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“Economic relations between China and Kazakhstan in the period 2010-2020”

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Initial data of the work: the annual total trade volume, types of commodities, names of cooperation projects, regional security, environmental impact, etc. in bilateral economic and trade activities between Kazakhstan and China during 2010-2020.

Object of study: The relationship between Kazakhstan and China in the field of economic activity.

Research Repository: Statistics from national administrations and news agencies of Kazakhstan, China, Russia and Turkey, articles published in academic newspapers and journals and on the Internet, scholars from Kazakhstan, China, Russia and Turkey of writings and other sources.

Question: Analytical review of the literature to illustrate the progressive deepening of the partnership between Kazakhstan and China during the period 2010-2020, to jointly create a new strategic partnership. The dialogue between the two sides has risen from the quantitative stage to the qualitative stage, reaching a new height, with certain research and exploration.

Mission: Mainly study the economic policies and economic relations between Kazakhstan and China during 2010-2020, including the background of economic relations, the process of development, the strategic direction of development, the focus of economic policies, the fields of economic cooperation, and the joint exploration of Kazakhstan New areas of economic cooperation between Stan and China and the status and role of China's modern social and economic development in the economies of Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries.

The degree of scientific development of the problem is represented by the works of domestic and foreign authors, such as A. Strokov, O. Stolpovsky, V. Paramonov , A. Strokov , O. Stolpovsky , A. Khodzhaeva, Erkin. Ekrem, Yaldiz. F, Liang. Ze, E. K. Abil, A. B. Kosherbaeva, M. A. Abisheva, A. E. Aldiyarova, L. N. Burlakov, A. S. Esengeldina, E. K. Zharov, M. A. Kadyrova, Z. T. Karamalaeva, T. V. Marmontova, Zh. K. Medeuov, and others.

Abstract

As the largest landlocked country in the world, Kazakhstan is located in the central part of Asia, adjacent to the western part of China, and is an important country in Asia. Kazakhstan's economy has developed rapidly over the past 20 years, and people's living standards have steadily improved. Under the great attention and leadership of the governments of Kazakhstan and China, the relationship between the two countries' good and friendly neighbors has also developed steadily.

Under the background of the rapid economic development of the Kazakh government, the economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China has been strengthened, which has also promoted the implementation of Kazakhstan's development strategy. Kazakhstan and China are complementary in resources and geographically adjacent to each other. The development of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries is of great significance to both countries. The economic and trade exchanges between the two countries affect the political and economic situation of Kazakhstan, which is in line with Kazakhstan's national strategic goals and strategic priorities, and is also conducive to the realization of the interests of Kazakhstan and China. Promote the common prosperity of the two countries. Therefore, Kazakh and China formulate and improve economic policies, establish good economic and trade relations, and develop effective and close cooperation, especially cooperation in the fields of energy, transportation and financial cooperation and investment, which is a major strategic direction in Kazakhstan's foreign policy.

The research on the development of economic relations and economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China in this paper is a further enrichment and improvement of the related research in this field on the basis of previous research by predecessors, and has certain practical significance for strengthening the economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China. The research of this paper attempts to help in establishing the long-term goal of economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and China, expanding the areas of cooperation between the two countries, and accelerating the pace of Kazakhstan's integration into the global multilateral trading system.

Besides Russia, Kazakhstan is China's largest trading partner in the CIS region. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1992, the economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Chinese has developed well. Leaders of the two countries have frequently exchanged visits, strengthened political mutual trust and solid partnership. It has set a new direction for the future development of bilateral relations. With Kazakhstan's active economic development policy, the social and economic development and political stability of Kazakhstan will further release the potential of cooperation with China, and the economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China will be further strengthened.

Key words: Kazakhstan; China; economic policy; economic and trade cooperation;

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# Introduction

**Relevance.** The rapid economic development of the People’s Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the PRC) and the increasing influence of the entire country on the world stage. In this context, it is extremely important to study the direction of China's further development. China’s sustainable development is inseparable from maintaining partnerships, and even better-establishing friendly relations with its nearest neighbors. China is actively cooperating with East and Southeast Asian countries, but due to the influence of the United States and European countries, the relationship between these countries and China has been mixed. However, the cooperation between China and Central Asian countries can be said that the United States and its allies have a certain degree of influence, but the influence is relatively small compared to South Asian and East Asian countries. Because Central Asian countries are independent from the Soviet Union Coming out, it is still under the huge political influence of Russia. The most active of the Central Asian countries is participating in international exchanges, and the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter referred to as RK) has great potential. Therefore, the bilateral economic relationship between China and Kazakhstan is very important in the world economy as an economic relationship that cannot be ignored. In view of this, this article will examine the economic policies of the above two countries-China and Kazakhstan during the period 2010-2020.

The overwhelming majority of the purpose of the new Silk Road (one Belt one Road) is due to the eastward shift of the US global strategic focus in recent years. Of course, it is obvious to all. As a result, the strategic pressure on China has increased. The Belt and Road Initiative is to propose a new strategic concept in this large environment. This is not a simple strategy idea, not only for China but also for neighboring countries to propose a new way to explore and innovate. Kazakhstan in turn actively supported the project and signed a plan in 2016 to link Kazakhstan’s “Nurly Zhol” (Bright Road) plan with the “Silk Road Economic Belt”. However, despite this logical gradual approach, there are still some unresolved issues between China and Kazakhstan. Obstacles to more fruitful cooperation (for example, the dominance of Chinese goods, the increasing dependence of the Kazakhstan economy on credit resources allocated by China, the unresolved problem of cross-border rivers, etc.). In addition, the political and economic developments of these two countries during the period 2010-2020, including at least three world crises, an epidemic, and changes in Kazakhstan's political elite, determine the relevance of bilateral economic policy research. The study of the prerequisites for the problems in China-Kazakhstan cooperation and the analysis of successfully implemented projects will help determine the prospects for further cooperation between these countries.

**The object of the research** is the relationship between China and Kazakhstan in the field of economic activity.

**The subject of the research** is the bilateral economic policy of the PRC and the RK in the period 2010-2020.

**Chronological scope of the study:** The main part of the work includes the review of China-Kazakhstan bilateral economic policies from 2010 to 2020. During 2010-2020, the strategic partnership between China and Kazakhstan has gradually deepened, and together they have created a new important platform. This means that the regional dialogue between China and Kazakhstan has reached a new height from the quantitative stage to the qualitative stage, so this period of time is more exploratory.

In 2010, Kazakhstan and China launched many major events: In June 2010, Kazakhstan and China issued a joint communiqué in Astana: The two sides reaffirmed that the establishment of a strategic partnership of equality and mutual trust is the correct historical choice. At the Shanghai World Expo held in May 2010, Kazakhstan participated in the World Expo in the form of a self-built national pavilion for the first time. In October 2010, China and Kazakhstan held a "Peace Mission-2010" joint counter-terrorism military exercise in Kazakhstan. In 2010, the trade volume between Kazakhstan and China exceeded 20 billion U.S. dollars, more than 50 times that of the initial period of the establishment of diplomatic relations. These events are very important to my research, so I took this year as the beginning of my research.

2020 is a very special year. In this year, the sudden new crown pneumonia ravaged the world and threatened the lives and health of the people of Kazakhstan and China. The two countries have successively adopted measures such as "closing the city", "stopping work", and "border control", which to a certain extent gave People and goods exchanges between the two countries have formed obstacles, which have brought certain impacts on the production and life of the two peoples, economic and trade exchanges, and the joint construction of the "Belt and Road". However, in 2020, thanks to the mutual understanding, mutual trust, and mutual support between the leaders and people of Kazakhstan and China, the relationship between the two countries has demonstrated a high level and particularity, setting a good example for international cooperation in the world. Therefore, I regard 2020 as the ending point of my dissertation.

The main time structure of this article is as follows: The article first outlines the research background, significance, current research status at home and abroad, and related concepts and theories, points out the purpose of the research, reviews domestic and foreign research and discusses related theories, and lays the foundation for the subsequent research Base. Secondly, it analyzes the general situation of Kazakhstan and the general situation of economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and China. Based on the trade data between the two countries from 2010 to 2020, it points out the trade situation, cooperation situation and market situation based on the theory and actual situation; finally passed Constructing a cooperation model, exploring the degree of economic cooperation dependence and trade integration, and using survey examples as evidence to point out the problems in their cooperation and propose corresponding measures. Because the history of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries can be traced back to 1992. This article also examines the background of the relationship between the two countries in various fields since 1992, so the time frame of the study also includes a small part of the content from 1992 to 2010.

**Aims to discuss the bilateral economic policies** of Kazakhstan and China from 2010 to 2020, and to identify trends in economic development and cooperation between the two countries (including a background review of the relations between Kazakhstan and China in strategic areas from 1992 to 2020);

- Research on the economic system background of China-Kazakhstan relations from 1992 to 2010;

Mainly research the economic relationship from 2010 to 2020;

- study the development of Chinese-Kazakh economic relations from 2010 to 2020;

- to reveal the strategic direction of the development of the Chinese-Kazakh mutually beneficial partnership;

- to determine the foreign economic policy priorities of the strategic direction after the establishment of the Kazakh-Chinese relations;

- research the development of special economic zones and analyze the realization of mutual benefits in China and Kazakhstan in the form of social and economic benefits;

- explore the area of China-Kazakhstan innovative economic cooperation;

- study the modern socio-economic development of China, its status and role in the economy of Kazakhstan and other countries of Central Asia;

- to reveal the economic policy of the PRC in Central Asia;

- explore Sino-Kazakh economic cooperation and development;

- to determine the degree of influence of the development of the Chinese-Kazakh economic cooperation on the Chinese-Kazakh geopolitics, as wellas regulatory legal acts of the PRC and RK, regional documents in the field of interaction between the PRC and RK, as well as international documents, public speeches of heads of state and official information sources.

**The degree of study of the problem**. In the research process of this thesis, I analyzed the results of a large number of women's studies on this topic: they studied the framework of research and China's economic issues, and selected themes within the framework. There are many problems, but most of them have political or geopolitical characteristics. This paper has noticed that Central Asia will encounter economic, political, and cultural problems in the “Belt and Road” economy. Central Asian countries’ desire to integrate into the “Belt and Road” economic policies have participated in the exploration and analysis between countries and the entire development process. Impact on the problem. In addition, this thesis fully studies the role of China's economic development under the "Belt and Road Initiative" and other issues.

At this stage, countries around the world have increased interest in bilateral economic and political research. Most importantly, researchers from various countries are very interested in the study of this issue. Some research sources of such papers, such as A. E. Serikkalieva mentioned the growth of China's economic power since the reform and development in 1978. Since the establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in 2001, how has China influenced Central Asian countries? In this article, it is based not only on China's perspective, but also on bilateral interests. Article by R.Y. Izmov, Z.T. Muratalieva[[1]](#footnote-1)pointed out that China has brought new development opportunities, new cultures, and new ideas to Central Asia, but it has also brought new “risks”, such as bilateral cultural conflicts. May become a vassal of the Chinese economy. This article discusses China-Kazakhstan bilateral interests and bilateral interest conflicts, but the main conclusions are drawn from bilateral economic policies on how to maximize bilateral interests. In his paper "Soft Power" Resources in the Foreign Policy of the People’s Republic of China (Take Central Asian Countries as an Example)" by FO Rasulov, discussed the impact of China’s soft power on Central Asia and how China seeks good-neighborliness There are many similarities between the author's paper and this paper, but there are also differences. There are many references to China's soft power in this paper, but there is still a certain difference between economic power and soft power.

Within the framework of domestic scientific literature, a number of works should be highlighted that are of particular interest in the light of the problems of this dissertation research.

First of all, these are works devoted to the study of the history and economics of the PRC and the RK, namely: the works of A. Strokov, O. Stolpovsky, V. Paramonov[[2]](#footnote-2), A. Strokov[[3]](#footnote-3), O. Stolpovsky[[4]](#footnote-4), A. Khodzhaeva[[5]](#footnote-5)”, and others. However, here we can note the fact that the political and economic aspects in the scientific works of domestic scientists to one degree or another are considered through the prism of Russian or Chinese views, as “big brothers” of Kazakhstan.

Research related to the analysis of the bilateral policy of the PRC and the ROK, mainly takes place in the form of scientific articles considering narrowly focused issues. These include the works of K. Syroezhkin[[6]](#footnote-6), L. I. Kadyrova[[7]](#footnote-7), S. Zh. Sapanova and Zh. Zh. Makhmedinova[[8]](#footnote-8), etc. These articles studied the relationship between China and Kazakhstan during the Soviet era, discussed how to resolve border issues, and discussed the inequality of bilateral economic and trade imports and exports.

Collective labor of Kazakhstan scientists E. K. Abil, A. B. Kosherbaeva, M. A. Abisheva, A. E. Aldiyarova, L. N. Burlakov, A. S. Esengeldina, E. K. Zharov, M. A. Kadyrova, Z. T. Karamalaeva, T. V. Marmontova, Zh. K. Medeuov “Evolution of public administration in the post-Soviet countries. The Republic of Kazakhstan[[9]](#footnote-9)” analyzes the process of formation and development of the system of public administration in the Republic of Kazakhstan, primarily in the period that has passed after the proclamation of independence by Kazakhstan and the secession of the republic from the USSR in 1991. The paper also provides a comparative analysis of the socio-economic development of Kazakhstan, based on official international indices of economic and social development.

D. Masymhanuli[[10]](#footnote-10) in his book tells that Xi Jinping formulated the "Socialism Thought with Chinese Characteristics in a New Era" after he was elected as the President of China, and also talked about Xi Jinping's diplomatic thoughts. It also proposed how to develop further with neighboring countries. The book clearly mentions that Xi Jinping first proposed the concept of the "Belt and Road" economic plan during his visit to Kazakhstan in 2013. The author proposes that China is a country with a large economy and population, and has achieved great economic development in recent decades. The large amount of cooperation between China and Kazakhstan can provide more jobs, which is of great help to Kazakhstan's economic development. The author used a lot of facts to prove that it is very necessary for the two countries to maintain good relations.

Zh. B. Rakhmetulina. and A. T. Karipova[[11]](#footnote-11) ,they are dedicated to studying the characteristics of Kazakhstan's socio-economic development. This is the first attempt to comprehensively study Kazakhstan's economic growth, resource dependence and people's living standards.

Scholar, such as Liang. Ze pointed out how China views the economic and political conditions of the five Central Asian countries from independence to the present and made research.

Erkin Ekrem, professor at Hoca Ahmet Yesevi International Turkey-Kazakh University in his article "China's Central Asia Policy[[12]](#footnote-12)" showed how Turkey views the relationship between China and Central Asia, his article from the perspective of world history, from the perspective of geopolitics, from the perspective of Chinese history and the relationship between ethnic minorities in northern China, the article discusses the close economic, political, diplomatic and cultural ties between Central Asia and China. Any changes in the situation in Central Asia will arouse the attention of global and regional powers. The relationship between China and Central Asia increasingly shows that China has gradually become a participant in the situation in Central Asia.

Yaldiz. F. the professor of Hacettepe University in Ankara, in his book “Turkic language republics’ 30th year of global policy”[[13]](#footnote-13) fully demonstrated the economic, political and cultural relations between Turkey and Central Asia. It also describes how Turkey views the relationship between Central Asia and all major powers such as China, Russia and the United States. The author's conclusion is that in the 30 years of social structure, ethnic identity and religious background, the identity of Turkic language ethnic identity has improved, seeking regional security under the same living environment and common language and culture. Turkey uses cultural factors such as ethnicity and language as the bond, the political system as the paradigm, the market economy as the means, and the military security as the guarantee. These conditions are used to implement the Central Asian policy. At the same time, under Turkey’s pragmatic and diversified Central Asia policy, Turkey’s relations with Russia, China and other countries have also developed to a large extent, and bilateral or multilateral political, economic and cultural cooperation has been actively carried out in Central Asia. Based on the close relationship between Turkey and Central Asia, as well as the growing strength of Turkey, it will be one of the influences that cannot be ignored in the situation in Central Asia.

Some English articles for researching how U.S and other western countries influence the relations between China and Central Asia specially Kazakhstan. Kuchins. A. C., Mankoff. J., Koumarova. A. and Backes. O. in their book "Central Asia in a Reconnecting Eurasia - Kazakhstan's Evolving Foreign Economic and security Interest[[14]](#footnote-14)” showed that because Central Asian countries are located in the center of Eurasia, close to the four facing Washington the biggest foreign policy challenges: Afghanistan/Pakistan, Iran, Russia and China. For this reason, how the United States will develop economic and security relations with Central Asian countries. Sébastien Peyrouse, Jos Boonstra and Marlène Laruelle in their book “Security and development approaches to Central Asia The EU compared to China and Russia[[15]](#footnote-15)”. demonstrated the EU’s view on the economic relationship between Central Asian countries and China: the EU is willing to strengthen its ties with Asia and other partners on the basis of realizing common interests and achieving common goals by complying with international norms and standards. The EU is willing to form meaningful synergies with China's "One Belt One Road" initiative. There is a common goal in maintaining a cooperative, rule-based, and peaceful international system. On the premise of economic, social, financial, financial and environmental aspects, China and Central Asian countries will cooperate in sustainable aspects.

