

CURRENT STAGE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND UZBEKISTAN

Potapova Nelya Yuryevna

(PhD) Associate Professor of the Department “International Relations and History”,
Faculty of Humanities, Alfraganus University.

nelly260970@yahoo.com ; nelya260946@gmail.com

ORCID: 0000-0002-9371-8235

ABSTRACT

This article provides a scholarly analysis of the content, driving factors, and institutional characteristics of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan at the current stage. The study highlights the intensification of political dialogue between the two states, the formation of a strategic partnership, and the strengthening of diplomatic trust mechanisms as key outcomes. Particular attention is paid to the role of cultural-humanitarian and public diplomacy, as well as the significance of cooperation within international and regional organizations. Based on contemporary theories of international relations, the article formulates conclusions and identifies the future prospects of Turkey–Uzbekistan diplomatic relations.

Keywords: Turkey–Uzbekistan relations, diplomatic cooperation, strategic partnership, foreign policy, diplomatic trust, institutional diplomacy, regional stability, Organization of Turkic States, international cooperation, cultural-humanitarian diplomacy, public diplomacy, political dialogue, modern diplomacy

Introduction. In the second quarter of the twenty-first century, the system of international relations is undergoing profound transformation. Changes in the global balance of political power, the acceleration of regional integration processes, and the emergence of new forms of diplomatic engagement require a reconsideration of interstate relations. In such a complex and multidimensional geopolitical environment, diplomatic relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan have gained particular scholarly and practical significance. Relations between the two countries are based not only on historical and cultural commonalities but also on the convergence of contemporary political interests.

From the first years of its independence, Uzbekistan entered history as one of the initial states to establish diplomatic relations with Turkey. While these relations were initially shaped primarily by political and cultural proximity, at the current stage they have evolved to the level of a strategic partnership. In recent years, the intensification of

political dialogue between the leaders of the two countries, the regularity of high-level visits, and mutual support in international arenas indicate a qualitative transition of diplomatic relations to a new stage [1].

In this process, diplomatic relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan are not limited to bilateral interests alone but also play a significant role within a broader regional and civilizational context. In particular, cooperation conducted within the framework of the Organization of Turkic States provides additional institutional foundations for these relations and contributes to the formation of a pan-Turkic political identity and cooperation model.

In our view, the current stage of Turkey–Uzbekistan diplomatic relations differs fundamentally from previous periods. Whereas relations in the early years were more symbolic and cautious in nature, today they are pragmatic, systematic, and oriented toward long-term strategic objectives. In particular, Uzbekistan’s open foreign policy concept has created a favorable political environment for strengthening relations with Turkey. This situation clearly reflects a modern diplomatic model based on trust, balance of interests, and institutional cooperation.

Furthermore, diplomatic relations at the current stage are increasingly deepening through cultural-humanitarian, educational, and public diplomacy. The historical, religious, and linguistic commonalities between the two nations strengthen the social foundation of diplomatic relations. Through “soft power” mechanisms, these factors positively influence political dialogue and serve as an important complement to official diplomacy [2].

Moreover, Turkey–Uzbekistan diplomatic relations are also significant from the perspective of pursuing a balanced foreign policy under conditions of global geopolitical competition. Both states conduct foreign policies based on the principles of sovereignty, mutual respect, and non-interference in internal affairs, viewing diplomatic dialogue as a key factor of stability and development.

In our assessment, diplomatic relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan extend beyond the interests of the two states alone and contribute to the formation of a new culture of political dialogue in Central Asia. The growing priority of diplomatic trust and the strengthening of approaches based on cooperation and consensus rather than power politics represent valuable experience for contemporary international relations. This model may serve as an example for other regional cooperation formats in the future.

From this perspective, the primary objective of the present study is to conduct a scholarly analysis of the essence, development factors, and prospects of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan at the current stage. The findings of the study

allow for important conclusions not only in theoretical terms but also for practical diplomacy.

Methods. This study is aimed at a comprehensive and systematic examination of the current stage of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan and employs methodological approaches drawn from contemporary political science, international relations, and diplomatic theory. Taking into account the multifaceted nature of the topic, the research methodology is based on the integration of theoretical and empirical analytical methods. This approach enables the interpretation of bilateral diplomatic relations not merely as a set of facts, but as a dynamic political process.

First and foremost, the historical-analytical method was applied. This method made it possible to systematically examine the formation, gradual development, and current state of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan. In particular, the early post-independence period, phases of stagnation, and periods of renewed engagement were analyzed in historical sequence. This approach helped identify the historical roots of the current phase of diplomatic rapprochement [3].

In the author's view, the historical-analytical method is of particular importance in this study, as diplomatic relations never emerge in a "vacuum." A proper understanding of today's strategic closeness between Turkey and Uzbekistan requires in-depth analysis of past crises of political trust, regional factors, and domestic political transformations. The historical method allows for the identification of both continuity and rupture within diplomatic relations.

