**ABSTRACT**

of the thesis “Strategic partnership as a form of relations between Kazakhstan and China”submitted by Tokeyeva Assel Amantayevna

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**General characteristics of scientific research**. In this review an in-depth study of the strategy of relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People’s Republic of China will be conducted. During the years of independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the transition of the two countries from a friendly neighbour to a strategic partnership was carried out, relevant issues between the two countries were analyzed. Concrete proposals are also being made to further improvement of bilateral relations.

**The relevance of the research topic.**

The relevance of the topic is primarily determined by the importance of continuing the process of historical good-neighbourliness of the two countries to diplomatic relations after Kazakhstan gained independence. In addition, by clarifying the term «strategic partnership» in international relations, analyzing various backgrounds and future partnership relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People’s Republic of China, seeking solutions to complex problems of relations between the two countries, taking into account national interest as much as possible in the process of counteracting contemporary threats. The relevance of the topicis due to the importance of defining the prospect of partnership between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People’s Republic of China.

**The Research Object**: relations of strategic partnership between Kazakhstan and China in the late 20th century and early 21st century.

**The Research Subject**: features and directions of formation and development of strategic partnership between Kazakhstan and China, political and legal framework.

**The goal of research work** is a comprehensive analysis of the strategic partnership of Kazakhstan and China in the thesis.

**The objectives of researchwork**. To achieve the set goal, it is intended to implement the **following tasks:**

* Conducting theoretical and conceptual analysis of the concept of “Strategic Partnership”;
* Determination of methodological bases of research of strategic partnership in international relations;
* Analysis of the evolution of the strategic partnership between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People’s Republic of China;
* Differentiation of cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People’s Republic of China within the framework of international and regional organizations;

- Determinationof economic directions and main issues of cooperation between Kazakhstan and China in international and regional organizations;

- Identificationof political and legal bases and areas of partnership between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People’s Republic of China;

- Differentiation of today’s transformation of geostrategic partnership between Kazakhstan and China;

- Determination of hypothesis of main tendencies and prospects of Kazakh-Chinese cooperation.

**The Sources of Research:** Data sources related to the topic under study were divided into several groups.

The first group of data sources includes the independent foreign policy positions of China and Kazakhstan, foreign policy concepts and values, clarifying the diplomatic strategy, positions and statements of States, regularly published by the foreign ministries of the two countries, Statements by Governments of bodies directly and indirectly influencing foreign policy, Statements by heads of State on foreign policy, words and official documents of both countries in international and regional organizations and global structures.

The second group of data sources included official diplomatic documents adopted between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People’s Republic of China between 1991 and 2021. A collection of official documents on diplomatic, trade, economic and cultural issues and official contracts, declarations, memoranda and joint statements signed by the heads of state and government and heads of state institutions were widely used in the research work.

The reports, speeches and scientific publications of the two Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers for Foreign Affairs and heads of other government agencies, interviews published in the media, were grouped into a third group of data sources.

The fourth data collection is rich in “Web of Science”, “Jstor”, “Science Direct”, “SAGE Journals”, “Taylor Francis”, “Reconnecting Asia”, “Springer Link” and “EBSCO” in Kazakh, Chinese, English and Russian, research and articles published in the database, reports of specialized centres, Chinese and Central Asian scholars and experts provide valuable insights.

The fifth group consisted of information data, interviews, analytical articles and journalistic studies published in periodicals, Internet networks, as well as electronic databases of agreements, contracts, and laws.

**The Degree of Research.** At present, despite the lack of research centers systematically dealing with the dynamics of the political and economic development of the giant neighbor and Kazakh-Chinese relations, the number of experts and scientists dealing with China’s issues is increasing.Foreign researchers, devoted to the foreign and diplomatic strategy of the People’s Republic of China and domestic political and economic issues of the country:M. Lantain, Jill Bates, Peter Grice, Bernardo Mariani, Jeffrey N. Wasserström and Henry Kissinger’sworks entitled “Diplomacy”, “World order” and “On China” are of great value in clarifying the current state of the world order and China’s place in modern international relations, as well as in studying the future development of international relations.

In the past, it was noticed that Chinese scientists in our country were mostly limited to the study of trade and economic relations between Kazakhstan and Xinjiang. Today, topics such as the transformation of China from a regional power to a world power, new developments in Chinese diplomacy, the strategic level of Kazakh-Chinese relations, the importance of Kazakhstan’s economic and geopolitical role in Chinese policy have begun to be covered areas of domestic China.In particular, the works of sinologists of the country, such asK.S. Khafizova, Auezkhan Orman, N.Mukametkhanulu, N.Aldabek, S.Satubaldin, K.Burkhanov, S.Bolekbayev, T. Shaimergenov, M.A. Abisheva, A.M.Amrebayev, E.U.Baidarov, S.B.Kozhirovahelped to describe the dynamics of the development of Kazakh-Chinese relations from a period point of view and consider them from all sides. In their works, research scientists, who study in depth the history of the development of Kazakh-Chinese diplomatic relations, assess the geopolitical interests of the two states from the perspective of historical periods.