The dissertation of Aliev T. M. on the topic “Dynamics, contradictions and social consequences of economic growth in Kazakhstan (1991-2013)[[16]](#footnote-16)”, and Savkovich E. V. “China in the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1992-2001[[17]](#footnote-17)”. The authors fully displays the historical review of China and Kazakhstan in his book, which is very helpful for the study of a series of historical issues such as the border between the two countries. The authors, namely Voskresensky V. D.,[[18]](#footnote-18) Luzyanin S. G.,[[19]](#footnote-19) Anferov. R. I., Kugay. A. I.,[[20]](#footnote-20) Zeng X.,[[21]](#footnote-21)， believe that China is currently the dominant force in Central Asia, and China is becoming an unconventional superpower that presents different aspects under different regional backgrounds, a major player in competition in Central Asia, a major investor, and a trading partner that leads countries in the region. There are both pros and cons to Kazakhstan.

**The scientific novelty of the thesis research** lies in the comprehensive and systematic analysis of China's specific actions in opening up the markets of Central Asian countries, especially the impact of China's formulation of the "Belt and Road" economic plan on Central Asia. This article specifically studies the problems and prospects of Kazakhstan's "Bright Road" new economic policy and China's "Belt and Road" cooperation, especially in terms of technology docking and capital complementarity. By analyzing the relationship between the two economic policies and related development strategies of the two countries, it can be seen that the foreign policies, development goals and implementation strategies of China and Kazakhstan are highly compatible and can cooperate in all aspects to achieve mutually beneficial and win-win results. At the same time, we must also realize that due to various factors, China-Kazakhstan cooperation and strategic docking will not be smooth sailing, and many difficulties need to be overcome.

In the process of researching and discussing the scientific novelty of this paper, some articles from Kazakhstan on this discussion were referred to. For example, A. Kaukenov’s[[22]](#footnote-22) article puts forward the connection between Kazakhstan’s "Bright Road" and the "Belt and Road" and "Eurasian Economic Integration" in his article. He believes that there are many similarities between these three works, and there are also many problems, but these problems can be solved through the running-in of time. In his article, Y. A. Chiklimbaev[[23]](#footnote-23) proposed how China's “One Belt, One Road” initiative affects Kazakhstan’s “Bright Road”. His view is that the "One Belt One Road" mainly affects the "Bright Road" in terms of infrastructure. He also pointed out that because the two countries have different cultural and language backgrounds, the two countries need further communication to maximize bilateral interests.

In addition to the Kazakhstan article, it also refers to Chinese materials. For example, Deng Yujia and Qin Fangming[[24]](#footnote-24) discussed in their articles the "Bright Road" new economic plan of Kazakhstan and the funding gap in the "Industrial Innovation and Development National Steel 2015-2019", which prompted foreign direct investment (FDI) has become an important source of supplementing Kazakhstan's domestic economic development funds, and will become an important factor in boosting Kazakhstan's domestic demand and economic growth. This provides basic, driving and realistic conditions for the docking of China's "Silk Road Economic Belt" and Kazakhstan's economic construction. Gao Yang[[25]](#footnote-25) stated in his article that with the implementation of a number of large-scale infrastructure projects in the "Silk Road Economic Belt", more and more countries along the route began to attach importance to the construction of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" interconnection. Significance and role, as the earliest response to the “Belt and Road” initiative, Kazakhstan is actively promoting the connection between its “Bright Road” plan and the “Silk Road Economic Belt” initiative. More extensive cooperation paved the way.

**The theoretical and methodological foundations** of the research is scientific and practical materials: theories (including Adam Smith’s[[26]](#footnote-26) absolute advantage theory, David Ricardo’s[[27]](#footnote-27) comparative advantage theory, Herschel Ohlin’s[[28]](#footnote-28) factor resource endowment theory, John Muller’s[[29]](#footnote-29) mutual demand theory). Basic methods, this article selects the economic cooperation between China and Kazakhstan as the research object to explore. Limited by factors such as market, law, geographical location and cultural background, there are many problems in the economic cooperation between China and Kazakhstan that need to be resolved. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct research on the economic cooperation between the two countries， (including literature research method, quantitative analysis method, qualitative analysis method, interdisciplinary research method, functional analysis method).

The research is a practical process of using the basic theoretical knowledge learned to analyze and solve problems, and it is also a summary of the comprehensive ability of the learning results of the entire graduate study stage. Research is a practical process of analyzing and solving problems using the basic theoretical knowledge learned. It is also a summary of the entire graduate study stage and the comprehensive ability of the results. Describes the bilateral economic policies of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Kazakhstan during the period 2010-2020.

The final qualifying work includes an introduction, 3 chapters, a conclusion and a list of sources and literature.

# Chapter 1. Analysis of the background of relations between Kazakhstan and China in strategic fields from 1992 to 2010

Kazakhstan-China economic and trade relations are the overall progress and specific performance of international trade on the economy of a country or region. In different historical periods, many countries with unique cultural imprints were established and developed on the territory of today's Kazakhstan. The world-famous ancient "Silk Road" is not only a road of business travel, a road of civilization, but also a road of cooperation. At that time, Kazakhstan and China had already developed mutual trade cooperation. In the tribal era, the two countries have long been linked at the national level. Kazakhstan and China are each other's important trading partners. The development of economic and trade relations has a profound historical origin and has had an important impact on China, Central Asia and even Europe and the Arab region.

The Soviet government included Kazakhstan-China relations into "Soviet-Chinese relations". In the 1950s and 1960s, under the economic blockade of the West, China's Xinjiang became the main window and base for Soviet-China trade, export of agricultural and animal husbandry products, and import of production equipment and daily necessities. In the 1980s, with China's reform and opening up and the improvement of Sino-Soviet relations, the Khorgos customs in Ili, Xinjiang, China was opened, and the Sino-Soviet Railway was also connected to Alashankou. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, China quickly established diplomatic relations with the CIS, and Kazakhstan was the first republic in Central Asia to establish diplomatic relations at the embassy level with China.

China is the third country after Turkey and the United States to declare recognition of the Republic of Kazakhstan

In addition, Kazakhstan became the first republic in Central Asia to establish diplomatic relations at the embassy level with China (January 3, 1992)[[30]](#footnote-30).

Kazakhstan's energy reserves such as oil and natural gas are among the highest in the world, and other natural resources are also abundant. The natural advantages of large land and abundant resources provide a material guarantee for the development of Kazakhstan's national economy. At the same time, Kazakhstan's strong acquisition capacity also promotes energy. Exports, especially to China. This provides a huge space for cooperation between the two countries for mutually beneficial exchanges, and to a large extent promotes the smooth development of trade cooperation between the two countries.

Looking around the world today, economic globalization has become the general trend, and all countries in the world are formulating strategic goals for economic integration according to their own national conditions, in order to better cope with the challenges of globalization and safeguard their own interests. As a developing country with a large population and a large land area, China is eager to gain a certain position in the competition of international trade globalization. Continuously strengthen economic cooperation with neighboring countries and regions, and want to rely on the development advantages of neighboring countries and regions to maintain their own interests, and at the same time to achieve economic integration with neighboring countries and regions. The social development status of Kazakhstan and the stability and prosperity of China's borders and China's realization of China's strategic goal of economic integration are very important.

# 1.1 The establishment of the economic system of Sino-Kazakhstan relations from 1992 to 2010

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and China in 1992, the two countries have established friendly relations and hope that both sides will achieve good results in all aspects of cooperation, and the multi-field cooperation between the two countries has also been carried out smoothly on this basis. Kazakhstan attaches great importance to its relations with China, and China has always regarded Kazakhstan as an important neighbor, which has laid a solid foundation for the economic development of both sides.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the geopolitical landscape of Eastern Europe and Central Asia underwent major changes. Kazakhstan declared independence and became a state with complete sovereignty, The country's economic system has also changed from a planned economy to a market economy. According to the National Statistical Office of Kazakhstan, since independence, Kazakhstan's macroeconomic development has been among the best in the CIS countries[[31]](#footnote-31).

From 1979 to 1991, China's economy was in an unstable state, and its economic development experienced partial overheating and adjustment. The guiding ideology of economic construction has undergone fundamental changes. During this period, the process of economic marketization initiated by China has formed the path of economic system transition and determined the path of China's economic system reform[[32]](#footnote-32), and economic growth has begun to accelerate.[[33]](#footnote-33). “China's economy has rebounded since 1991, and GDP growth has risen from a trough of 3.9% in 1990 to 8.0%. In 1992, the economic growth accelerated rapidly, and the real GDP growth for the whole year reached 13.2%. 1992 further stimulated the already strong investment enthusiasm, making the economic situation even higher in the following year. In the first half of 1993, the growth rate of GDP was as high as 14.1%. After entering the 21st century, China's environment has undergone great changes. After the economic recession in the 1980s, the Chinese government adopted a series of active monetary policies, which promoted the rapid economic growth and accelerated the rapid growth of the Chinese economy between 1991 and 1996. Although the economic growth rate declined from 1997 to 2001, the Chinese government began to adjust its economic policies quickly, largely protecting the economic growth point. 2001-2010 was the golden decade of China's economic development. The average growth rate of GDP was over 10%. As a result of development, China became the world's second largest economy and the largest manufacturing country. China's foreign trade import and export volume in 2000 was more than 500 billion US dollars, in 2010 it was more than 3 trillion US dollars. for China's economic growth”[[34]](#footnote-34).

After the independence of Kazakhstan, the economic ties established in the Soviet Union were interrupted, and the previous import and export channels were hindered and affected. At the same time, coupled with various problems and natural disasters after the transformation of the country's old and new systems, Kazakhstan productivity levels continue to decline.

Since independence, the gross national product has been declining year after year. “In 1994, when the economic recession was the worst, the gross national product was 423.5 billion tenge (about 63 tenge per US dollar at the time), only 74.8% of that in 1993 and less than 65% of that in 1990. In 1995, the rate of economic decline in Kazakhstan began to slow down. The gross national product was 1,019.7 billion tenge, but calculated at comparable prices, it was actually only 91.9% of the previous year. In 1996, Kazakhstan's economic situation improved further, and the overall decline in production was brought under control. The gross national product reached 1,415.8 billion tenge (approximately 70 tenge at the current price of 1 US dollar), an increase of 1.1% over the previous year at comparable prices. Nevertheless, according to the Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Kazakhstan's GNP in 1996 was only equivalent to the level in the early 1970s, which means that Kazakhstan has actually lost nearly 30 years since its independence, and the per capita GNP was at $1,400, its position in the world rankings has dropped from 37th before the collapse of the Soviet Union to 75th”[[35]](#footnote-35).

At this time, China was just in the early stage of reform and opening up, with rapid economic development, a large number of labor-intensive industries developed, and increasing demand for natural resources, resulting in an inconsistency between the supply and demand of resources. It just happened to provide a good opportunity for the development of Kazakhstan. Thanks to the rising price of mineral resources and abundant natural resources, people of Kazakhstan living standards have been greatly improved. Kazakhstan's imports from China have also risen from the original low-end labor-intensive products and raw materials to finished products and mid-to-high-end processed products.

In the early days of Kazakhstan’s founding, most of the trade cooperation with China was a simple form of barter trade with small border trade companies and self-employed households. The main structure of bilateral trade is increasingly diversified. From the initial small-scale barter trade, to the medium-term intervention of the whole people, to the final standardization, it has experienced great changes. The scope of investment has also gradually expanded, and at the same time, trade entities have also shown a diversified pattern. Some Chinese commodities have gradually begun to be exported to Kazakhstan through processing trade, leasing trade, foreign project contracting, etc., and Chinese state-owned enterprises and large and medium-sized enterprises have mainly participated in the trade activities of the two countries, and have invested in them one after another. Set up joint ventures and sole proprietorships. Kazakhstan and China also actively exchanged government or business delegations, held product exhibitions, held economic and technological cooperation fairs, and exchanged visits of technicians, teachers and students to deepen mutual trust and understanding between the two sides.

The long-standing historical, cultural and economic relations between Kazakhstan and China are themselves a vivid manifestation of the two countries' initiative, exchanges and development. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Kazakhstan, the two countries have determined the basic principles of bilateral cooperation in the form of agreements. Common positions were agreed on international issues concerning the security of the two countries. Among them Kazakhstan and China.

The main economic and trade cooperation documents signed between 1992 and 2010 are as follows: In Appendix A.

China's own energy reserves can no longer meet the needs of its own economic development, so China must maintain energy cooperation with others, including Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan's abundant energy and large energy exports to China determine the stable strategic cooperative relationship between Kazakhstan and China. Kazakhstan demands to join the global system and maintain strong international competitiveness, it has maintained ties with China in terms of technological innovation, management technology, etc., allowing Kazakhstan’s economy to achieve rapid and comprehensive development.

Documents worth mentioning are: "Statement of the Chinese Government on Providing Security Guarantee to Kazakhstan" (1995)[[36]](#footnote-36), "Joint Communiqué on the Comprehensive Settlement of the Boundary Issue between the Two Countries" (1999)[[37]](#footnote-37), "Kazakhstan-China Boundary Demarcation Protocol" "2002)[[38]](#footnote-38), "Agreement on the Establishment of the Kazakhstan-China Cooperation Committee" (2004)[[39]](#footnote-39). The above-mentioned documents show that the economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and China has maintained a positive and stable state from the very beginning[[40]](#footnote-40).

It is precisely because of the signing of these mutually beneficial partnership cooperation agreements， that the economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and China can be carried out smoothly and the cooperation goals of the two countries in various fields can be realized. The economic, trade and cooperation between Kazakhstan and China has gone through a process of rapid development from scratch. “In 1992, the total trade volume between Kazakhstan and China was 368 million US dollars, accounting for 20% of Kazakhstan's total foreign trade. China has become the No. 1 trade in Kazakhstan. partner. In 1993, the trade volume between the two countries reached 435 million US dollars, an increase of 18% over the previous year. After 2002, the foreign trade between Kazakhstan and China has shown a strong momentum of development, and the total amount of bilateral import and export trade has shown an upward trend year by year. In 2003, the trade volume between the two countries was 2.1768 billion US dollars, an increase of 62.3% over the previous year. According to the statistics of the Kazakhstan Statistics Office, the total import and export trade between Kazakhstan and China in 2007 was 9.1469 billion US dollars, an increase of 50.1% compared with 5.5174 billion US dollars in 2006, and an increase of 6.85 times compared with 1.336 billion US dollars in 2002. In 2010, China was Kazakhstan's third largest trading partner, second largest importer and third largest exporter. Mineral products and raw materials are still the main commodities exported by Kazakhstan to China. In 2010, the bilateral trade volume between Kazakhstan and China was 14.09 billion US dollars, of which Kazakhstan's exports were 10.12 billion US dollars, accounting for 17.1% of Kazakhstan's total exports”[[41]](#footnote-41).

Table 1.1 Bilateral trade statistics between Kazakhstan and China from 1999 to 2010

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Export | Import | Total import and export |  |
| Years | Amount | Percentage (%) | Increase (%) | Amount | Percentage (%) | Increase (%) | Amount | Increase (%) | trade balance |
| 1999 | 0.4698 | 8.0 |  | 0.0798 | 2.2 |  | 0.5496 |  | +3.9 |
| 2000 | 0.6737 | 7.6 | 43.4 | 0.151 | 3.0 | 89.2 | 0.8247 | 50.0 | +5.227 |
| 2001 | 0.6596 | 7.6 | -2.1 | 0.172 | 2.7 | 13.9 | 0.8316 | 0.84 | +4.876 |
| 2002 | 1.023 | 10.6 | 55.1 | 0.313 | 4.7 | 82.0 | 1.336 | 60.7 | +7.1 |
| 2003 | 1.6531 | 12.8 | 61.6 | 0.5237 | 6.2 | 67.3 | 2.1768 | 62.3 | +11.294 |
| 2004 | 1.9673 | 9.8 | 19.0 | 0.7582 | 5.9 | 44.8 | 2.7255 | 25.2 | +12.091 |
| 2005 | 2.4239 | 8.7 | 23.2 | 1.2518 | 7.2 | 65.1 | 3.6757 | 34.9 | +11.721 |
| 2006 | 3.5925 | 9.4 | 48.2 | 1.9249 | 8.1 | 53.8 | 5.5174 | 50.1 | +16.676 |
| 2007 | 5.6396 | 11.8 | 57.0 | 3.5073 | 10.7 | 82.2 | 9.1469 | 65.8 | +21.323 |
| 2008 | 7.6766 | 10.8 | 36.1 | 4.565 | 12.0 | 30.3 | 12.242 | 33.8 | +31.12 |
| 2009 | 5.889 | 13.6 | -23.3 | 3.57 | 12.6 | -21.8 | 9.459 | -22.7 | +23.2 |
| 2010 | 10.12 | 17.1 | 71.9 | 3.96 | 13.3 | 11 | 14.09 | 48.9 | +61.6 |

Source: Kazakhstan Customs Statistics Service

The commodities imported by Kazakhstan from China are mainly daily consumer goods, most of which are labor-intensive commodities, mainly including: mineral fertilizers, coke, food, tea, tableware, Clothing, shoes and hats, textiles, plastic products and household appliances, etc., while the proportion of high-tech and high value-added products is relatively small. Kazakhstan's exports to China are basically raw materials, mainly including: crude oil, oil Products, metal ores, scrap steel, steel ingots, fertilizers, copper, aluminum, wool and cowhide, etc.[[42]](#footnote-42) Of course, with the development of economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and China, the trade between Kazakhstan and China has also been further developed, and the structure of bilateral import and export commodities has also begun to change.

