of economic and political factors in the process of regional cooperation. The third reason is determined by the definition of integration as an independent process or as a result or process leading to a certain final result.

2. The idea of Eurasianism can be pointed out as the theoretical basis of integration processes within the Eurasian zone. The modern conceptual idea of Eurasian integration underlies the initiative of the President of Kazakhstan N.A.Nazarbayev concerning Eurasian integration. The basis for modern integration idea of Eurasianism is EAEU. Currently the Union is embodiment of the Eurasian idea. Implementation of Eurasian integration is based upon the concept of “variable speed and tiered integration”.

3. The law of integration associations refers to international law, in the part where the relations of integration associations are regulated by international agreements, treaties, acts, generally recognized principles and customs. What is created within the integration association (the fundamentals of legislation, uniform acts, resolutions, decisions, directives) relate to the law of the integration association.

The analysis of the legal regulation of the CIS, EAEU, CSTO, SCO showed that the legal basis of these integration projects complies with international standards and is regulated within the framework of international law and the law of integration associations.

4. Evolution of development and division into periods of integration cooperation of Kazakhstan from 1991 to 2021 with consideration of COVID-19 post-pandemics period can be considered in 5 phases:

- first phase (1991-1995) – disintegration processes, establishment of CIS;
- second phase (1995-2000) – establishment of customs union;
- third phase (2000-2014) – establishment of Common free market zone, Eurasian Economic Community;
- forth phase (2014-2020) – establishment of EAEU;
- fifth phase (2020 – till the present) – overcoming COVID-19, post-pandemics period.

5. Analysis of modern status of integration projects showed that at the moment the most functioning economic project on the territory of Eurasia is EAEU, which covers the market of 180 million people. According to the analysis the prospective area in military-political sense are CSTO and SCO.

In the process of integration in the area of military-political cooperation the CSTO and SCO comply with all requirements as to ensuring security of countries-

members. Although the area of responsibility of both organizations is related to ensuring regional security they do not duplicate each other. In comparison with CSTO the SCO has a wide range of regulated issues, which includes trade-economic, social-cultural and scientific areas whereas CSTO operation is basically focused on military security.

The modern standing of the CIS showed that regardless of failure to implement Eurasian integration within the CIS the Commonwealth remains a convenient platform for consultation, dialogue and advisory measures.

6. Currently the political and economic potential of Kazakhstan retains traditional lines of development in maintaining Eurasian integration process and at the same time acts in line with emerged trends and opens up new markets and industries.

Economic potential of Kazakhstan within EAEU is better defined and regulated through free movement of services and workforce.

Transit potential of Kazakhstan provides an opportunity of speeding up the periods of goods supply from Asian countries to European countries. Continued expansion of the service sector inside of Kazakhstan as well as outside thereof will allow to remain a leader in the service sector in GDP structure among the countries of the Union. Whereas taking into consideration the share of direct investments within the gross domestic product Kazakhstan will retain leadership as the most attractive country for investments. Further transition to digital economy will allow Kazakhstan to occupy niches in the new strategy of digital zone.

7. According to analysis held the greatest risk for Kazakhstan within EAEU structure is political risk. Political risk prevails over economic one and causes the greatest concerns. Especially political risks related to issues of national security, dominating position of Russia and possible loss of sovereignty. The most economically hazardous risk is lack of competitiveness of local manufacturers.

The theoretical significance of the study is related to the need for comprehensive research in the field of integration policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Eurasian space. Also, such a study allows to identify the most problematic aspects within the framework of the regional integration policy of the state, as well as to identify potential risks.

Practical significance of the research. Obtained results of research work give the opportunity of applying them for improvement of further integration policy of Kazakhstan.

Obtained results, conclusions and recommendations of the author can be used by a wide range of specialists:

- young scientists studying Kazakhstan's integration processes within the Eurasian zone;
- foreign political administrations, ministry of trade and integration;
- with educational purposes, in the learning process at higher education institutions.

Personal contribution of the applicant. During the research, Dossymkhan Yenglik made a personal contribution to obtaining the results:

– analyzed the theoretical foundations of the formation and genesis of the concept of "integration", identified factors that explain the diversity of interpretation of the phenomenon of integration in the scientific environment, presented the author's vision of the concept of "integration" and integration processes;

– an attempt was made to conceptualize the basic idea of Eurasian integration, and also revealed the features of integration in the Eurasian space;

– compiled the author's periodization of integration interactions in Kazakhstan from 1991 to 2021, taking into account the post-pandemic period;

– conducted an analysis of the legal system of integration associations on the example of the CIS, EAEU, CSTO, SCO;

– studied the current state of the integration projects considered in the work and the prospects for their further development.

Practical assessment of research findings. The basic findings of the dissertation were presented in 11 publications of the author, 1 publication of which appeared in Swedish magazine of social-political research indexed in Scopus database. 3 publications appeared in scientific magazines recommended by the Committee for monitoring in education and science sector of the Ministry of science and education, 6 articles were published in collections of papers of international scientific-practical conferences, 3 articles of which were published abroad and one article was published in the magazine of Concord International Academy.

Structure of the dissertation research. The dissertation is presented on 137 pages typed on computer. The work consists of introduction, 3 chapters, 6 paragraphs, conclusion, list of used references, annex. The dissertation is illustrated by 13 spreadsheets and 9 pictures. The reference list consists of 178 sources.