**Theoretical and Methodological Framework of Research.** Research is based on the concept of strategic partnership, which is considered to be an integral part of alliance theory, and is based on the Wilkins and Parameswaran structures. The theory of regional integration and some aspects of neo-liberalism advocating the reduction of trade tariffs between States have also enriched our study. At the same time, Halford Mackinder's "Heartland" theory was also used, taking into account the geopolitical dynamics of relations between Kazakhstan and China.The theoretical basis was also based on scientific reflections and conclusions of a new direction formed by the science of history, international relations, political science, works of leading scientists, public and statesmen in these fields on domestic policy, direction of development of the state, its principles and theory.

The methodological basis of the thesis is made up of specific research methods. Adopted topical, conceptual, systematic, historical-logical, comparative, classification, documentary, content-analysis, case-study analysis methods and generality, individuality, concreteness, causality, positions of induction and deduction, integrity, universality.

In the methodological part of the research, the well-known case study approach in the field of international relations was used, the role of Kazakhstan in the hierarchy of strategic relations of China and the features of bilateral relations were studied.

**Chronological framework of Research.** The chronological framework of the problems considered in the scientific work covers the period from 1992 to the present. The study of relations between the two countries can use specific data from thirty-year intervals.

**The scientific novelty of the research work** lies in the first semiospheric analysis of the concept of “strategic partnership” in the theoretical and conceptual context, the first definition of methodological foundations for the study of strategic partnership in international relations using the case-study methodbased on the analytical principle of cooperation between Kazakhstan and China within the framework of the regional platform, expertise and comparative analysis of their cooperation in international and regional organizations, clarification of the political and legal bases and areas of partnership between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People’s Republic of China, identifying the features of transformation of the modern geostrategic partnership on the basis of common interests, common positions and common goals and objectives of the two countries, the prediction of the main trends and future of the Kazakh-Chinese partnership based on a hypothetical position.

In this scientific work, the entire thirty-year era of Kazakh-Chinese diplomacy is divided into four periods, the documents adopted within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the initiative “One Belt, One Road” and the newly created Central Asia - China (5+1)and the last few new documents approved in 2018 became the core of our scientific research.

**The main conclusions of the research work submitted for defense:**

1. For the first time in our research work by analyzing the concept of «strategic partnership» in a theoretical and conceptual context in the semiospheric sense, it was confirmed that the concept of partnership is a political category used within the framework of a real industry relationship.
2. In the scientific work, studying the methodological basis of the study of strategic partnership in international relations, it was determined that the partnership between Kazakhstan and China occupies a stable (permanent) position;
3. The evolution of the strategic partnership between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People's Republic of China is based on the stages of the dynamics of diplomatic relations between the two states;
4. Good-neighborliness between Kazakhstan and China, based on the "principles of peaceful coexistence", historical conditionality of relations, which is the key to the objective validity of international objectives and a solid legal and contractual basis for bilateral relations.
5. Comparative analysis of cooperation between Kazakhstan and China within the framework of international and regional organizations revealed that cooperation between the two countries within the framework of this regional platform is complex, and economic directions of cooperation in international and regional organizations will be the main link of cooperation between the two countries;
6. Kazakh-Chinese partnership is based on political and legal bases of relations between two countries, documents adopted within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the initiative “One Belt, One Road” and the initiative of Central Asia - China (5+1) formats fully meet the requirements of the present and future, defines directions;
7. For the Republic of Kazakhstan great future of relations of strategic partnership with economically powerful neighboring country, The cooperation between Kazakhstan and China is recognized as the main part of cooperation between the countries on the way to promoting the main position of our country’s interests and foreign policy.

 **Theoretical and practical relevance of the research work.** Theoretical significance of the study Scientific findings and conclusions obtained in the thesis work can serve as a theoretical basis for future research work on the Kazakh-Chinese partnership. The concept of strategic partnership in the framework of the theory of alliance, contained in the sphere of international relations, can expand the theoretical and methodological framework of scientific research of regional diplomacy with conceptual solutions.We are sure that the assessment of Kazakh-Chinese relations from a geopolitical theoretical point of view will increase the value of scientific work and will be useful for specialists in the field of international relations and geopolitics. The substantive summary and the results of thework will be useful for the success of the inspection work in the country.

The practical significance of the study is that representatives of the Ministry of foreign affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the diplomatic service, the results of the study can be used in the activities of relevant ministries and departments, in solving problems related to the internal development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in organizing and regulating relations with China.Moreover, when compiling curricula disciplines in this area,it can be used in higher educational institutions of Kazakhstan, in special courses, as a project guide for scientific research on the topic. The obtained scientific conclusions and results help to form instructive materials in the study of Oriental Studies, Regional Studies, and international relations.

 **Approbation of the Thesis Results.** The main content of the thesis published in scientific publications submitted by the Committee for Quality Assurance in the Sphere of Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in the materials of the scientific and practical scientific conference , in an international publication included in the Scopus database.

**The structure and volume of the thesis.** The thesis consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and a list of used literature in accordance with the goals and objectives of the scientific work.