Table 1.2 List of goods imported from China by Kazakhstan in 2010-2020

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commodity | thousands, dollars | % market share, market distribution | Compare2010/2011 |
| Total | 8343224 | 8651371 | 100 | 100 | 3, 7 |
| Knitted or crocheted garments and accessories | 2199583 | 1890144 | 23.7 | 19.77 | -14.07 |
| Boilers, Machinery and Parts | 954275 | 1153801 | 10.28 | 12.07 | 20.91 |
| Footwear and leggings  | 1000934 | 1121075 | 10.79 | 11.73 | 12 |
| Electric motors, electrical, and audio-visual equipment | 619276 | 817822 | 6.67 | 8.55 | 32.06 |

Source: Website of National Bureau of Statistics of China

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Kazakhstan, the two governments have actively carried out multi-level, multi-field and all-round economic and trade cooperation. The rapid growth of bilateral trade volume in the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries is an important symbol of the continuous expansion of economic and trade between China and Kazakhstan. The mutual complementation between the economic structures of Kazakhstan and China is an important factor in promoting the development of bilateral economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China. From 1992 to 2010, China gradually became Kazakhstan's second trading partner, the third largest exporter and the second largest importer[[43]](#footnote-43).

Economic and trade cooperation is an important driving force for Kazakhstan to develop relations with China. Since the independence of Kazakhstan, with its important strategic position, abundant natural resources and potential economic strength, it has been accelerating the transformation of the domestic economy into a market economy, and has made efforts to open up the country and implement an all-round opening to the outside world. The world actively participates in international and regional cooperation, expands the space for international economic activities, vigorously develops foreign trade, and promotes the recovery and development of domestic production in Kazakhstan. Economic zone, introducing foreign capital to set up joint ventures. In order to accelerate the development and expansion of the market and enhance the competitiveness of enterprises, the establishment of Sino-foreign joint ventures in Kazakhstan can not only enable foreign investors to make full use of the network of Kazakhstani enterprises and the well-known brands that have been established, and smoothly enter the Kazakhstan market; Foreign investors take advantage of the geographical advantages of Chinese enterprises to reasonably and legally reduce various financial expenditures, greatly reduce operating costs, and enjoy preferential treatment for foreign investors.

Enterprises in Kazakhstan should strengthen their study and mastery of the world's advanced technology and advanced management experience. The Kazakh government has successively formulated laws and regulations such as the Law on Basic Principles for Carrying out Foreign Economic Activities, the Law on Foreign Investment, the Law on Foreign Exchange Adjustment, and Free Economic Zones. The purpose of the Kazakh government to formulate these economic policies was to tap its own export potential, support enterprises that produce products with competitive advantages, encourage the production of export commodities with high technology content and quality in line with international standards, and ensure export growth. processing industry. In order to adjust foreign trade to meet the requirements of the GATT WTO, the Kazakh government has done a lot of work: guaranteeing the principle of free trade; every legal and natural person has the right to engage in import and export trade; reducing the number of license documents that need to be processed. Actively improve the technical means, animal and plant health and epidemic prevention and other supervision systems, reduce other inapplicable adjustment methods, and use tariffs as the main adjustment method for foreign trade.

Kazakhstan has vast land and rich resources. 99 of the 118 elements in Mendeleev's periodic table have been discovered underground in Kazakhstan, of which 70 have proven reserves and more than 60 are under development. The reserves of natural gas and oil are ranked sixth in the world. One of the world's largest oil and gas production and export countries. Kazakhstan is a typical resource-based country, and the mining, processing and export of mineral resources dominate the national economy. The dependence on foreign commodities is quite high. Most of the daily necessities, high-tech products, and light industrial products are imported from the United States, Japan, South Korea, Germany, China, and Turkey. With the improvement of the quality of China's export products and the advantage of price, more and more Chinese products are accepted by the Kazakh people, especially the people with lower income levels.

# 1.2 The development of China-Kazakhstan economic relations from 1992 to 2010

# 1.2.1 Stages of economic and trade development between Kazakhstan and China

From 1992, when Kazakhstan became independent, to 2010, according to the phased results achieved after the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and China, the relationship between the two countries can be roughly divided into the following three stages.

The first stage (1992-1995) was the initial stage of the establishment of bilateral relations, and Kazakhstan and China began to establish good-neighborly and friendly relations. Kazakh-China relations Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries: Kazakh-China relations have established friendship through contacts and understanding. The two sides signed agreements and declarations related to the guiding ideology, military security, and economic and trade fields in the form of high-level exchange of visits.

As a newly independent country, Kazakhstan was immediately recognized and supported by the Chinese government. This political relationship has become a positive factor in Kazakhstan-China bilateral economic and trade relations. Kazakhstan and China established diplomatic relations on January 3, 1992 on the basis of equality, trust, mutually beneficial cooperation, and good-neighborly friendship, expressing the will and necessity of establishing deep-level good-neighborly and friendly relations. In 1993, Kazakhstan’s President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Chinese General Secretary Jiang Zemin signed in Beijing the first joint statement establishing the principles of bilateral relations - "Joint Statement on the Establishment of Friendly Relations between Kazakhstan and the People's Republic of China". In 1994 Kazakhstan and China signed a historic border agreement[[44]](#footnote-44). In the spirit of consultation on an equal footing, mutual understanding and accommodation, Kazakhstan and China have comprehensively and thoroughly resolved the border issue, eliminated uncertainties in Kazakhstan-China relations, and demonstrated mutual trust in the relations between the two countries. very high level.

The bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and China has increased a lot during this period. “In 1992, the total trade volume between Kazakhstan and China was 368 million US dollars, accounting for 20% of Kazakhstan's total foreign trade. China became Kazakhstan's first trading partner. In 1993, the total trade volume between the two countries reached 435 million US dollars, an increase of 18% over 1992. In 1994, there were some changes in the trade between Kazakhstan and China, and the total amount decreased. The total trade volume was 335 million US dollars, a decrease of 22.7% compared with 1993. The total trade volume between the two countries in 1995 was 391 million US dollars, an increase of 28.6% over 1994 (Kazakhstan Statistics Service)”[[45]](#footnote-45).

The second stage: (1996-2004) During this stage, Kazakhstan-China relations were upgraded to a partnership of mutual assistance, continued to carry out active and diverse cooperation in various fields, unswervingly maintained and developed long-term friendly cooperation, and maintained dialogue in various fields to further enhance mutual understanding and trust between the two countries. At this stage, Kazakhstan and China have formulated detailed development plans, and cooperation in various fields has achieved gratifying results.

From the perspective of economic and trade, the total import and export trade between Kazakhstan and China is gradually increasing at this stage, and the economic and trade cooperation between governments is mostly related to non-governmental economic and trade exchanges.

The import and export trade between Kazakhstan and China showed a good trend. “From 1996 to 2000, the trade volume between Kazakhstan and China increased significantly, and the total trade volume between the two countries was 824.7 million US dollars. Total trade between the two countries in 2001 was $831.6 million. Since 2002, the total bilateral import and export trade between Kazakhstan and China has gradually increased. In 2003, the total trade volume between the two countries was 2.1768 billion US dollars, an increase of 62.3% over 2002. In 2004, the total trade volume between Kazakhstan and China was 2.7255 billion US dollars. An increase of 25.2% over 2003”[[46]](#footnote-46). Except for the relatively successful cooperation with China National Petroleum Corporation and Bank of China, the cooperation between the two companies is mostly average or poor. Chinese products in Kazakhstan are low-end products, mainly limited to some low-tech products.

The largest economic cooperation project between Kazakhstan and China during this period was the Aktobe Oil Company established in 1997 by the oil and gas departments of the two countries. The company produces 2.5 million tons of crude oil annually. In 2003, Kazakhstan and China issued a "Joint Statement", pointing out that Kazakhstan supports China's participation in Kazakhstan's exploration of oil fields on the Caspian Sea continental shelf.

Through reform and opening up, China's economy has developed by leaps and bounds, and the demand for energy is also increasing. It is already one of the world's largest energy importers. The cooperation between Kazakhstan and China in the field of energy is highly complementary.

In July 1996, President Jiang Zemin visited Kazakhstan and the two countries signed the China-Kazakhstan Joint Statement, marking a new chapter in the development of Kazakhstan-China pragmatic cooperation. Based on the common desire to further consolidate and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries, China and the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter referred to as the two parties), and based on the results of the highest-level talks between the two countries in Almaty, declare as follows: 1. The two sides reaffirmed their adherence to the joint communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Kazakhstan on January 3, 1992, the China-Kazakhstan Joint Communiqué on February 26, 1992, the China-Kazakhstan Joint Statement on October 18, 1993, and the principles set out in the China-Kazakhstan Joint Statement on September 11, 1995 are determined to elevate China-Kazakhstan good-neighborly friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation to a new height facing the 21st century.

In the third stage (2005-2010), bilateral relations rose rapidly. After the steady and tortuous development of Kazakhstan and China, the relationship between the two countries has finally reached a new level.

During this period, Kazakhstan and China signed the "China-Kazakhstan Cooperation Strategic Agreement"[[47]](#footnote-47) in 2010 on 25th November, elevating the Kazakhstan-China relationship to a strategic partnership, and the level of cooperation between the two sides in various fields has also improved. The laws and regulations, guiding ideology and cooperation fields of Kazakhstan and China have gradually deepened and matured. The Kazakhstan-China strategic partnership conforms to the fundamental interests of the two countries and the two peoples, and opens up broader prospects for deepening bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The economic and trade cooperation between the two countries is also an important manifestation of the two countries' participation in the globalization of the world economy. From the perspective of international stability: Kazakhstan-China friendly cooperation also helps to avoid conflicts in Central Asia, and to a certain extent helps to balance the relations between Central Asian countries. Help is positive.

After the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and China, the relations between the two countries have developed well, the bilateral trade cooperation has achieved remarkable results, and the bilateral trade volume has grown steadily. China has become Kazakhstan's third largest trading partner. “In 2005, the total bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and China was 3.6757 billion US dollars, an increase of 34.9% over 2004. In 2006, the bilateral trade volume was 5.5174 billion US dollars, an increase of 50.1% over 2005. It was US$9.1469 billion, an increase of 50.1% over 2006. In 2008, the total bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and China was 12.242 billion US dollars, an increase of 33.8% over 2007. In 2009, the total bilateral trade volume was 12.938 billion US dollars, an increase of 5.68% over 2008. In 2010, the total bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and China was 14.09 billion US dollars, an increase of 8.9% over 2009. In the Kazakhstan-China 21st Century Cooperation Strategy”[[48]](#footnote-48), the heads of states of Kazakhstan and China expressed their hope that the two countries will work together to achieve the goal of total bilateral trade reaching 15 billion US dollars by 2015.

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Leaders of both sides attach great importance to bilateral economic and trade cooperation and are committed to long-term cooperation and development. The characteristics of bilateral trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China from 1992 to 2010, Bilateral trade structure and main trade structure began to diversify.

In the early days of Kazakhstan's independence, the trade cooperation between the two countries was mostly a simple form of border trade exchanges. It was not until 1994 that the mode of trade began to change from barter trade to spot trade. After 2000, China began to conduct general merchandise trade. Exports to Kazakhstan through trade, leasing trade, etc. By 2010, the bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and China mainly includes: border trade, regular trade, mutual product exhibition, economic and technological cooperation fair, joint venture, cooperation or sole proprietorship, mutual visit and study, etc. The direction of trade diversification.

With the great changes in the way of trade development between the two countries, the trade subjects have also diversified. Large and medium-sized enterprises invested in joint ventures, sole proprietorships, and state-owned enterprises between China and Kazakhstan are also participating in trade activities between the two countries, with a wide range of content. Explore the possibility of implementing major projects in the fields of oil and gas, hydropower, telecommunications, mining, construction, non-ferrous metal processing, and high-tech[[49]](#footnote-49). It has made great contributions to the development of bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and China.

There is a huge gap between China and Kazakhstan in terms of comprehensive national strength, which to a certain extent determines that the relationship between China and Kazakhstan is a relationship between a big country and a small country. It refers to the difference in the overall strength of the two countries, not political inequality.

1. 2. 2 Problems in the bilateral trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China from 1992 to 2010

From the early days of Kazakhstan's independence to 2010, the growing trade between Kazakhstan and China also exposed some long-standing and intractable problems. These drawbacks restrict the trade between the two sides. One of the most prominent problems is the structure of import and export commodities. (Commodity structure of foreign trade refers to the composition of various commodities in import and export trade in a certain period, usually expressed by the proportion of various commodities in the total import and export trade. To a certain extent, it reflects the level of economic development, product Structure and commodity competitiveness.) Kazakhstan’s imports to China are divided into low-value-added and high-value-added commodities, such as daily necessities, machinery manufacturing, and resources. With the development and deepening of the trade between the two countries, the structure of Kazakhstan's imported commodities has undergone significant changes: gradually reducing the share of low value-added commodities and increasing the import of high value-added commodities. The results of the exchanges and cooperation between the two sides are a win-win for the trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China. With the development of the national economy, the structure of Kazakhstan's exports to China has also changed: wool, fertilizers, cotton and raw hides, etc. with better sales have gradually become necessities of the national economy such as oil, natural gas energy resources, steel and copper materials. Although the trade commodity structure between Kazakhstan and China has changed, especially the import and export trade commodity structure still is in the trend of continuous optimization, in the trade commodity structure of the two countries, low value-added commodities still account for a large proportion, and high value-added commodities still account for a large proportion. The proportion of value-added goods has increased, but it is still relatively small. From the perspective of long-term development, the low import and export volume of high value-added commodities will restrict the scale of trade cooperation between the two countries.

The laws and regulations on bilateral trade cooperation are not perfect. With the economic development of Kazakhstan and China, both countries are in transition, and the domestic market mechanisms of the two countries are not perfect, which restricts bilateral trade cooperation to a large extent. Kazakhstan is still relatively serious. Departments are more arbitrary in the process of law enforcement, and customs clearance procedures are not standardized, which has caused trade friction between Kazakhstan and China. In addition, the cooperation concept and innovation capacity of Kazakhstan's market economy are also weak, and the coherence of foreign policy is lacking. For example, in order to pursue political achievements, some local governments in China pursued local economic growth and raised trade barriers through direct investment when China's market mechanism was not sound at that time, resulting in too narrow investment fields of the two countries, restricting the economic development of both sides.

The geographical structure of bilateral trade cooperation is limited.

Most of the trade cooperation between China and Kazakhstan in the early days of independence was completed by China's Xinjiang and Kazakhstan. At that time, China's Xinjiang was one of China's economically underdeveloped provinces. Although there are geographical and cultural advantages between China's Xinjiang and Kazakhstan. But at the same time, there is also a big problem. If the trade cooperation between the two sides is limited to this mutual exchange, it will restrict the economic development level of both sides and reduce the level of trade, and the development potential and development space will also be relatively constrained, resulting in the narrowness of bilateral trade cooperation affects the development of bilateral regional economies.

Kazakhstan's trade pattern with China is unstable in the 1990s, Kazakhstan was in the process of economic system transition and the domestic market mechanism was under construction, so there were problems such as irregularities in trade and disorder in trade order. In particular, cross-border direct sales and travel purchases have entered the domestic market of Kazakhstan through informal means, destroying the brand image of Chinese products in Kazakhstan with fake and shoddy products. Among them, a large number of Chinese products have entered Kazakhstan through "chartered flights and taxes". The domestic market is known as "grey clearance" in Kazakhstan. Due to the non-standard customs clearance of goods imported in this way, Kazakhstan has lost a lot of customs duties. The abnormal customs clearance has had a lot of negative impact on the development of bilateral cooperation and trade, which has also affected Kazakhstan’s relationship with the development of China's bilateral trade has deepened the existing problems in the bilateral trade.

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Instable in the way Kazakhstan trades with China in the 1990s. Kazakhstan was in the process of economic system transition and the domestic market mechanism was under construction, so there were problems such as irregularities in trade and disorder in trade order. In particular, cross-border direct sales and travel purchases have entered the domestic market of Kazakhstan through informal means, destroying the brand image of Chinese products in Kazakhstan with fake and shoddy products. Among them, a large number of Chinese products have entered Kazakhstan through "chartered flights and taxes". The domestic market is known as "grey clearance" in Kazakhstan. Due to the non-standard customs clearance of goods imported in this way, Kazakhstan has lost a lot of customs duties. The abnormal customs clearance has had a lot of negative impact on the development of bilateral cooperation and trade, which has also affected Kazakhstan’s relationship with the development of China's bilateral trade has deepened the existing problems in the bilateral trade.

Although there are certain problems in the bilateral economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China, the prospects for bilateral trade cooperation are still very broad. On the one hand, the economies of the two countries still maintain sustained and rapid growth and have huge development potential; on the other hand, there is an interdependent development environment between the two countries. Only by mutual assistance can they better develop their own economic construction and adapt to the economy globalization today. For the common development of Kazakhstan and China, we will work together for a win-win situation and further promote the development of bilateral trade cooperation. The two governments have taken various improvement measures.