In addition, the comparative method was widely employed. Through this approach, Turkey–Uzbekistan diplomatic relations were compared with other bilateral relationships, including Turkey's relations with other Central Asian states and Uzbekistan's diplomatic ties with its other strategic partners. Comparative analysis helped identify both the distinctive features and general trends of diplomatic relations [4].

According to the above considerations, the comparative method serves as an important tool for revealing the unique characteristics of Turkey–Uzbekistan relations. This diplomatic model is based not only on economic or political interests but also on civilizational proximity and cultural identity. Comparison with other bilateral relations further clarifies the soft power–based dimensions of these ties.

A key component of the research methodology was the use of systemic and structural analysis. This method enabled the examination of Turkey–Uzbekistan diplomatic relations as an integral element of a broader political system. Diplomatic dialogue, high-level visits, intergovernmental commissions, parliamentary relations, and public diplomacy were analyzed as interrelated components of a single system [5].

In our view, it is impossible to fully comprehend contemporary diplomatic processes without a systemic approach. Modern diplomacy is no longer limited to the activities of foreign ministries alone; various institutions, non-state actors, and cultural mechanisms operate as a unified system. Turkey–Uzbekistan relations exemplify such a multi-layered structure, making it scientifically justified to study them as interconnected rather than isolated phenomena.

Furthermore, the study employed the method of normative-legal document analysis. This method was used to analyze bilateral treaties, joint declarations, strategic partnership agreements, and documents adopted within the framework of international organizations. The normative-legal basis made it possible to define the formal and institutional boundaries of diplomatic relations [6].

From our perspective, normative-legal documents constitute the “official map” of diplomatic relations. However, they should be interpreted not merely as legal texts but as expressions of political will. The documents signed between Turkey and Uzbekistan in recent years reflect the parties’ long-term strategic objectives and indicate the strengthening of diplomatic trust.

Overall, the methodological approaches applied in this study made it possible to analyze diplomatic relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan as a multi-level, dynamic, and complex political process. The integration of these methods contributed to the scientific reliability and theoretical soundness of the research findings.

Results. The findings of this study demonstrate that, at the current stage, diplomatic relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan have risen to a qualitatively new level, moving beyond the framework of traditional bilateral relations and acquiring a multi-layered and strategic character. The institutionalization of diplomatic cooperation, the regularity of political dialogue, and coordinated positions in the international arena emerge as the principal outcomes of this process.

First of all, the research results indicate a strengthening of political and diplomatic trust between the two states. The increase in the number of high-level mutual visits, the signing of strategic partnership agreements, and regular political consultations contribute to the stability of diplomatic relations. This situation confirms that trust has become a key form of capital in interstate relations [7].

In our view, the consolidation of diplomatic trust represents the most significant achievement of Turkey–Uzbekistan relations. In the contemporary system of international relations, a lack of trust often leads to the failure of many cooperative initiatives. In contrast, dialogue between these two states is characterized by consistency between official statements and practical actions, which enhances the real effectiveness of diplomacy.

The second major outcome is the intensification of institutional diplomacy. The study reveals that intergovernmental commissions, strategic consultation mechanisms between foreign ministries, and inter-parliamentary friendship groups have become core institutions ensuring the continuity of diplomatic relations. These institutions shift diplomatic cooperation away from personal ties toward a systematic and long-term foundation [8].

From our perspective, the strengthening of institutional mechanisms is precisely what stabilizes relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan. Even in conditions of political leadership change, institutions preserve continuity in diplomatic orientations. This reduces the personalization of relations and elevates them to the level of state policy.

The third outcome identified is the expansion of cooperation within international and regional organizations. The research shows that Turkey and Uzbekistan promote coordinated positions within the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organization, and the Organization of Turkic States. This indicates the growing alignment of the two countries' diplomacy at both global and regional levels [9].

In our opinion, cooperation within international organizations elevates Turkey–Uzbekistan relations from a purely bilateral format to the level of multilateral diplomacy. In particular, cooperation within the Organization of Turkic States contributes to the formation of a shared political identity, which represents an important practical manifestation of civilizational proximity in modern diplomacy.

The fourth significant result is the strengthening of cultural-humanitarian and public diplomacy. The study demonstrates that cooperation in education, science, culture, and tourism is reinforcing the social foundations of diplomatic relations. Student exchanges, joint cultural events, and academic forums have become important factors complementing official diplomacy [10].

In our view, cultural-humanitarian diplomacy constitutes the most stable layer of relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan. While political circumstances may change, cultural closeness between peoples tends to be long-lasting. This factor ensures the social legitimacy of diplomatic relations and provides them with a solid foundation.

The fifth outcome is the establishment of a strong basis for the future prospects of diplomatic relations. The study indicates that the current model of diplomatic cooperation between Turkey and Uzbekistan aligns with long-term strategic planning. Digital diplomacy, economic diplomacy, and dialogue in the field of security create opportunities for further deepening relations in the future [11].

From this perspective, Turkey–Uzbekistan diplomatic relations may serve as an important model for regional stability and development. In these relations, approaches

based on consensus and balance of interests prevail over power politics, which should be regarded as one of the core principles of contemporary diplomacy.

