

## **Prospects of Using Foreign Experience in Solving Border Issues in Central Asian States**

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### **Abstract:**

This thesis analyzes the processes of resolving interstate border and territorial disputes in Central Asian countries (in particular, in the Fergana Valley) and the possibilities of using international practice and foreign experience in this regard from a scientific, theoretical and practical perspective. The purpose of the research is to study the ethno-territorial, enclaves and infrastructural complexities that arose in the post-Soviet period, to identify the adaptive aspects of the German-Polish, Cameroon-Nigeria, Russia-China, India-Bangladesh, Norway-Russia, South American and Schengen models in their elimination, and to develop scientifically based proposals and recommendations aimed at ensuring sustainable peace and integration in Central Asia.

**Keywords:** Central Asia, Fergana Valley, delimitation, demarcation, enclaves, international law, mediation, bilateral commissions, cross-border cooperation.

**Reason:** The roots of interstate border problems in Central Asia are associated with several systemic and historical factors:

1. The process of establishing administrative-territorial borders carried out in the 1920s and 1930s did not sufficiently take into account the centuries-old features of ethnic settlement, geographical logic, and local economic ties.
2. During the USSR, inter-republican borders were symbolic/administrative in nature, and the movement of resources and population was free. After independence was achieved in 1991, these administrative lines were "frozen" without full delimitation and demarcation and practically became hard state borders.
3. The presence of enclaves and exclaves in the Fergana Valley, such as Sokh, Vorukh, and Shahimardon, confusion in the use of land and water resources, and the division of single transport and infrastructure networks by international borders led to interstate and interethnic tensions.
4. In the first decades after the collapse of the former regime, the low level of mutual trust between the countries of the region and subjective political ambitions stalled the delimitation processes for a long time.

**Problem:** The incomplete legal formalization of borders and the persistence of uncertainty have created a number of serious problems in the region:

In the border areas, armed and civil conflicts have periodically erupted between the population and border guards over the use of land, water, pastures and infrastructure facilities.

Serious obstacles have arisen in the free movement of the population of enclaves and citizens living in border areas, in education, healthcare and the exercise of civil rights.

The tightening of the border regime and uncertainty have sharply reduced trade, transit cargo transport and the region's investment attractiveness.

After 2016, under the leadership of President Sh. Mirziyoyev, neighborliness and pragmatism have become priorities in Uzbekistan's foreign policy. Although negotiations with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have intensified, there remains a need to deeply study

international legal and institutional models to resolve the remaining controversial points and ensure long-term stability.

**Solution:** Successful foreign models accumulated in the world for peaceful and pragmatic resolution of border disputes and their potential for application in Central Asia can be analyzed in the following main areas:

International precedent: Border agreements between China and Russia in 1991–2004. Establishment of permanent Joint Border Commissions and expert groups, and equal and fair division or exchange of territories through practical dialogue. Possible implementation for Central Asia: Resolve the most complex and disputed border areas between Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan through mutually agreed agreements based on riverbeds and accurate geodetic data.

Enclaves and a humanitarian solution (the experience of India and Bangladesh)

The 2015 Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) between India and Bangladesh. Exchange of 162 enclaves ("chitmahals") on an equal basis, granting the population living there the right to freely choose their citizenship, and socio-economic and infrastructural integration of the territories.

Regulate the status of enclaves and exclaves in the Fergana Valley (e.g. Sokh, Vorukh, Shahimardon) through a pragmatic approach - through an equal exchange of land areas or the allocation of special corridors for the free movement of the population.

Court and international legal mechanism (Cameroon and Nigeria experience)

Dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria over the Bakassi Peninsula (2002 ICJ ruling and 2006 Greentree Agreement). Recognition of the binding decision of the UN International Court of Justice (ICJ) and peaceful and gradual transfer of territorial possession under the supervision and mediation of international observers. In cases where bilateral negotiations have reached an impasse and reaching a compromise has become difficult, resolving the problem by relying on international legal norms and mechanisms of international platforms.

Equal economic interests and resource management (Norway and Russia experience)

2010 agreement on the delimitation of the maritime border in the Barents Sea. Equal division of the disputed "gray area", joint and equal development of oil, gas and fishery resources, and establishment of a long-term cooperation regime. Joint management of transboundary river basins (Syr Darya and Amu Darya), water and energy facilities, and pre-border trade and logistics zones through bilateral and multilateral joint mechanisms.

Regional platforms and de-escalation (South American experience)

Maritime border dispute between Peru and Chile (2014 International Court of Justice ruling and OAS activities). De-escalation and pragmatic monitoring of the implementation of decisions through regional structures such as the International Court of Justice and the Organization of American States (OAS). Central Asian states' role in strengthening regional security, avoiding militarization of border areas, and resolving conflicts Effective use of the platform of the Consultative Meetings of the Heads of State.

Functional transformation of borders (Schengen experience)

The Schengen Agreement, signed in the European Union in 1985 and entered into force in 1995. Transforming borders from a dividing barrier, a wall into a zone of integration, free movement of citizens and "positive interdependence" and security. In the long term, deepening integration between the countries of the region by simplifying border and customs control procedures, increasing transit, trade and tourism potential.

Conclusion: International experience shows that even the most complex and age-old territorial disputes can be resolved peacefully through political will, international law norms and pragmatic cooperation. The following proposals are put forward for the final and sustainable resolution of border problems for the countries of Central Asia:

1. Building on the Russian-Chinese experience, the work of the Intergovernmental Joint Commissions on Border Delimitation and Demarcation, with a permanent group of experts, should be strengthened. acceleration.

2. In accordance with the India-Bangladesh model, resolve misunderstandings around enclaves through an exchange of territories at an equal value or legal guarantees of special transit corridors for the free movement of the population.
3. Transform transboundary water and energy facilities from a "object of conflict" into a "joint economic project", strengthen mechanisms for the joint use of transboundary water resources.
4. Demilitarize border areas, reduce the level of militarization, and expand direct cultural and economic relations between border regions.

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