Through the research and analysis of the development of economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China from 1992 to 2010, we can see that China's rising international status and profound economic strength, as well as China's status as a window to the Asia-Pacific region, coupled with the Kazakhstan's adjacent geographical advantages make the economic and trade cooperation between China and Kazakhstan the only choice for Kazakhstan's key development strategy in Asia, and the achievements of China and Kazakhstan after so many years of economic and trade cooperation, as well as other bilateral And multilateral agreements and cooperation projects have promoted cooperation and exchanges between the two countries and ensured the smooth development of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. In the international context, combined with the actual situation of Kazakhstan and China, it is an inevitable choice for the two countries to further strengthen cooperation in the economic fields such as energy, transportation, investment and high-tech production industries. In the future, the focus of Kazakhstan's foreign economic policy has also shifted to creating a new type of cooperative relationship, which has further deepened the economic and trade exchanges between Kazakhstan and China, and has played a particularly important role in improving Kazakhstan's overall national strength.

After research and analysis of the development of economic and trade relations between Kazakhstan and China from 1992 to 2010, the following conclusions can be drawn: China's rising international status and strong economic power, as well as China's detached identity as an Asian’s region, coupled with the geographical advantages of Kazakhstan and China, economic and trade cooperation with China has become an important choice for Kazakhstan's economic development. Moreover, the achievements of Kazakhstan and China after years of economic and trade cooperation and the development of other bilateral and multilateral cooperation projects have promoted cooperation and exchanges between Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries, and further ensured the smooth economic and trade cooperation between China and Kazakhstan. carry out. In the context of global economic integration, Kazakhstan and China will further strengthen bilateral cooperation in economic fields such as transportation, investment and high-tech production according to the actual situation of the two countries.

The development trend of Kazakhstan and China in the field of economic and trade cooperation is good, but there are still some obstacles. With the improvement of the cooperation mechanism and the improvement of laws and regulations, these obstacles have been effectively resolved.

During this period, the focus of Kazakhstan's foreign economic and trade policy began to shift to the creation of new types of cooperative relations. The international development of foreign trade has a direct impact on Kazakhstan's economic development to a large extent.

Kazakhstan and China have maintained interdependent and mutually reinforcing international economic and trade relations for nearly 20 years, which not only enabled the rapid and sustainable economic development of the two countries, but also promoted the friendship between the two countries.

At the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan (now Nur-Sultan) on June 15, 2011, former President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev expressed his views on Kazakhstan over the past 20 years. The economic and trade cooperation with China is highly praised. Ex-President N. A. Nazarbayev said: "China is in a leading position in the world in many aspects, and China's achievements are the glory of hard work. For a long time, Kazakhstan has received strong support from China, for which we would like to express our heartfelt thanks and I hope that the great neighbor will make greater achievements on the road of development. It can be seen from the trade situation between Kazakhstan and China that the trade relations between Kazakhstan and China are very friendly. I hope that the friendly trade exchanges between Kazakhstan and China can achieve further progress. I wish the relations between Kazakhstan and China will become more and more harmonious.”[[51]](#footnote-51)

# Chapter 2. Development of China-Kazakhstan Mutually Beneficial Partnership

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and China, friendly relations have developed rapidly and mutually beneficial cooperation has been fully developed. In particular, great achievements have been made in the cooperation in the economic and trade field. Affected by geopolitics, Kazakhstan and China have closer positions in international affairs, and both have good communication and cooperation on some major issues. The formation of the mutually beneficial partnership between Kazakhstan and China is a comprehensive reflection of the foreign policies of the two countries.

# 2.1 Kazakhstan's foreign policy after the establishment of a mutually beneficial partnership with China.

# 2.1.1 Kazakhstan's foreign policy and China's foreign policy （1992 -2020）

Kazakhstan has adopted a pragmatic foreign policy since 1992: in the early days of Kazakhstan's independence, the goal of foreign policy formulation was to improve Kazakhstan's economic development capability through diplomatic relations with other countries, and put factors conducive to Kazakhstan's long-term stable development at the top of its foreign policy[[52]](#footnote-52). Therefore, Kazakhstan attaches great importance to friendly cooperation with other countries in all aspects, and strives to ensure the security and stability of the surrounding areas of Kazakhstan.[[53]](#footnote-53)

Due to the constant changes in geopolitics and the world structure, the situation of Kazakhstan has also continuously adjusted its foreign policy. All these reasons have had some impact on the social development of Kazakhstan. "Kazakhstan has chosen a multi-directional and peaceful diplomatic strategy that focuses on national interests and achieves national development goals when formulating its foreign policy.”[[54]](#footnote-54) Kazakhstan uses this pragmatic, all-round, focused and diversified foreign policy to negotiate among Russia, the United States, Japan, China, South Korea and other countries to achieve a balance between major powers. Protection of Kazakhstan's strategic interests. With the support of these powerful external forces, Kazakhstan can maintain political and social stability, and will not fall into constant turmoil, and at the same time, it will also prevent any major country from dominating the security situation in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan sees the smooth development of diplomatic relations and the long-term stable development of Kazakhstan only when the political situation at home and abroad is stable. “Kazakhstan has resolutely given up and is willing to work actively for world peace.”[[55]](#footnote-55) In addition, "still put national interests as the focus of foreign policy, try to restore the national economy and speed up the democratization process through effective foreign policy, etc., provide favorable external conditions and sufficient guarantees: continuously consolidate the mutual benefits with neighboring countries and important partners. Cooperative relations are also equal relations, and strive to make important contributions to regional stability and world peace and the maintenance of world order."[[56]](#footnote-56)

In Kazakhstan’s foreign policy adopts the strategic intention of actively introducing various external forces and seeking balanced development. Although multilateral diplomacy can allow Kazakhstan to compete against each other among the great powers, it can also cause unpredictable hidden dangers. Kazakhstan still relies on Russia for its security, and is also worried about Russia’s foreign expansion ambitions; in terms of military and diplomacy, it attaches importance to its relationship with the United States, and it is also necessary to consider the United States’ intention to use Kazakhstan for peripheral control; economic ties, and fear of China's threat to Kazakhstan's security. There are also many concerns about diplomacy with Islamic countries.

Kazakhstan has always pursued a foreign policy of great power balance, has won security guarantees and provided a stable and peaceful international environment by developing friendly relations with Russia, the United States and China, and introducing technology and capital support for its economic recovery and development. Kazakhstan's great-power balance diplomacy makes full use of its own country's diplomatic resources, uses its geographical advantages and energy advantages as leverage, and skillfully achieves a balance between Russia, the United States and China to maximize national interests. But this great-power balance foreign policy is an unstable one, adding complexity and uncertainty to Kazakhstan's foreign policy.

The Chinese government has inherited and developed diplomatic wisdom and made unremitting efforts to safeguard national interests and security environment. After the reform and opening up, China's judgment on the theme of the times and the understanding of the international pattern, "The Chinese government's insistence on the path of peaceful development is the correct choice made by the Communist Party of China, and it is also the support and basis for the foreign policy of peace, which is in the interests of the Chinese people and also It conforms to the interests of the people of the world. On the premise that peace and development are still the themes of the times, the Chinese government has clearly put forward the foreign concepts of peace, development, cooperation and win-win, which marks a profound change in the goals of China’s diplomacy.”[[57]](#footnote-57)

With the continuous enhancement of China's own strength and the deepening of the degree of globalization, the pressure faced by China's diplomacy is also increasing. How to defuse the pressure and seize the opportunity has become a problem that China's peaceful diplomacy needs to solve.

In the process of deepening and developing China's foreign policy of peace, safeguarding national interests is China's basic starting point. From the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China to safeguard the security of the state power and national independence, to safeguarding China's national security and territorial integrity, to helping to promote the development of the country's economic construction, China's foreign policy of peace has always been firmly safeguarding national interests. fundamental position. China's diplomatic strategy has gradually become a diplomatic norm recognized by the international community in the course of diplomatic practice.

The development of China's foreign policy of peace has always been in line with the changes in the theme of the country's era and the development of the international situation. The Chinese government pays attention to closely linking the interests of the Chinese people and the people of the world, and promotes the development of the international order in a more just and reasonable direction. While building a safe environment for China's politics, economy and culture, it also contributed an important force to world peace.

As a country "in terms of population, territorial scope, industrial resources, social organization, historical tradition and determination, China is stronger than ordinary countries, can continuously obtain social wealth and resources within the country, can regulate the society, and promote the country's economic development with a stable situation. Outside the country, in an anarchic international society, the internal resources can be effectively used in the international field, resisting risks, responding to challenges, and winning countries in competition.”[[58]](#footnote-58) It is very important in the international system and will have a significant impact on international relations. The international community calls these manifestations "" "Great power diplomacy" (the term great power diplomacy is used to describe the changing trend of China's foreign policy that began to appear in the 1990s. Its main manifestations are as follows: clearly positioning China as the world's influential power is a process of mentality adjustment. With the trend of economic development and interdependence, it attaches great importance to the establishment of partnerships with other major powers, mainly the United States, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and India. China actively participates in international financial, arms control, economic and trade organizations that have been neglected and boycotted in the past. Responsibility for maintaining the status quo order. So far, the Chinese official does not recognize that there is a foreign policy of a major power, and it is still an "independent and peaceful foreign policy."[[59]](#footnote-59)

Some Chinese scholars said: "Choosing the right time to propose and carry out major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics is a confidence in China's development and an important answer to China's expectations of the international community. In the past, China's development goal was how to become a major country. A new goal is also added, which is how to be a better country".[[60]](#footnote-60)

The purpose of a country's foreign policy is to improve the country's international status, international influence and comprehensive national strength; to establish a good international environment, to promote international cooperation, to maintain the country's interests, security and development; to play an active role in international affairs. The foreign policies of both Kazakhstan and China fully embody these ideas.

# 2.1.2. The background of the formation of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and China

The development of relations between Kazakhstan and China is based on mutual trust politically. There is good cooperation in the fields of economy, energy, transportation, security and territory. The two sides have always supported each other on major issues involving national sovereignty and territorial integrity, effectively maintaining regional stability and promoting common development. China and Kazakhstan are good neighbors, good friends and good partners. The establishment of the mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries conforms to the common aspirations and fundamental interests of the two peoples, and is of great practical significance for maintaining peace in Asia and the world at large.

Considerations of all parties in the formation of cooperative relations between Kazakhstan and China:

On the Chinese side:

First, Kazakhstan's special geographical location has changed the geopolitical and economic landscape of China and Russia since the country's independence. If the security environment in northwest China is in a good period, it will provide an external security environment for China to further open up and build the northwest region. After the "9.11" incident, the United States launched the Afghan war in the name of fighting terrorism and entered Central Asia, causing changes in the geopolitical pattern of Central Asia. The economic, political, and military involvement of the United States in this region poses new threats to the security of northwestern China. By developing cooperative relations with Kazakhstan, which is located at the connection point between Europe and Asia, China will be able to effectively resist and defend the penetration of the United States in this region and meet this new challenge in diplomatic relations.

Secondly, Central Asia is located at the crossroads of the two continents of Asia and Europe, and its strategic position is very important. Since the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the independence of Central Asian countries, the ideological trends of great nationalism, pan-Turkism and pan-Islamism in Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries have spread and the international the development of other terrorist forces has aroused the vigilance of China, worried that it will have a negative impact on the social stability of China and Kazakhstan. Therefore, China needs to take effective measures with Kazakhstan to maintain good cooperation in the security field.

Thirdly, at the beginning of the establishment of cooperative relations between China and Kazakhstan, the country's economic system was also undergoing a transition—the economic system was transitioning from a planned economy to a market economy. During this process, the country's politics and economy have changed. In the early days of independence, Kazakhstan was a huge market in the center of Eurasia, a real and potential economic cooperation area, which provided a historic opportunity for China to implement an all-round opening to the outside world.

On the Kazakh side, developing friendly relations with China:

First of all, it is the need for politics and security: Kazakhstan not only integrates Eastern and Western cultures, but is also a transit point for commerce and trade between the East and the West, gathering a huge amount of Eastern and Western commodities. Due to its special geographical location and rich energy resources, Kazakhstan has always been the focus of attention of major countries in the world. Although the Soviet Union disintegrated, Russia still has influence in Central Asia. Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, are politically and economically controlled by Russia - foreign trade needs to be transferred from Russia, and Kazakhstan's energy resources are exported. Relying on Russian fuel pipelines. Before China became Kazakhstan's largest trading partner, Russia was Kazakhstan's largest trading partner. With the changes in the world structure, the United States entered Central Asia for its own interests, and carried out political, economic and military cooperation with Kazakhstan to strengthen its control over Central Asia and Russia. In this case, Kazakhstan needs to establish relations with China and find a political and security balance between Russia and the United States.

Secondly, it is the need for economic development: after independence, Kazakhstan changed its original closed foreign policy and gradually opened up to the world. The establishment of diplomatic relations with China was in line with the international community at that time, the increasing interdependence, integration and penetration between countries, as well as the development trend of the deepening of world peace and economic globalization. In the early days of independence, in order to establish new market economic relations, most of the measures taken by Kazakhstan were hasty and inappropriate, and as a result did not promote the overall development of productive forces, the national economic and social development declined, and the country's overall economic situation and the social situation is very serious. In order to promote the economic turnaround, the Kazakh government at that time adopted a series of active policies, including the implementation of multilateral foreign policy. During this period, China was carrying out all-round reform and opening up, and the rapidly developing Chinese industry complemented Kazakhstan's industrial decline at that time. As China continues to deepen its strategic goals, the level of economic growth has increased rapidly, and the level of capital and technology it has become stronger. Kazakhstan has strengthened its cooperative relationship with China. On the one hand, by introducing Chinese enterprises to invest in energy development and infrastructure construction, it has promoted Kazakhstan's energy exports, brought economic benefits and improving Kazakhstan's infrastructure. condition. On the other hand, Kazakhstan introduced advanced mining technology and production equipment from China to develop and expand its own national industry. The establishment of good cooperative relations between Kazakhstan and China has greatly promoted the economic development of Kazakhstan.

Characteristics of the relations between Kazakhstan and China: Both China and Kazakhstan are able to objectively treat the gap in comprehensive national strength between the two sides, and maintain full equality and respect in their relations. The rapid development of Kazakhstan-China relations is due to a certain extent that there are no historical problems between the two countries. Without the interference of historical problems, Kazakhstan and China will not affect the development of relations between the two countries. Relations with neighboring countries are precious and rare.

# 2.1.3. The situation of Kazakhstan's diplomacy with China

China is Kazakhstan's second largest neighbor. After Kazakhstan's independence, China took the initiative to strive to establish a friendly partnership. The geographical advantages of the two countries as neighbors provide favorable factors for the formulation of Kazakhstan's foreign policy toward China. The two countries have always maintained friendly relations. Together, they have actively deepened diplomatic relations with neighboring countries, and strengthened diplomatic relations through a series of diplomatic activities and forms, such as mutual trust in politics, mutual integration in economy, and mutual dialogue in security[[61]](#footnote-61).

Form of diplomatic relations between China and Kazakhstan:

High-level political diplomacy, Kazakhstan and China are friendly neighbors and comprehensive strategic partners. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China-Kazakhstan relations have developed smoothly, with close high-level exchanges and deepening political mutual trust.

With the increasing demands of Kazakhstan's economic development and development strategy and its own geopolitical security considerations in the new era, the relationship between Kazakhstan and China has continued to deepen and move forward.

In terms of cultural diplomacy, in the early days of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the cultural diplomacy between Kazakhstan and China was very close. The two sides sent government cultural delegations to visit each other and discussed the cultural exchanges between the two countries and the exchange of scholars. In June 1996, the "Kazakhstan and China Education Cooperation Agreement" was signed, which provided a guarantee for the further development of Kazakhstan and China's talent exchange and education cooperation.[[62]](#footnote-62) The close political and economic relations between the two countries have also stimulated the cultural and cultural interaction between Kazakhstan and China. After the establishment of the Confucius Institute in Kazakhstan, learning Chinese has become a fashion in Kazakhstan, forming a "Chinese craze". In recent years, China's economy has become the second largest in the world. Scholars in Kazakhstan have begun to pay attention to the learning of Chinese, and they have come to China. The number of international students studying abroad has also gradually increased, and China has become the second largest study destination in Kazakhstan.

In terms of economic diplomacy, with the deepening of the cooperation between Kazakhstan and China, Kazakhstan has paid more attention to China's diplomacy, and China has also realized the importance of Kazakhstan to China's economic development. In 1997, the Kazakh government and the Chinese government signed the "Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Oil and Gas", and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan signed a general agreement on oilfield development and pipeline construction projects with China National Petroleum Corporation[[63]](#footnote-63). In May 2001, Kazakhstan and China Science and Technology Cooperation Committee held the first conference in Almaty The meeting approved 19 cooperation projects. In June 2001, the Privatization Agency of the Ministry of Finance of Kazakhstan and China National Petroleum Corporation signed a contract for "China to purchase 60% of the shares of Kazakhstan Aktobinsk Oil and Gas Company". In May 2004, the Kazakhstan-China Cooperation Committee was formally established, with 10 sub-committees covering science and technology, culture, transportation, customs, ports, and economics and trade. In September 2004, the Atasu-China Alashankou crude oil pipeline officially started construction.