Discussion. The analysis of the research findings demonstrates that, at the current stage, diplomatic relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan are not limited to practical cooperation alone but also possess profound theoretical and conceptual significance. These relations represent an important empirical model illustrating how strategic partnerships between states are formed and consolidated in the contemporary system of international relations. In particular, a diplomatic approach based on sovereignty, mutual respect, and balance of interests constitutes the main theoretical strength of these ties.

First, interpreting Turkey–Uzbekistan diplomatic relations through the lens of modern international relations theories reveals their constructive nature. The findings show that the core ideas of constructivist theory—identity, historical memory, and shared values influencing diplomatic processes—are clearly manifested in these relations [12].

In our view, diplomatic closeness between Turkey and Uzbekistan cannot be explained solely by realpolitik or economic interests. Pan-Turkic identity, historical memory, and cultural proximity function as key constructive factors. These aspects distinguish these relations from many other bilateral ties and contribute to their relative stability.

Second, the discussion reveals that elevating diplomatic trust to an institutional level is one of the main factors ensuring the long-term stability of these relations. Strategic partnership documents, joint declarations, and permanent consultation mechanisms have transformed trust from a personal level into a dimension of state policy [13].

In our assessment, the institutionalization of trust is of decisive importance in contemporary diplomacy. The experience of Turkey and Uzbekistan demonstrates that trust cannot be sustainable if it relies solely on personal relations between political leaders. Institutional mechanisms transform trust into a systematic and renewable resource.

Third, the findings indicate the need to reassess the role of Turkey–Uzbekistan relations within the context of regional diplomacy. These ties contribute to the formation of a new diplomatic culture in Central Asia based on open dialogue, consensus, and cooperation. In particular, Turkey’s soft power strategy toward Central Asia and Uzbekistan’s open foreign policy mutually reinforce each other [14].

In our view, Turkey–Uzbekistan relations offer a diplomatic model based on balanced cooperation rather than power competition in Central Asia. This model not only strengthens regional stability but also provides valuable diplomatic experience for small and medium-sized states.

Fourth, the discussion shows that cultural-humanitarian diplomacy is no longer a secondary element of political dialogue but has become an independent and strategic factor. Cooperation in education, science, and culture serves as a “social buffer” that reduces the likelihood of political disagreements [15].

In our assessment, cultural-humanitarian diplomacy is often underestimated. However, it constitutes the most stable layer of interstate relations. The Turkey–Uzbekistan case demonstrates how this process fosters long-term trust and mutual understanding between peoples.

Fifth, the discussion also addresses future prospects and potential risks. Global geopolitical competition, economic instability, and regional security challenges may indirectly affect these relations. Nevertheless, existing diplomatic mechanisms provide tools for managing such risks [16].

In our view, the key strength of Turkey–Uzbekistan diplomatic relations lies in their adaptability. The parties respond to global and regional changes pragmatically and in a balanced manner, without rigid bloc alignment. This protects the relations from short-term political fluctuations.

Overall, the discussion results indicate that diplomatic relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan offer important scholarly insights for both the theory and practice of international relations. This model clearly demonstrates the interconnection between trust, identity, and institutional stability in diplomacy and provides a solid theoretical foundation for future research.

Conclusion. The findings of this study provide scholarly evidence that, at the current stage, diplomatic relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan have acquired a stable, systematic, and strategic character. The empirical and theoretical conclusions demonstrate that relations between the two states are developing not only within the framework of traditional bilateral diplomacy but also in close interaction with regional and global political processes. This confirms the priority of mutual trust, balance of interests, and long-term strategic planning in the foreign policies of both Turkey and Uzbekistan.

The study shows that the current stage of diplomatic relations differs qualitatively from previous periods. Whereas earlier relations were more symbolic and cautious in nature, today they are reinforced through concrete institutional mechanisms, strategic agreements, and regular political dialogue. High-level visits, intergovernmental commissions, and parliamentary cooperation have become key factors ensuring the continuity of diplomatic relations.

Furthermore, the findings highlight the importance of emphasizing the role of cultural-humanitarian and public diplomacy. Historical, cultural, and linguistic commonalities

between the two peoples provide a strong social foundation for diplomatic relations. This factor strengthens the atmosphere of trust in political dialogue and enhances the stability of diplomatic ties. As a result, official diplomacy and soft power mechanisms operate in a complementary and mutually reinforcing manner.

Another important conclusion is that diplomatic relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan contribute to strengthening regional stability and cooperation. These ties foster the formation of a diplomatic culture in Central Asia based on open dialogue, mutual respect, and consensus. This represents a significant example of balanced and pragmatic foreign policy conduct in the contemporary system of international relations. In conclusion, the current model of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan is of substantial scholarly and practical importance. It clearly demonstrates the interdependence of trust, institutional stability, and strategic cooperation in interstate relations. The findings of this study may serve as a theoretical basis for further academic research and may also be utilized in the formulation of effective decisions in the field of practical diplomacy.

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