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Outgoing:

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

on the dissertation submitted by doctoral student

Akbota Mukhametzhan

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

under the educational program **"8D03105 – International Relations",**

"Kazakh-Kyrgyz Relations in the Context of Geopolitical Shifts: Problems and Prospects of Development"

General Overview of the Study. The dissertation research conducted by Akbota Yerlikkyzy Mukhametzhan is devoted to the analysis of bilateral relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic in the context of ongoing geopolitical transformations in Central Asia.

The relevance of the research topic is determined by the increasing importance of regional dynamics within the global international system, as well as by the need to understand the evolving patterns of interaction between neighboring states under conditions of geopolitical uncertainty. The study contributes to a deeper understanding of regional cooperation, political coordination, and economic interdependence in Central Asia.

The dissertation goes beyond a purely descriptive analysis and applies key theoretical approaches in international relations to examine the development, challenges, and prospects of Kazakh-Kyrgyz relations.

Academic and Professional Competence of the Author. The doctoral candidate has demonstrated a high level of academic independence, responsibility, and professional competence throughout the research process.

One of the notable strengths of the candidate is her ability to combine theoretical research with practical analytical work. She has independently developed a specialized analytical focus on the Kyrgyz Republic and has authored an individual analytical publication (annual report), which reflects her capacity for systematic and long-term research.

An important advantage of the candidate is her field-based research experience. During her doctoral studies, she conducted several research visits to the Kyrgyz Republic, worked within university environments, and established academic connections with local scholars. This allowed her to ground her research in real regional context and empirical observations.

In addition, the candidate has been actively engaged in disseminating her research findings to a broader audience. Her analytical interviews and expert discussions, including a series of structured interviews with scholars and experts, demonstrate her ability to communicate complex academic ideas effectively.

Furthermore, her efforts to learn the Kyrgyz language and to deepen her understanding of the country's history and culture indicate a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to the research topic. This significantly enhances the analytical depth and credibility of the study.

Structure and Academic Quality of the Dissertation. The dissertation is well-structured and fully meets academic requirements. It consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, and a list of references.

The first chapter presents the theoretical and methodological framework of the study, where key international relations theories are systematically analyzed and applied to the research topic.

The second chapter examines the historical evolution, legal foundations, and economic aspects of bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

The third chapter represents the analytical core of the dissertation. In this section, the author moves beyond descriptive analysis and provides forward-looking assessments of future cooperation scenarios, regional integration dynamics, and institutional development.

Methodological Framework. The methodological basis of the dissertation is comprehensive and well-grounded. The author effectively applies major theoretical approaches in international relations, including realism, neorealism, integration theory, and liberal institutionalism. These frameworks are used to analyze both security-related and economic-institutional dimensions of bilateral relations. The integration of these methods ensures the reliability and academic rigor of the research findings.

Scientific Contribution and Significance. The scientific contribution of the dissertation lies in its comprehensive analysis of Kazakh-Kyrgyz relations within the context of geopolitical transformations.

The author systematizes the stages of development of bilateral relations and identifies key trends and challenges, particularly in the context of regional integration processes and institutional constraints.

A significant contribution of the study is the development of prognostic and policy-oriented conclusions, particularly presented in the third chapter. The author proposes new directions for bilateral and regional cooperation, including economic integration, transport and logistics development, water-energy cooperation, and institutional coordination.

The findings of the dissertation are of both academic and practical importance and can be used in teaching, analytical work, and policy-making in the field of international relations and regional studies.

Conclusion. The dissertation by Akbota Yerlikyzy Mukhametzhana entitled **“Kazakh-Kyrgyz Relations in the Context of Geopolitical Shifts: Problems and Prospects of Development”** is an independent, comprehensive, and well-structured research study that meets the academic requirements for a PhD dissertation.

The work demonstrates a high level of theoretical understanding, analytical capability, and practical relevance.

The dissertation fully complies with the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in **“8D03105 – International Relations”** and is **recommended for defense**.

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