In July 2005, Kazakhstan and China signed 8 cooperation documents including the "Joint Statement on Establishing and Developing Strategic Partnership between China and Kazakhstan" and "Agreement on Cooperation between China and Kazakhstan in the Field of Geology and Mineral Utilization". Breakthroughs have been made in the economic and diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and China. The cooperation between the two parties in the energy field (pipeline construction, energy development) has also been further deepened. In 2013, Kazakhstan and China officially opened a green channel for agricultural products, which provided a guarantee for the rapid customs clearance of agricultural product trade between the two countries. Kazakhstan’s absorption of China’s investment and cooperation projects has continued to deepen and diversify (including mineral resources development, oil and gas pipeline construction, hydropower station construction, electrolytic aluminum plant construction, international border cooperation center construction, transportation facility construction, financial industry investment, real estate projects, etc. ), the railways of the two countries have also achieved docking, expanding the transit transportation capacity. Cooperation in these areas has driven the stability and expansion of economic and diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and China.

The exchanges and cooperation between Kazakhstan and China in the field of science, education and culture have become more frequent on the premise of the escalating mutually beneficial partnership. In terms of cultural diplomacy, in the early days of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the cultural diplomacy between Kazakhstan and China was very close. The two sides sent government cultural delegations to visit each other and discussed the cultural exchanges between the two countries and the exchange of scholars. In June 1996, the "Kazakhstan and China Education Cooperation Agreement" was signed, which provided a guarantee for the further development of Kazakhstan and China's talent exchange and education cooperation. The close political and economic relations between the two countries have also stimulated the cultural and cultural interaction between Kazakhstan and China. After the establishment of the Confucius Institute in Kazakhstan, learning Chinese has become a fashion in Kazakhstan, forming a "Chinese craze". In recent years, China's economy has become the second largest in the world. Scholars in Kazakhstan have begun to pay attention to the learning of Chinese, and they have come to China. The number of international students studying abroad has also gradually increased, and China has become the second largest study destination in Kazakhstan. The exchanges and cooperation between Kazakhstan and China in the field of science, education and culture have become more frequent on the premise of the escalating mutually beneficial partnership.

Since the occurrence of the energy crisis in the 20th century, energy diplomacy has become the focus of the diplomatic work of the world's economic powers. Through energy diplomacy, obtaining economic benefits in the allocation of global energy resources to ensure the economic development of one's own country is the core content of energy diplomacy between countries. Kazakhstan is rich in energy resources and borders on China's territory. However, after China's rapid economic development after the reform and opening up, China's domestic energy supply has been unable to meet the demand. It has become an important task to seek foreign energy supply. Kazakhstan is one of the best choices for China to seek energy supply.

Energy diplomacy includes two aspects: 1. Diplomatic actions taken to safeguard the country's economic interests in the energy field, 2. Energy factors are often used to achieve a specific political purpose. Therefore, "the specific actions in energy diplomacy can be divided into the behavior of economic motivation and the behavior of political motivation"[[64]](#footnote-64).

After the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and China, the cooperation between the two countries in the field of energy has become an important part of Kazakhstan's economic relations. In 1997, Kazakhstan and China officially launched cooperation in the field of energy[[65]](#footnote-65). In the process of energy cooperation between the two countries, the interests of the two countries have been fully considered, and the relevant energy diplomacy principles of the two countries have been followed, and the energy diplomacy policies of the two countries have been steadily promoted. results.

There are various ways in which Kazakhstan develops energy diplomacy with China. There are political and economic promotions; there are government-level participation, as well as the participation of individuals and enterprises.

In 1997, China National Petroleum Corporation acquired 85.3% of the shares of Aktobinsk Oilfield twice, and obtained two large oilfields in Zanaul and Kenkiyak in Kazakhstan, as well as oil and gas exploration rights in Kazakhstan and China. And the successful implementation of oil and gas pipeline projects.

As a major country in Central Asia, Kazakhstan is a country with relatively large energy reserves. The United States, Russia, Japan, and the European Union continue to implement their own Central Asian energy policies, strengthen energy diplomacy in Kazakhstan, and strengthen Kazakhstan’s influence on Kazakhstan. In order to diversify energy exports among countries and implement average foreign energy diplomacy, a game between major powers has been formed. It poses a challenge to energy cooperation between China and Kazakhstan.

Under the situation of global energy structure change, both China and Kazakhstan are vigorously promoting the development of their own new energy industries, and are actively seeking international cooperation in the field of new energy. In recent years, with the strong support of the government policies of the two countries, the new energy industry in various countries has made certain progress, and the investment in the new energy field of the two countries is also increasing. In 2013, China proposed the "One Belt, One Road" initiative, which created an opportunity for cooperation between China and Kazakhstan in the field of new energy[[66]](#footnote-66). In 2016, the leaders of China and Kazakhstan witnessed the successful connection between the construction of China's "Belt and Road" and Kazakhstan's "Bright Road" policy. Cooperation in the field of new energy has become a new bright spot in the trade between the two countries. The urgent need for energy transition between China and Kazakhstan and the natural complementarity between China's technological advantages and Kazakhstan's new energy reserve advantages provide convenient conditions for new energy cooperation between the two countries. China-Kazakhstan new energy cooperation is an important decision for the two countries to deal with environmental degradation, and the two countries must solve many challenges in cooperation while carrying out cooperation.

The energy diplomacy between Kazakhstan and China has broad prospects for development. The energy development of the two countries is highly complementary and has great aspirations for energy cooperation. They are each other's important partners, and energy cooperation will continue to develop.

With the emergence of countries and the continuous expansion of exchanges between countries, foreign policy occupies an increasingly important position in national development strategies. A country's foreign strategic policy must be based on its own country's geopolitical situation and guided by international political thinking that conforms to its own national interests.

In the past 30 years, Kazakhstan and China have gradually elevated the diplomatic relations between the two countries to a new level of "mutually beneficial partnership" and achieved leapfrog development. The development of diplomatic relations between the two countries is characterized by a broad and balanced development, with constructive dialogue in the political sphere and close cooperation in the economic sphere. The governments and people of the two countries support each other, the bilateral cooperation is dynamic and to a certain extent transcends the framework of bilateral relations, and Kazakhstan and China are shaping a new geo-economic system in Eurasia.

# 2.2 The strategic development of the mutually beneficial partnership between Kazakhstan and China

With the development of economic globalization, political multi-polarization, social informatization, and cultural diversification, human civilization has also entered a stage of multi-level, diversified, multi-issue collision, competition and cooperation. It cannot solve the dynamic, open, complex and systematic development problems facing the world. In the process of the accelerated development of pluralism and globalization, the destiny of mankind is more and more closely linked, and the pursuit of cooperation will be less dependent on the will of human beings. In a broader sense, how people, countries, and nations move towards harmony and symbiosis and a shared destiny not only abandons the older world order and builds a new world order, but also the process of human beings A major practice of cooperative civilization. Understanding cooperation from a global perspective and mind has become an urgent need for theory and practice, and cooperation should become the big theory in today's world. Although what people see is various realities of world unstable and conflicts between great powers, human beings are intelligent creatures looking forward after all, and they need extraordinary courage and sufficient wisdom to get out of the predicament of conflicts. Conflict and cooperation are a unity that can be transformed into each other. As long as there is a framework for resolving conflicts, there will be a basis for cooperation. Practice constitutes the fundamental logic of the forward development of human society. How to go to the future in the form of great cooperation is a common issue facing the contemporary world.

# 2.2.1. Background for the development of the mutually beneficial partnership between Kazakhstan and China

In September and October 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping successively proposed the initiative to jointly build the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and "21st Century Maritime Silk Road"[[67]](#footnote-67) with countries along the route. While realizing China's own development, it will also drive the economic and social development of the countries along the route[[68]](#footnote-68). Kazakhstan has been a country along the ancient Silk Road since ancient times. China and Kazakhstan have had diplomatic relations for 30 years. During this period, the two sides have continuously deepened political trust, supported each other on issues of concern and the most core interests of the two countries, and focused on Promote economic development and cooperation between China and Kazakhstan. For relatively large-scale international affairs, China and Kazakhstan have maintained close communication and cooperation. In recent years, the cooperation between China and Kazakhstan in the "Belt and Road" has become increasingly close, and the bilateral trade, investment and mutual development have been further promoted. The further cooperation between China and Kazakhstan depends on the support of reasonable strategies, and scientific, reasonable and practical strategies will help promote the quality and upgrade of the cooperation between China and Kazakhstan in the "Belt and Road".

In Russia's eyes, Kazakhstan is the outpost of Russia's expansion to the east and south of Asia, and it is also a soft underbelly for other powers to touch Russia; in China's eyes, Kazakhstan is the back door for European powers to enter China. Therefore, Kazakhstan has important geopolitical strategic value, which cannot be underestimated in the international strategic landscape. The geopolitical significance has a global nature.

With its special geographical location and unique history and culture, Kazakhstan can become a hot spot for major strategic forces, not only because of its unique natural and geographical environment, but also because of its rich energy resources. Not only the reserves of non-ferrous and rare metals in Kazakhstan occupy an important position in the world, but also the reserves of oil and natural gas show that Kazakhstan is a promising energy producing area and a strategic region of important economic value in the world.

Energy resources are not only pure material resources, but also a kind of political resources. The historical facts of the international political struggle around energy have proved that energy resources can affect international political dynamics. with the lifeline of the world economy, it can take the initiative in the global strategic pattern and increase its competitiveness in the new pattern in the future. The huge potential of Kazakhstan's strategic resources (oil, natural gas, etc.) will certainly be the focus of the global competition around various strategic resources. Various major powers compete for resources in Kazakhstan, which increases Kazakhstan's leverage in world national politics and improves its strategic position[[69]](#footnote-69).

In this environment, changes in political policy due to China's economic growth may lead to the emergence of regional military competitions. Fortunately, China continues to communicate its intentions of peaceful development and has been focusing its main energy on economic construction. Because too many military adventures will lead to economic and social collapse.

In the near term, it will be difficult for China to navigate the security landscape across Asia.

U.S. outposts in Asia could become a threat to China if Beijing tries to project its armed forces beyond its borders. However, China has no such plans.

There is, however, a delicate balance between China, the United States and other Asian countries. An imbalance on either side could cast a shadow over the balance of the entire region. In this context, a prosperous China may be the best prospect. But this is a rather volatile situation, and China's continued growth has added to this concern. Therefore, China must participate more actively in regional strategic security and build a new political culture and new regional relations in Asia.

Many countries in Asia have historically been China's vassals, and it was only because of China's decline over the past few centuries that these countries finally shed China's powerful influence. Now, these countries fear that they may once again become affiliates of China.

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Even in the face of the current global economic recession, China's sustained and rapid economic growth has made China the second largest economy in the world, and China has played a great role in international organizations.

Socialism with Chinese characteristics breaks through the shackles of the traditional planned economy. Instead of copying the model of Western capitalism, it combines the basic system of socialism with the operation mode of the market economy. With the support of a strong state-owned economy, the government Effective regulation and supervision of the market has given China the ability to avoid and respond to crises. This "China model" provides an alternative solution for developing countries to modernize in the context of globalization[[70]](#footnote-70).

# 2.2.2 The strategic alignment of the new "Bright Road" plan and the "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative promotes the development of mutually beneficial cooperative relations between Kazakhstan and China

Through the analysis of the background and content of the new "Bright Road" plan and the "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative, we can see that the two policies are deeply compatible. Although they belong to two systems, there are static similarities and dynamic ones. complementarity. This fit allows the two systems to be connected, guided, and strengthened, promotes the mutual influence of the two policies, stimulates the inherent potential, and achieves complementary advantages and common improvement.

Favorable conditions for the connection between the new "Bright Road" plan and the Silk Road Economic Belt:

Profound historical origins and unique geographical advantages, the ancient Silk Road in history has promoted the exchanges of culture and technology and the prosperity of commodity trade between Asian countries and European countries in the long years. The best historical witness of friendship. Since the 1990s, the two countries have had close relations and hope to establish a more in-depth cooperative relationship with each other. Politically and geographically, in the "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative, central Asia is an important area connecting China and Europe. The smooth progress of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" is very important for Central Asia, and Kazakhstan is the center. The region has great influence. The geographical advantages of the two policies are obviously complementary, and there is also a large space for cooperation.

Kazakhstan and China have strong complementary needs at the political level and the stable political situation in Kazakhstan is conducive to the sustainable development of political relations between the two countries: Kazakhstan maintains a stable national domestic and foreign policy continuity, and the national development strategy plan is implemented, the basic environment for national economic development is good. The good relations between the two governments have provided government guarantees for policy docking and cooperation. China's cooperation with Kazakhstan in energy and infrastructure construction is conducive to Kazakhstan's economic development and political independence and improvement. China's initiative to jointly build the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and Kazakhstan's development and diplomatic concepts Highly matched.

The system of mutual trust and cooperation between Kazakhstan and China has been gradually improved: the two countries have reached consensus on cooperation in many fields and signed relevant documents. Maintain close ties across multiple organizations and agencies. Kazakhstan is the birthplace of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative, the first stop of China's westward extension, and the first country to support the "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative. The alignment of the new "Bright Road" plan and the "Silk Road Economic Belt" policy strategy has laid an important foundation for promoting the sustainable economic development of Kazakhstan and China and maintaining peace and stability in Central Asia and Eurasia.

The convergence of the new "Bright Road" plan and the "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative:

The two countries share the same ideas in the direction of economic development. Kazakhstan's new "Bright Road" plan aims to improve the economy in a comprehensive and pragmatic way to change the old way of thinking about economic development, and gradually integrate it into the process of globalization and regional integration. It focuses on three aspects of reform, growth and development. The new privatization reforms, which mainly involve economic transformation and upgrading of enterprise management as the core content, include (tax incentives, expansion and investment attraction, industrial modernization, etc.). China's strengthening international production capacity cooperation and promoting the development of China's industry is the wish to be realized by the "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative. It should not only reflect the cooperation spirit of interconnection, mutual respect and mutual trust, but also spread the concept of equality and mutual benefit to the world. Open and win-win cooperation goals, and propose a point-to-face cooperation path. Moreover, it is necessary to deepen China's structural reform, promote the coordinated development of regional economy, and optimize the industrial structure.

Kazakhstan and China are consistent in the concept of green development. The new "Bright Road" plan policy puts forward the goal of realizing green economic ecology and stable development. Vigorously developing green economy is the focus of Kazakhstan's economic development. In the "2050 Strategy" in particular, the green economy development process is emphasized[[71]](#footnote-71). In the "Vision and Actions to Promote the Joint Construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road", China clearly stated that China should strengthen exchanges and cooperation with other countries in the world in terms of ecological environment, biodiversity and climate change response, etc[[72]](#footnote-72). Focus on the concept of ecological civilization in investment and trade, and jointly build a green Silk Road. The "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative takes ecological, environmental protection, desertification prevention and clean energy as cooperation, promotes the development of green economy, and participates in the development and construction of the Green Silk Road with Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan and China have highly consistent views on the construction of transportation and logistics infrastructure. The construction of transportation and logistics infrastructure is one of the core contents of the new "Bright Road" plan. The backward development of infrastructure construction restricts the economic development of Kazakhstan. Accelerating the construction of infrastructure is the focus of Kazakhstan's national development plan. In China's "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative, it is proposed to use infrastructure construction as a link to promote the free circulation of transportation, logistics, and information between China and countries and regions along the route. Kazakhstan is also a key region driving these connections.

Kazakhstan and China place the same emphasis on energy issues and have very similar development goals. In Kazakhstan's energy and economic development strategy, it does not rely on the export of natural resources, explores the economic model of energy export, puts forward the short-term and long-term goals of energy economic development, gives full play to the advantages and characteristics of Kazakhstan's rich resources and mineral reserves, and provides countries around the world. output energy. China regards energy cooperation as a strong driver of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative, actively innovates energy cooperation models, improves energy security, optimizes resource allocation capabilities, and vigorously promotes energy cooperation with countries along the "Silk Road Economic Belt".

The proposal of Kazakhstan's new "Bright Road" plan has reached a certain strategic connection with the concept of China's "Silk Road Economic Belt", which can form an effective complementarity to a certain extent. Kazakhstan's "Bright Road" is an important supplement to China's "Silk Road Economic Belt" concept and plan. In the integration of the "Bright Road" and the "Silk Road Economic Belt", the "Silk Road Economic Belt" provides investment and consumption for the "Bright Road" and increases entrepreneurship and employment opportunities. The "Bright Road" can provide a market and space for the "Silk Road Economic Belt", help Kazakhstan and China to achieve economic leapfrogging, and promote the development of mutually beneficial cooperative relations between the two countries. At the same time, under the leadership of this cooperation, different countries along the route between Kazakhstan and China can seek mutual assistance and cooperation, expand partnership economic clusters, establish interconnected cyberspace, create regional industrial advantages, and achieve economic integration.

Kazakhstan's new "Bright Road" plan and China's "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative share common interests and goals, complement each other and complement each other[[73]](#footnote-73). The European economic circle is effectively combined to form a cooperation area connecting the Asian continent and the European continent, which has a huge economic and geopolitical impact on Europe and Asia, and has injected a powerful force to promote the development of the world economy.

The relations between Kazakhstan and China have developed in an all-round way, political mutual trust has been strengthened day by day, and cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, energy, transportation and security has achieved remarkable results, and the two sides have always supported each other on major issues involving national and territorial integrity. China and Kazakhstan are good neighbors, good friends and good partners. The strategic development of the mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries conforms to the common aspirations and fundamental interests of the two peoples, and is of great practical significance for maintaining peace in Asia and the world at large[[74]](#footnote-74).

# 2.2.3 Background, content, implementation and development of the new Kazakh “Bright Road” plan

With the continuous decline of global oil prices, the Russian economy has continued to develop at a low level, and Kazakhstan's economy has also begun to decline. The low economic development has had a negative impact on the stable development of the entire society of Kazakhstan. Therefore, in this environment and background, in November 2014, the President of Kazakhstan proposed the "Bright Road - The Road to the Future[[75]](#footnote-75)" plan, in order to further promote Kazakhstan's economic growth, increase national income, improve Kazakhstan's energy export capacity creates conditions and provides policy help and support.

The content of the "Bright Road" plan President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev announced the implementation of a large-scale investment plan to promote Kazakhstan's economic growth in his State of the Union address in November 2014. This plan is "Bright Road". the road". "Bright Road" plans to allocate $9 billion over three years to the construction of transportation and logistics industry, industrial and energy infrastructure, improvement of public facilities and water and heat supply networks, housing and social infrastructure, and support for small and medium-sized enterprises. The money comes from a state fund (the fund was set up to accumulate energy revenue to ease the economic crisis). At the heart of this proposal is a massive investment in transport and logistics infrastructure projects, with the aim of building a transport network radiating across the country's regional centres centered on the capital, Astana (now renamed Nur-Sultan). These transport projects provide a new impetus for the development of the domestic transport network in Kazakhstan, which in turn will boost the economic and social development of small towns and villages. Many constructions and SMEs are also involved in these projects, creating a "multiple effect".

The "Bright Road" essentially emphasizes the vital role of infrastructure such as transportation and logistics in a country's economic development. In this plan, Kazakhstan has increased investment in basic logistics and other public facilities, and further improved the domestic transportation network in Kazakhstan, so that these transportation networks can be effectively connected with the transportation systems of China and European countries, and further improve the domestic transportation network. Create conditions for Kazakhstan's energy exports. With the increase in freight volume and the improvement of the logistics system, Kazakhstan will gain more economic benefits from the transit of goods. Kazakhstan hopes that through the "Bright Road" plan, the cargo transportation volume of the countries along the route will be greatly improved[[76]](#footnote-76).

In the "Bright Road", Kazakhstan has planned and designed three lines for transporting goods on the southern route. "Bright Road" Northern Line: Western Europe-Western China International Highway, which starts from St. Petersburg, Russia, passes through Kazakhstan before entering China, and is 8,445 kilometers long. The length in Kazakhstan is 2,787 kilometers[[77]](#footnote-77). The construction of this road can greatly improve Kazakhstan's economic and trade structure and bring more economic benefits; "Bright Road" Middle Line: China-Kazakhstan-Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey Railway, which It is a grand railway target, which will pass through the land port of Horgos to the coastal port of Aktau. Aktau is the only port in Kazakhstan in the Caspian Sea. Through the transformation and optimization of the port, the cargo transportation volume will be further increased. It has great utilization value in the construction of the middle line of the "Bright Road", and is the main transportation hub in Kazakhstan in the process of highway construction and planning and design. Khorgos Port is the dividing line between Kazakhstan and China. It plays a great role in the development of bilateral trade between the two countries. The construction of Khorgos port infrastructure is also in Kazakhstan's "bright geopolitical significance". in the planning system with a global path”. The planning and design of the southern route of the "Bright Road" is: Western Europe-Western China International Highway-Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Persian Gulf railway sections, Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway has been completed in December 2014 Opened on March 3, the new railway line provides access to China and the Asia-Pacific region via Kazakhstan for Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan and Iran.

The "Bright Road" and the "Kazakhstan-2050"[[78]](#footnote-78) strategy, the second and second five-year plans of the "National Program for Accelerating Industrial Innovation and Development" (SP A I I D) complement each other. The "Kazakhstan-2050" strategy proposes extensive political, economic and social reforms, with the main aim of making Kazakhstan one of the top 30 developed countries in the world by 2050. The "National Program for Accelerating Industrial Innovation and Development" focuses on the comprehensive industrialization of Kazakhstan. The implementation of these two plans requires the support of strong national infrastructure. The proposal and implementation of the "Bright Road" plan is just in line with these two plans to achieve national industrialization and industrial development through infrastructure construction. Although the "Bright Road" plan is not aimed at realizing these two plans, the results of the implementation of the "Bright Road" plan can greatly promote the rapid implementation of these two plans, and contribute to Kazakhstan's economic development, social harmony injects a powerful force.

"Bright Road" plans to be one of the main drivers of the national economy. With the advent of modern and high-quality highways, new jobs have been created, transit traffic has been increased, and social infrastructure has been improved. The Bright Way program had a major impact on the country's GDP growth. According to the Ministry of National Economy, economic growth remained at 16 percent during the implementation of the national plan.

About 3,000 kilometers of national key roads newly built and rebuilt[[79]](#footnote-79).

A total of about 11,000 kilometers of Republican roads and 13,000 kilometers of local roads were rehabilitated.[[80]](#footnote-80)

Following the completion of the program, the percentage of Republic roads in good and satisfactory condition has increased to 88% and the percentage of local roads to 71%[[81]](#footnote-81).

In the maritime sector, within the framework of the national "Nurly Zhol" plan for 2015-2019, the Port of Aktau has built three new dry cargo terminals with a capacity of 3 million tons[[82]](#footnote-82).

In 2019, about 6 million tons of cargo were transshipped through Aktau and Kurek seaports, of which: 2.2 million tons of oil, 2.5 million tons of dry cargo and 1.4 million tons of ferry cargo[[83]](#footnote-83).

Within the framework of the "Bright Road" program, important projects have been implemented - the ICBC "Khorgos" and "Khorgos-Dongdaemun" special economic zones, which can contribute to Kazakhstan's transport and logistics potential and economic make a significant contribution to development.

The technical linkage between the dry port and the two railway ports on the Chinese border and the "Western Europe-Western China" expressway forms a strong transport and logistics hub, ensuring efficient distribution of cargo transportation from China to Europe, as well as Central Asian countries, Turkey and Persia Gulf countries.

Implementation of other aspects of the "Bright Road" program: 108 new secondary schools and 19 kindergartens were built in Kazakhstan in 2015-2017;

From 2015 to 2019, within the framework of the new "Bright Road" plan, 392,900 jobs are planned, with 559,300 new jobs, including 93,900 permanent jobs and 465,400 temporary jobs.

For the first time, a highway toll system was introduced to ensure the comfort and safety of people's travel; the focus was on optimizing the construction of new railway infrastructure; the infrastructure of Kazakhstan's airports was modernized and upgraded;

Improve the quality of housing and public service infrastructure and utility services such as heat, water, and sanitation systems.

Kassim-Jomart Tokayev, President of Kazakhstan, in his speech to the people of the Republic of Kazakhstan "Basics of Stability and Prosperity in Kazakhstan", paid special attention to the new "Bright Road" plan, stating: The comprehensive and high-quality implementation of the new "Road" plan should be completed with quality and quantity under the supervision and management of the administrative department.

# 2.2.4 Background, content and development of China’s “Silk Road Economic Belt” initiative

The Silk Road is an ancient land commercial trade route that started in ancient China and connected Asia, Africa and Europe. Its original function was to transport silk, porcelain and other commodities produced in ancient China, culture and many other aspects of the main way to communicate.

The Silk Road is mainly divided into the land Silk Road and the Maritime Silk Road in terms of transportation mode.

The overland Silk Road is considered to be the intersection of ancient Eastern and Western civilizations connecting the Eurasian continent, and silk is the most representative cargo.

The Maritime Silk Road refers to the maritime channel for economic and cultural exchanges between ancient China and the rest of the world. It was first opened in the Qin and Han dynasties.

With the development of the times, the Silk Road has become a collective name for all political, economic and cultural exchanges between ancient China and the West.

In addition to the "Land Silk Road" and "Maritime Silk Road", there is also the "Grassland Silk Road" which goes north to the Mongolian Plateau and then west to the northern foot of the Tianshan Mountains to enter Central Asia.

Due to the continued impact of the 2008 international financial crisis, China's economic growth slowed down. Overcapacity and excess foreign exchange assets[[84]](#footnote-84). The energy security situation is severe and the regional development is unbalanced.

In September 2013, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Kazakhstan and proposed to jointly build the "Silk Road Economic Belt"[[85]](#footnote-85).

Chinese President Xi Jinping pointed out: With the rapid development of modern society and the acceleration of globalization, China should rejoin the new Silk Road economy and trade, and start effective economic cooperation with countries along the route. Vigorously develop the huge potential of the countries along the route, form a new economic development path and region, and play a role in the global economic development process[[86]](#footnote-86).

In order to promote economic and cultural exchanges between Asian countries and European countries, achieve effective cooperation and promote the development of global integration, and provide a broader space for the development of countries along the route, it is proposed to jointly build the "Silk Road Economic Belt". This is an economic belt that benefits the countries along the route, and is also an important channel for the rapid economic development and social harmony and stability of the relevant countries, which will have a great impact on the historical development process. With the development of modern economy and society and the acceleration of the global integration process, the "Silk Road Economic Belt" can further ensure the effective circulation of commodities, services, and capital and other elements around the world, and inject a powerful force into the healthy development of the world economy's motivation. Therefore, the proposal of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" has attracted worldwide attention.

The main content of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative is to be gradually launched through the following steps: strengthen policy communication with countries along the route, strengthen road connectivity, strengthen trade flow, strengthen currency circulation, strengthen people-to-people bonds, and strengthen people's friendly exchanges and social exchanges. Among them, road connectivity is the foundation, and unimpeded trade is the essential content.[[87]](#footnote-87)

Specific measures include: opening up major channels for transportation and logistics; realizing trade and investment facilitation, breaking the bottleneck of regional economic development; promoting cooperation in the financial field; establishing energy clubs; establishing a food cooperation mechanism.[[88]](#footnote-88)

Through construction strategies, policy measures and supporting systems, the Chinese government takes the opportunity of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" to comprehensively discover potential complementary and mutually beneficial opportunities with the vast number of emerging market countries, and strengthen economic and trade infrastructure with these countries. partnership.

However, for a large-scale project like the "Silk Road Economic Belt", no country can conceive a perfect plan, and no country can implement the plan completely according to the plan. It is a process of doing and learning at the same time.

The implementation and development of China's "Silk Road Economic Belt":

In terms of energy cooperation, energy cooperation is the highlight of cooperation between China and Central Asian countries. Large-scale energy cooperation projects such as the China-Kazakhstan crude oil pipeline and the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline have been completed and put into operation one after another, bringing fresh blood to regional economic development. Since its official opening in 2006, the 3200-kilometer China-Kazakhstan oil pipeline has become an energy artery connecting China with the Caspian Sea. Kazakhstan has delivered more than 50 million tons of crude oil to China. The China-Central Asia Natural Gas Pipeline has an annual designed gas transmission capacity of 30 billion to 40 billion cubic meters. From the end of 2009 to 2013, it has transported more than 60 billion cubic meters of natural gas to China, which is equivalent to half of China's total natural gas production in 2010[[89]](#footnote-89).

In terms of economy and trade, China has become the most important trading partner of Central Asian countries and the second largest trading partner of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan respectively. China's direct investment in Central Asian countries has grown rapidly and has become the largest source of investment in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and the second largest source of investment in Tajikistan.

In terms of connectivity, speeding up the construction of connectivity is the consensus of the countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt. China actively promotes the establishment of interconnection networks of railways, highways, aviation, telecommunications, power grids, and energy pipelines with Central Asian countries, and develops cooperation with Central Asian countries in the flow of capital, logistics, people and information, and activates new economies, growth point.

With the support of preferential loans and assistance from the Chinese government, Chinese companies have undertaken infrastructure construction projects in Central Asia, including roads, telecommunications, and electricity. With the continuous improvement of the infrastructure in the region, the energy, transportation, telecommunications and other networks connecting the region have begun to take shape. In 2012, the Chinese government promised to provide a loan of US$10 billion to Central Asia[[90]](#footnote-90), mainly for the construction of railways, highways, optical cables, oil and gas pipelines and other infrastructure in Central Asia. The injection of Chinese capital has accelerated the pace of economic construction in Central Asian countries.

In terms of regional cooperation, promoting logistics, trade and investment facilitation to reduce intra-regional trade and investment costs is a global trend and the key to developing regional economic cooperation. To promote trade and investment facilitation, it is very important to enhance cooperation in functional areas such as customs, transportation, entry-exit inspection and quarantine, finance, and information exchange. It is necessary to strengthen trade policy coordination and communication between relevant government departments and countries. The construction of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" can take comprehensive transportation channels as the development space, relying on the transportation infrastructure and central cities along the route to optimize the allocation of intra-regional trade and production factors, promote regional economic integration, and ultimately realize the regional economy and society. Synchronous development.

In terms of financial cooperation, actively explore cooperation in the field of regional financing. In 2013, the China Development Bank led by the Chinese side has carried out credit and financing quotas of more than 50 billion US dollars[[91]](#footnote-91). China and Russia, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan have successively signed agreements on border trade settlement in local currency, promoting mutual trade cooperation.

The construction of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" has greatly improved the development environment in the western region of China, forming a new frontier of opening up and an economic growth segment. By participating in the construction of the "Silk Road Economic Belt", Central Asian countries will have the opportunity to reintegrate into the mainstream of the world economy and gradually eliminate poverty and backwardness, which in turn will help eradicate the hotbeds of extremist forces, terrorism and transnational criminal activities. The New Silk Road will connect the two most economically active regions of the world more closely, which is not only conducive to promoting trade and economic prosperity, but also conducive to the exchange and integration of Eastern and Western civilizations, and promotes the development of Mutual inclusion of groups.

The concept of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" has historical value, breaking through the traditional mode of regional economic cooperation. It advocates building an open and inclusive system, accepting the active participation of all parties with an open mind, minimizing operational resistance, and expanding support and the full mobilization of resources. These advantages are incomparable to exclusive regional economic cooperation aimed at competing for spheres of influence or trade protection. The concept of the New Silk Road simultaneously promotes the communication and construction of politics, economy, security and even people's hearts, breaking through the traditional mode of spreading from a single field to other fields, making these aspects complement each other and eliminating the interference of various negative factors to the greatest extent. China has played a leading and central role to a large extent. For the construction of the New Silk Road Economic Belt, the conditions for technical preparation, infrastructure construction, capital investment, and international cooperation in politics and security are all ripe. China's proposal of this concept reflects the self-confidence of a major country's diplomacy. This confidence stems from the judgment of the international situation, from the cognition of its own strength and strategic goals, and from the courage and ability to manage various complex situations. China not only has strong economic strength to support the implementation of this plan, but also can obtain direct and indirect returns from it.

# Chapter 3. The main directions of economic cooperation between China and Kazakhstan

During the period from 2010 to 2020, the relationship between China and Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries has experienced the test of the changing international situation. Under the leadership of the strategic policies formulated by each country, the relationship between the countries has developed in a more stable, mature and firm direction. Politically, they support each other's core interests, carry out fruitful cooperation within the multilateral framework, and make important contributions to promoting regional and even world peace and stability. In terms of economy and trade, the trade volume between China and Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries has increased year by year, and investment and production capacity cooperation projects have spread all over the country, benefiting the people of all countries. In the field of humanities, there are many cooperation projects in culture, education, sports, science and technology, etc., which shorten the distance between countries.

# 3.1. Deeper development of China-Kazakhstan cooperation

During the period 2010-2020, the cooperation and development between China and Kazakhstan was carried out within the framework of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" policy and the "Bright Road" national plan, and the cooperation agreement between the two countries was actively implemented in this framework. Cooperation in all aspects has been fully extended and expanded, and the main investment and cooperation have changed in diversity. The economic development of China and Kazakhstan is part of the world economic development, and has profoundly changed the economic and social development of Kazakhstan. Relations between China and Kazakhstan reached a whole new level during this period.

# 3.1.1 Cooperation and development of economic and trade relations between Kazakhstan and China in 2010-2020

During the period from 2010 to 2020, the economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China has formed a certain scale. The import and export trade forms have been good, the economic and trade cooperation has been gradually strengthened, the total amount of trade cooperation has continued to expand, and the fields of cooperation have begun to be multi-level and diversified. China has become Kazakhstan's second largest exporter and largest importer. In 2010, the total bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and China was 14.09 billion US dollars, an increase of 18.9% over 2009. In 2011, the total bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and China was 20.87 billion US dollars, an increase of 48.2% over 2010. In 2012, the total bilateral trade volume was 23.98 billion US dollars, an increase of 14.9% over 2011. In 2013, the total bilateral trade was US$22.36 billion, down 6.8% from 2012. In 2014, (Kazakhstan's unstable domestic and international development environment, the decline in GDP growth rate, the rebound in inflation, the sharp increase in foreign trade compression, Kazakhstan entered a period of low growth, which affected the trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China) The total bilateral trade volume was 17.25 billion, down 22.8% from 2013. In 2015, the total bilateral trade volume was 105,7 billion down 38.4% from 2014. The total bilateral trade in 2016 was US$7.88 billion, down 25.4% from 2015. In 2017 (as the world economy began to recover slowly, and international commodities achieved recovery after three consecutive years of decline), the total bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and China was 10.47 billion US dollars, an increase of 32.9% over 2016. The total bilateral trade in 2018 was US$11.66 billion, an increase of 11.3% over 2017. The total bilateral trade in 2019 was US$14.35 billion, an increase of 23.1% over 2018. The total bilateral trade in 2020 was US$15.4 billion, an increase of 4% over 2019[[92]](#footnote-92).

Рисунок 3.1 - China-Kazakhstan bilateral trade volume and proportion (unit: billion US dollars) 2010-2020

From 2010 to 2020, the overall bilateral trade volume between China and Kazakhstan showed a downward trend. This is mainly due to the relatively simple structure of Kazakhstan's exports to China. The main products exported are minerals, base metals and products, which are affected by the decline in international raw material prices. As a result, the bilateral trade volume between China and Kazakhstan has also dropped significantly. However, from 2017, the downward trend of bilateral trade volume between Kazakhstan and China began to reverse, and the growth trend continued in 2018.

From 2010 to 2020, Kazakhstan has maintained a trade surplus with China, and the trade surplus has been shrinking. One of the main reasons is that Kazakhstan has reduced its oil exports to China in order to reduce its dependence on oil and other raw materials for economic development.

China is Kazakhstan's second largest export market and largest source of imports. The main products exported from Kazakhstan to China are minerals. The main commodities that Kazakhstan imports from China are mechanical and electrical products.

In general, in the Kazakhstan market, China's labor-intensive products have a greater advantage, such as shoes, boots, umbrellas, luggage, plastic rubber, ceramic glass, furniture and toys and other light industrial products. Paper products and other products also have certain advantages[[93]](#footnote-93).

China and Kazakhstan have multiple complementary relationships: Kazakhstan is an important passage on the Silk Road, while Kazakhstan, as a landlocked country, has no access to the sea. China is one of the world's major energy consumers, while Kazakhstan is a country with huge reserves of mineral resources. Kazakhstan has abundant natural resources, while China has the most complete production system in the world. Due to overcapacity, China needs to "go out" and expand foreign investment, while Kazakhstan faces serious development. Economic tasks require the introduction of foreign capital to promote economic development.

It is expected that the bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and China may show the following trends in the future: Kazakhstan's trade surplus with China tends to shrink. The diversification of China-Kazakhstan trade structure is expected to increase.

# 3.1.2 The focus of economic cooperation and development between China and Kazakhstan from 2010 to 2020

Cooperation and development in the field of energy: The average level of energy demand in the world is increasing every year, and China's demand is still higher. It is a country with high energy demand. Energy-rich countries import energy. Interconnection and collaboration in the energy sector has always been the highlight and focus of cooperation between China and Kazakhstan. Large-scale China-Kazakhstan energy cooperation projects such as the China-Kazakhstan crude oil pipeline, which have been built one after another, have been officially put into operation and have begun to achieve results, which has injected new impetus into the economic development of China and Kazakhstan and the economic development of Central Asia. Kazakhstan has reached its plan to transport about 50 million tons of crude oil to China, greatly alleviating China's energy shortage problem[[94]](#footnote-94). Kazakhstan is a place rich in oil and gas resources. Both China and Kazakhstan know that further active cooperation is a key component in the establishment of a comprehensive strategic alliance between China and Kazakhstan, and actively promote the optimization of production capacity.

The energy cooperation between China and Kazakhstan has a solid foundation. A full-industry-chain cooperation model integrating upstream, mid-stream and downstream has been formed, creating favorable conditions for ensuring the energy security of the two countries and meeting market demands.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Kazakhstan, the energy cooperation between the two countries has become increasingly close. Oil and gas cooperation has always been the focus of economic cooperation between the two countries.

After 2010, with Kazakhstan's green economic development strategy, China-Kazakhstan cooperation in renewable energy has accelerated. Through the joint efforts of both parties, cooperation in oil and gas, nuclear energy, electricity, new energy and other fields has become more and more mature. China National Petroleum Corporation is the absolute main force of oil and gas cooperation between the two countries. China National Petroleum Corporation has invested in 7 oil and gas cooperation projects in Kazakhstan, providing more than 30,000 direct jobs in Kazakhstan[[95]](#footnote-95). China National Petroleum Corporation's projects in Kazakhstan provide natural gas to Kazakhstan residents and enterprises at preferential prices, crude oil to Kazakhstan refineries, agricultural oil to Kazakhstan at preferential prices, and through the purchase of goods and services from Kazakhstan, driving the development of local SMEs.

The energy cooperation between China and Kazakhstan is a typical example of mutual benefit and win-win results. Chinese enterprises develop locally in Kazakhstan and prosper together with Kazakhstan. Chinese companies have found investment markets, and some of China's technical standards and rules have been applied and promoted. Kazakhstan has increased employment and tax revenue, sustainable development and utilization of resources, improved corporate performance, more diversified industries, established a skilled industrial worker and technical team, and effectively optimized the infrastructure layout, which has greatly improved the country's level of energy security.

Cooperation and development in the field of transportation: In June 2011, the 6th meeting of Kazakhstan-China transportation cooperation was held in Shanghai, China[[96]](#footnote-96). There is great potential for development, and more cooperation in the field of transportation should be actively promoted and strengthened. During the period from 2010 to 2020, new progress has been made in the cooperation between China and Kazakhstan in the field of transportation. The international road transport cooperation between the two countries has shown a good development trend, and new passenger and freight transport routes have been opened. The friendly civil aviation relations between the two countries have promoted personnel exchanges and economic and trade development.

Although Kazakhstan has abundant natural resources, it also has the disadvantage of poor transportation conditions, which has greatly affected Kazakhstan's sustained domestic economic growth and opening to the outside world. The establishment of a modern transportation system is in line with the common needs of China and Kazakhstan, and will greatly promote the development of both governments and enterprises. The results of the cooperation in the field of transportation between the two countries can reduce the obstacles to the cooperation in the economic and trade field to the lowest level and promote the improvement of the trade potential of the two countries.

Many roads and railways jointly developed and constructed by Kazakhstan and China have eased the problems of transportation and logistics in bilateral trade between the two countries. With the deepening of cooperation between the two countries in the field of transportation, the potentials of roads, railways and civil aviation have also been brought into full play and effectively utilized, realizing the transportation corridor under the common development of the two countries.

Achievements of Kazakhstan-China highway cooperation from 2010 to 2020: more than 60 direct passenger and cargo transportation routes have been opened between Kazakhstan and China, among which the “Western China-Western Europe” (Shuangxi Highway), which was completed at the end of 2016, has a total of It is more than 8,000 kilometers long. It starts from Lianyungang (China), passes through Lanzhou-Urumqi-(Kazakhstan) Almaty, and finally reaches (Russia) St. Petersburg[[97]](#footnote-97), creating a traffic corridor connecting China-Kazakhstan-Russia. It is Kazakhstan A successful example of cooperation with China's road transport. Chinese enterprises have actively participated in highway construction and renovation projects in Kazakhstan by using various financing channels such as Chinese government loans. The total mileage of highway construction and renovation projects undertaken by Chinese enterprises in Kazakhstan exceeds 2,000 kilometers, and the cumulative contract value exceeds 3 billion US dollars[[98]](#footnote-98).

In 2020, the southwest ring road project (34.4 kilometers) of Nur-Sultan City, undertaken by China Construction Corporation, will be fully opened to traffic. At present, the Taldykurgan-Kalbatau-Ust-Kamenogorsk highway project (767 kilometers) and the Karaganda-Balkhash highway project (363 kilometers) undertaken by CITIC Construction; The Karbatau-Mehabqigai Highway Project (415 kilometers) and the Melk-Brebaitar Highway Project (266 kilometers) undertaken by the Construction and Development Corporation; the Balkhash-Braybai Project undertaken by the China Hydropower Sixteenth Bureau Company Tal highway tender project (132 kilometers), Kurt-Breby Tal highway project (81 kilometers); each section of Aktobe-Macat highway tender project (88 kilometers) undertaken by Shanghai Construction Engineering Group The construction of the project is progressing in an orderly manner as planned, and it is expected to be completed and opened to traffic in 2021-2022[[99]](#footnote-99).

Achievements of railway cooperation between Kazakhstan and China from 2010 to 2020: The cooperation between the two countries in the field of railway transportation has not only accelerated significantly, but also deepened the degree of cooperation. In 2011, “ China (Chongqing) -China (Xinjiang)-Europe”[[100]](#footnote-100) train was opened; in 2012, the “China(Wuhan)-China (Xinjiang)-Europe”[[101]](#footnote-101) train was opened; in 2014 “China(Yiwu)-China(Xinjiang)-(China)-Europe”[[102]](#footnote-102) train; in 2015, the “(China)Lianyungang - Kazakhstan (Almaty) -Central Asia”[[103]](#footnote-103) train was opened.

China and Kazakhstan have made full use of their geographical advantages to vigorously develop road and rail transit transportation. The two countries have opened highway ports and cross-border railway lines in normal years. The number of trains and the comprehensive heavy box rate have increased significantly. The two countries are actively developing cross-border transportation channels in the Eurasian continent to ensure the stability and smoothness of the international supply chain under the prominent role.

It is predicted that in the next few years, the freight volume between Kazakhstan and China will continue to grow, which will increase the load on the existing infrastructure of Kazakhstan's railway network. Therefore, China proposed to invest in the construction of the Bakhty border crossing in East Kazakhstan.

According to China's 2021-2025 plan, it plans to expand trade with the EU and Central Asia through the Western Corridor. The existing infrastructure of the Kazakhstan-China railway network cannot cope with the traffic flow[[104]](#footnote-104).

Solving the problem of the detention of goods at border crossings is currently a priority for Kazakhstan. As for the construction of the new railway branch line, the Kazakh railway service department is willing to analyze and discuss with Chinese partners how to increase the throughput of the existing ports and expand the railway capacity.

In terms of civil aviation, Kazakhstan has 4 airlines responsible for transporting and operating 13 passenger flights and 21 cargo flights. Through cities such as Urumqi in China and Almaty in Kazakhstan, it is very convenient to transit between the two countries, as well as in Asia and Europe. A number of cities have formed a convenient and efficient aviation network. With the steady development of cooperation between Kazakhstan and China in the construction of transportation infrastructure, the energy of passenger and freight transportation has been continuously increased, and the complete logistics chain has basically taken shape.

Cooperation and development in the field of financial investment: Now is the era of economic globalization, and financial cooperation is an important and necessary outlet for the economic development of all countries in the world. Kazakhstan is an important economic and trade partner of China, and its financial cooperation with China is increasingly close. The financial cooperation between China and Kazakhstan has further strengthened the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries

The ability to prevent financial risks has promoted the economic development of the two countries.

The Kazakh government has also begun to increase the attractiveness of foreign direct investment in non-energy sectors. The Chinese side also realizes that the investment in Kazakhstan is excessively concentrated in the energy field, the investment is gradually shifting to non-energy fields, and the investment structure is diversified, mainly in the financial field. Large Chinese enterprises have invested in Kazakhstan's financial industry one after another, and large financial institutions represented by Bank of China and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China have also set up representative offices in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan and China carry out economic cooperation to jointly promote the reform of the regional financial and monetary system, reduce the dependence on the dollars, improve the power of the system, and improve the financial voice in the world and the region. way to provide financial support for bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and China.

The economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China is complementary in economic structure, convenient in geo-transportation, and based on mutual trust in politics and security. The two countries also need to continue to look for flexible and diverse economic and trade cooperation models. While consolidating the existing cooperation results, they also need to tap new economic growth points and promote the economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and China to develop to a wider field and a higher level.

# 3.2. The impact of Kazakhstan-China economic cooperation on China's geopolitics

China's geographical location is extremely special, covering almost the entire East Asia region, and it happens to be in the "economic heartland (Central Asia)" and, it is also an important country for the two regions to communicate with each other at the connection point of the "marginal areas (including Europe, the Middle East, India and Southeast Asia)". China has a broad land strategic depth and a long coastline. Its advantages on land and sea are very obvious, but its geographical predicament is that there is no buffer zone, and it has been invaded by other countries in modern history. After the United States put forward the strategy of "returning to the Asia-Pacific", China and neighboring countries have been in constant disputes. China has adopted an asymmetric strategy and implemented "opening to the west" to meet the challenges. Actively cooperate with Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries, jointly tap the huge economic development potential of both sides, and improve the optimization and upgrading of industries in the two countries.

Geographically located in Central Asia, Kazakhstan has become a target of competition among major powers due to its special geopolitical status and important energy and economic value. Kazakhstan has really economic, security and geopolitical interests in developing relations with China. Kazakhstan's policies in Central Asia have a significant impact on China. China pays special attention to Kazakhstan's policy measures in all aspects, and actively formulates and adjusts to deal with Kazakhstan, so as to ensure China's interests in Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

# 3.2.1. The development of cooperation between Kazakhstan and China creates prerequisites for China to build a harmonious western surrounding environment

With the collapse of the world's bipolar pattern and the development of economic globalization and the development of a multi-level world, the competition for power between countries has shifted from military to economic. The competition of comprehensive national strength is mainly reflected in the economic game. Geo-economy has gradually become the main battlefield for countries to compete for international dominance and discourse power. "Cooperation" has become a popular word, with infrastructure construction, production capacity cooperation, industrial park construction and other geo-economic project cooperation as the main focus and implementation center, gradually changing the traditional logic of geo-economics that emphasizes competition and control as the mainstream.

Since the reform and opening up, China's unique and complex land and sea geopolitical structure and uncoordinated regional development have made China's political economy lack sufficient strategic depth, resulting in insufficient room for maneuver in national security strategies or the impact of poverty, backwardness, and isolation in Central Asia. And the three forces (ethnic separatism, religious extremism, international terrorism) prevail, and because Central Asia borders China's Xinjiang, regional instability can easily spread to China's Xinjiang, and even unrest. The "three evil forces" have become an important non-traditional security threat in western China, not only threatening China's socialist ideology and security, but also affecting the stability of the Chinese regime and the building of a good international image.

As one of the major countries in Central Asia, Kazakhstan plays a special role in regional security. The cooperation between Kazakhstan and China is very deep and diversified, largely due to geographical factors, mutual needs of economic partnership and high level of political interaction, the most profound factor is geopolitical factors. (China's foreign policy clearly shows a geopolitical priority - the development of relations with neighboring countries is a top priority). Therefore, Kazakhstan is a special focus of China's attention.

In terms of economy, the Chinese government and the Kazakh government are actively creating a pattern of "mutual benefit and complementarity" in the western region, striving to develop border trade, establishing the Khorgos International Cross-border Cooperation Center (ICBC Khorgos)[[105]](#footnote-105), investing in the construction of highways and railways, and serving China Job opportunities and jobs are available in the western region and in the border regions of Kazakhstan. Culturally and politically, people-to-people bonds between the two countries will be enhanced and policy alignment and communication will be effectively achieved.

The development of economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and China has created favorable background conditions for China to build a peaceful and stable environment in the western border and surrounding areas, and maximize geopolitical interests.

# 3.2.2. The development of economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and China strengthens cooperation in the field of national security between the two countries

There are no unresolved issues between Kazakhstan and China in the political sphere. The two sides have completely resolved the issue of border demarcation and demarcation. After Kazakhstan gave up its nuclear weapons, China announced that it would provide Kazakhstan with security guarantees. The two sides have formed an effective dialogue mechanism. On the basis of mutual respect for each other's interests, the two sides regularly exchange views equally and amicably on major issues of common concern. The two sides have established and launched cooperation mechanisms in various fields.

In the traditional category of international relations, the concept of "security" is usually "national security", which refers to a state in which national security and interests are not threatened, infringed and destroyed. However, the meaning of national security is not fixed, it changes with the changes of the international situation, and has different connotations under different national conditions. The original concept of "national security" began to have multiple meanings: military, political and diplomatic are no longer the undisputed elements of maintaining a country or even a region. When national sovereignty and overall human survival and development pose a threat, national security includes factors such as economic security, financial security, ecological environment, security information, security, resource security, and disease spread security.

Every sovereign country in the world has different characteristics and differences. There are differences in the level of economic development, ethnic and religious beliefs, and natural ecological environment. The security concept between countries is also different. The influence on international relations has also gradually increased, not only attracting the attention of governments of various countries, but also allowing relevant countries to launch cooperation in the field of security.

Kazakhstan and China have maintained a good cooperative relationship since the establishment of diplomatic relations. In the entire Central Asia region, the exchanges between the two countries are more in-depth and more important than other countries. In areas such as politics, economy and culture, relational frameworks have been established, in which the security framework is the initial and most important cornerstone.

Geographically located in the center of Asia, Kazakhstan's position in the geo-strategy is gradually rising, which has attracted great attention from the international community. With the development of world regional economic integration, the regional economic cooperation between China and neighboring countries has become a realistic need for China to actively participate in international competition, expand economic development space and improve opening to the outside world.

For a long time, Kazakhstan and China have continuously expanded the content and form of economic cooperation. In addition to the traditional bilateral trade, a cooperation situation has been formed that is based on cooperation in the field of oil and gas energy, focuses on infrastructure construction, and provides breakthroughs in production capacity cooperation. Bilateral economic cooperation has brought huge benefits to Kazakhstan and China, but this is the guarantee provided by cooperation in the field of security. If there is no security cooperation as a guarantee, the prospects for the joint development of economic cooperation between the two countries will not be optimistic.

The security cooperation between Kazakhstan and China in the field of energy shows that economic cooperation and security cooperation between countries influence and promote each other. The energy issue is a global issue. Promoting the balance of world energy supply and demand and maintaining a sense of world energy security is an urgent task faced by all countries in the world. China is an energy importer, and energy security mainly faces the problem of increasing energy consumption year by year, while domestic supply is seriously insufficient. The increase in China's energy consumption has deepened its dependence on multinational energy markets, and changes in international energy prices will have an impact on China's economy. On the other hand, China's energy imports have increased, leading to energy competition with other major energy importers. This has created China's energy security problems. As an energy exporter, Kazakhstan proposed to diversify its energy exports as early as the early days of independence. Due to its economic dependence on Russia, export diversification has not reached a reasonable level. Kazakhstan's energy security issues are: seeking to diversify energy exports and opening up more export markets, and smooth operation of transportation and oil pipelines. In addition, energy prices are affected by the international security situation and the international economic situation, and Kazakhstan, which takes energy as its economic pillar, faces risks.

Oil and gas cooperation has always been the focus of economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and China. With the growth of Kazakhstan's domestic economy, the pace of energy cooperation between the two countries has accelerated.

The energy cooperation between Kazakhstan and China is a typical example of mutual benefit and win-win results. Chinese enterprises develop locally in Kazakhstan and create prosperity together with Kazakhstan. Chinese enterprises have found investment markets and trained a backbone team with the courage to develop and operate overseas markets. Some of China's technical standards and rules have been applied and promoted. Kazakhstan has increased employment and tax revenue, sustainable development and utilization of resources, improved corporate performance, more diversified industries, established a skilled industrial worker and technical team, and effectively optimized the infrastructure layout, which has greatly improved the country's level of energy security.

Kazakhstan and China are partners in ensuring energy security, but the maintenance of this energy cooperation relationship is not permanent. With the gradual deepening of globalization, energy competition between countries will become more intense. Kazakhstan and China are in the need and desire for cooperation in the field of security is not enough, but also the need for joint efforts to solve energy security issues for both countries.

The economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and China in the field of energy and other fields fully reflects the importance and necessity of cooperation in the field of security. In order to smooth the cooperation between Kazakhstan and China in the security field, it is necessary to jointly enhance the awareness of urgency and strategic height. Achieve information sharing and policy transparency in the field of security cooperation.

The economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and China is in line with the initiative of China and the countries along the route to jointly create an open and inclusive international regional cooperation. It is different from the expansion of self-interest in the traditional concept of national geopolitics, but explores international cooperation such as docking development and establishing supply chains. a new approach to global economic governance and a new model of global economic governance. The improvement of China's comprehensive national strength and the enhancement of its voice and influence in the global governance system have had far-reaching and beneficial impacts on geopolitics.

# 3.3. China-Central Asia relations and policy evolution

With the disintegration of the Soviet Union, China began to work hard to establish and strengthen relations with Central Asian countries. Although the initial focus was on resolving border disputes left over by the Soviet Union, the focus of China's relations with Central Asia shifted later. to broader economic and security interests.

Central Asia is an important breakthrough for China to break through the Western blockade and strategic containment, consolidate the stability of the northwestern border area, prevent extreme China's frontier positions, where the organization's ideas have penetrated, are one of the most important areas. Central Asian countries have close relations with China, and the import and export trade volume has increased year by year.

China has become a major partner of Central Asian countries, cooperating in energy and trade, as well as in geopolitics and geo-security. Exploring and studying security cooperation, trade and energy cooperation with Central Asia, and finding problems in future development are driven by China's own interests. The establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Central Asian countries has opened a new chapter in the relations between China and the Central Asian countries. China's policy towards Central Asian countries has undergone four stages of evolution: 1.1991-1997 to establish good and friendly relations with neighboring countries; 2.1997-2001 to strengthen cooperation in the fields of energy, economy, trade and security; 3.2001-2013 bilateral cooperation with Shanghai The stage of developing all-round cooperative relations under the organizational framework; 4. The stage of developing all-round bilateral and multilateral cooperative relations under the "Silk Road Economic Belt" policy from 2013 to 2020[[106]](#footnote-106).

# 3.3.1.1991-1997 The stage of China and Central Asian countries establishing good and friendly neighborly relations

The disintegration of the Soviet Union has brought about tremendous changes in the geopolitical situation facing China's northwest region. The long-standing military security threat from the Soviet Union has disappeared, and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan have become China's new neighbors. The social unrest caused by the political transformation of the five newly independent Central Asian countries, and the security threats such as religious extremism, terrorism, drug trafficking, and arms smuggling have negatively affected the security and stability of Northwest China, while various international forces are competing to fill the "geopolitical vacuum" in Central Asia has added some uncertainties to the security of China's northwest frontier.

Under such a new situation, China has successively established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level with Central Asian countries, leaders of China and Central Asian countries have frequently exchanged visits, and successively signed a series of important documents, laying the foundation for the establishment of good and friendly relations with neighboring countries. President of Uzbekistan I. A. Karimov (March 1992, October 1994)[[107]](#footnote-107), President of Tajikistan E. Rahmon (March 1993, September 1996)[[108]](#footnote-108) and President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan (1993 October and September 1995)[[109]](#footnote-109) visited China twice. President of Kyrgyzstan A. A. Akayev[[110]](#footnote-110) and President of Turkmenistan S. A. Nyyazow visited China in 1992[[111]](#footnote-111). In April 1994, former Chinese Premier Li Peng visited Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan successively[[112]](#footnote-112). Relevant documents were signed with the leaders of the four countries. In July 1996, Chinese’s ex-President Jiang Zemin also visited Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, and signed joint statements and other documents with the leaders of the three countries[[113]](#footnote-113).

It can be seen from the high-level visits and bilateral relations documents signed between China and the five Central Asian countries that the political relations between China and the Central Asian countries have been developing steadily and smoothly on the basis of the "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence" without too many setbacks. : Support each other's positions and efforts to safeguard national security interests; China needs the support and cooperation of Central Asian countries in combating separatists and terrorists and preventing the subversion and destruction of Western anti-China forces; the five Central Asian countries are fighting Islamic extremism China's support is also needed in the areas of terrorism and terrorism; China and Central Asian countries have pragmatically resolved border issues left over from history; China supports Central Asian countries in maintaining national independence and sovereignty, stabilizing domestic situations, and promoting peace and stability in the region. efforts made.

Although China and Central Asian countries attach great importance to bilateral economic and trade cooperation, their mutual economic and trade relations are still at a low level of development. The Central Asian countries have intensified the economic crisis due to the interruption of traditional economic ties with Russia after independence, and are eager to develop economic and trade relations with China to restore their economies. Due to large-scale mining and other reasons, the strong desire for economic and trade cooperation between Central Asian countries and China has not been able to become a reality. From 1992 to 1996, the annual trade volume between China and the five Central Asian countries was US$459 million, US$608 million, US$578 million, US$782 million and US$776 million respectively[[114]](#footnote-114). From the perspective of trade commodity structure, China mainly exports daily necessities, food and household appliances to Central Asian countries, and Central Asian countries export minerals, chemical products and cotton to China.

Due to China's unique geographical location, ethnicity and religion in Xinjiang, China attaches great importance to developing cooperation with Central Asian countries on issues such as maintaining cross-border ethnic stability and combating "East Turkistan" separatist activities. In order to strengthen mutual trust with Central Asian neighbors in the military field of border areas, maintain peace and stability in border areas, and promote long-term friendly and friendly relations between China and Central Asian countries.

With the in-depth development of China, China signed a series of agreements with Russia and Central Asian countries, and on the basis of the principle of mutual equal security, deploying the minimum level of military force in border areas corresponding to the relationship of mutual good and friendly neighbors has strengthened the relationship between China and China. The political mutual trust between Asian countries has created favorable conditions for the further development of friendly and cooperative relations.

At this stage, the focus of China's policy towards Central Asian countries is in the fields of politics and security. The two sides have established good and friendly neighborly relations and established preliminary cooperative relations in the fields of politics and security.

# 3.3.2.1997-2001 China and Central Asian countries strengthen cooperation in the fields of energy, economy, trade and security

Marked by the signing of the agreement between the two governments on cooperation in the oil and gas field between China and Kazakhstan in September 1997, China's policy towards Central Asia began to undergo some significant changes, and gradually strengthened its cooperation with Central Asian countries in energy, economy, trade and economic development. Cooperation in the field of security.

The positive adjustment of China's policy towards Central Asia is due to the needs of China's economic and social development and changes in the situation in Central Asia. The needs of China's economic and social development include: since China became a net oil importer, the demand for oil in China's economic development has continued to grow, and Central Asia, which is rich in oil reserves, has aroused strong interest in China; with the continuous development of China's economy since the reform and opening up with rapid development, the economic gap between the eastern and western regions has widened. In order to promote the common development and prosperity of all ethnic groups, ensure border security and maintain social stability, the Chinese government attaches great importance to and accelerates the economic development of the western region. Central Asian countries, as the western region of China China's neighbors and economic and trade partners have gradually attracted China's attention. The changes in the situation in Central Asia include: On the one hand, with the rise of the Taliban and the deterioration of the situation in Afghanistan, the threat of “ethnic separatism, religious extremism and violent terrorism” in Central Asia has intensified, prompting China and Central Asian countries to the scope of security cooperation has expanded from border areas to the entire Central Asian region. On the other hand, the economic situation of Central Asian countries has improved one after another, providing necessary conditions for China and Central Asian countries to carry out economic and trade cooperation.

In this context, China's attention to the Central Asia region has gradually increased, and energy cooperation first entered China's diplomatic vision.

In September 1997, the Chinese government and the Kazakh government signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of oil and gas and a general agreement on oilfield development and pipeline construction projects between China National Petroleum Corporation and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Kazakhstan[[115]](#footnote-115). This is the first time that the Chinese government has signed a similar document with the government of a Central Asian country, laying a legal foundation for energy cooperation between China and a Central Asian country. China then signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the energy sector with the Ministry of Petroleum of Turkmenistan in 2000[[116]](#footnote-116).

In the late 1990s, with the continuous economic growth of Central Asian countries and the proposal and implementation of China's western region development strategy, the economic and trade cooperation between China and Central Asian countries has achieved rapid development. China has signed economic and trade cooperation agreements, economic and technological cooperation agreements and other documents with Central Asian countries respectively, and established an intergovernmental economic and trade cooperation committee to provide legal and institutional guarantees for the development of bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

The Chinese government continues to develop political relations with Central Asian countries and deepen political mutual trust. State leaders exchanged visits and meetings, signed documents such as a joint statement to further develop bilateral friendly and cooperative relations, and exchanged views on bilateral relations and international and regional issues of common concern. With the strengthening of bilateral political relations, the cooperation between China and the Central Asian countries in the field of international affairs has gradually developed; China supports the various initiatives put forward by the Central Asian countries to promote regional security; China and the Central Asian countries have also increased the intensity of security cooperation, Jointly crack down on the "three evil forces" that endanger regional security and stability; China has also taken joint measures with Central Asian countries to crack down on transnational criminal activities such as illegal drugs and weapons.

At this stage, China's policy toward Central Asian countries has shifted its focus to energy, economy, trade, and security cooperation while continuing to develop political relations. Strengthening cooperation in the fields of energy, economy, trade and security conforms to the common needs of China and Central Asian countries.

3.3.3. 2001-2013 China and Central Asian countries develop all-round cooperative relations under the framework of bilateral relations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

The establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in June 2001 was a milestone event in the relationship between China and Central Asian countries. After 10 years of observation and exploration, China formed a clear strategy for Central Asia - bilateral Under the framework of China and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, strengthen friendly relations with Central Asian countries, develop cooperation in various fields such as politics, economy, military, security, energy, transportation and humanities, maintain regional security and stability, and promote common development and prosperity of all countries.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization has built a broad platform for China and Central Asian countries to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation. A series of tasks of practical importance have been put forward to plan a bright future for the development of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The development of the international political situation after the "9.11" incident had a direct impact on the relationship between China and Central Asian countries: the United States and other Western countries stationed troops in Central Asia to fight terrorism, expanding the diplomatic space of Central Asian countries, and Central Asian countries began to implement great powers A balanced, multi-dimensional and practical foreign policy has, to a certain extent, reduced the enthusiasm and expectations for developing relations with China; Central Asian countries have strengthened their anti-terrorism cooperation with the United States and other countries, which has also weakened their security cooperation with China. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which aims at economic cooperation, has been severely challenged; the war on terrorism in Afghanistan launched by the United States has been welcomed and supported by the Central Asian countries.

Central Asian countries welcome China's participation in Central Asian affairs to balance Russia's influence. Similarly, Central Asian countries are also willing to allow the United States to intervene in Central Asia's geopolitics to balance the influence of China and Russia. The involvement of the United States has complicated China's relations with Central Asian countries.

Changes in the situation in Central Asia have led China to adjust the order of interests in Central Asia: consolidate friendly relations with Central Asian countries and prevent the emergence of anti-China forces in Central Asia; continue to strengthen cooperation in combating the "three evil forces" and safeguard China's Xinjiang and Central Asia Regional security and stability, carry out energy, economic and trade cooperation, and promote common development; jointly promote the development of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization with Central Asian countries, maintain the stability of the Central Asian countries' regimes, and prevent regional political turmoil.

Although the situation in Central Asia has undergone unfavorable changes to China, China still implements the policy of harmony and friendship, continues to push forward the development of political and economic relations with Central Asia, conducts political dialogue and cooperation, and consolidates the relationship between the two sides of friendly and friendly neighbors: High-level officials from various countries meet frequently on a bilateral basis and within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. China and Central Asian countries signed a treaty of cooperation between good and friendly neighbors, reaching consensus on deepening friendly and cooperative partnership, further enhancing political mutual trust, and consolidating and improving bilateral political relations. ; Completely resolved the boundary issues left over by history, and laid a solid political foundation for strengthening bilateral relations; The exchanges between China and Central Asian countries' legislatures, government departments, political parties, localities and non-governmental organizations have continued to expand, and the social foundation of friendly relations has become increasingly solid. .

With the implementation of China's "bringing in" and "going out" plan in 2001, the scale of economic cooperation between China and Central Asian countries has been continuously expanded and the level has been significantly improved: cooperation in energy has developed rapidly[[117]](#footnote-117).

Petro-China has steadily expanded its production scale in Kazakhstan, and simultaneously operates 6 upstream exploration and development projects including Aktobe Project, PK Project, Mangshtao Project, North Buzaqi Project, ADM Project and KAM Project, with annual oil and gas production capacity. It has remained at the level of 30 million tons for three consecutive years[[118]](#footnote-118). In 2013, it produced 23.79 million tons of crude oil, and its oil and gas equivalent reached 30.51 million tons. In addition, at the end of October 2013, PetroChina and Kazakhstan National Oil and Gas Company completed the delivery of equity in Kashagan Field, the largest offshore oil field in Kazakhstan and the fifth largest oil field in the world, becoming the sixth largest shareholder holding 8.33% of the oil field.

China and Kazakhstan have built China's first onshore crude oil import pipeline, the China-Kazakhstan Crude Oil Pipeline, with a total length of more than 2,000 kilometers. The pipeline currently transports about 10 million tons of oil to China annually, and has already transported 70 million tons of oil to China. PetroChina has also built China's first onshore natural gas import pipeline—the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline spanning Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and China, of which Kazakhstan is 1,300 kilometers long. The China-Kazakhstan crude oil pipeline and the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline together form the northwest energy channel of China's four major energy strategic channels.

Central Asian countries and China promote trade facilitation by signing economic and trade cooperation agreements and coordinating trade policies to promote the continuous development of bilateral trade. From 2002 to 2013, the annual trade volume between China and Central Asian countries was:

Table 3.1 - Total trade between China and Central Asian countries (Unit: By million US$)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| years | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| trade volume | 2300,79 | 3992,03 | 5744,82 | 8616,81 | 11879,32 | 19309,24 |
| years | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| trade volume | 29992,35 | 22786,97 | 28563,99 | 34173,3 | 40243,23 | 40243,23 |

【上海合作组织15年：发展形势分析与展望，2017-06】

The economic and technological cooperation between Central Asian countries and China has also gradually expanded. The highway project connecting China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan was officially launched. The cooperation between China and Uzbekistan on electric vehicles, tractors, gas meters, soda ash plants and other projects went smoothly. The joint venture between China and Kyrgyzstan, such as paper mills, was normal. In operation, China has helped Turkmenistan to improve the oil recovery of Gumudak Oilfield with remarkable results. China's drip irrigation project and urban telephone reconstruction project in Tajikistan have achieved good economic and social benefits.

China has participated in cooperation in many fields such as oil and gas, transportation, communication, agriculture, chemical industry, railway locomotive and power station equipment supply, urban infrastructure construction, and engineering contracting in Central Asian countries.

China provides free assistance and preferential loans to Central Asian countries within its capacity, and has played a positive role in the economic construction of Central Asian countries.

The booming economic and trade relations between China and Central Asian countries have enriched the content of friendly cooperative relations between the two sides and further laid the material foundation for bilateral relations.

Although the security cooperation between Central Asian countries and China is affected by factors such as the US military presence in Central Asia, China still actively promotes security cooperation with Central Asian countries that threatens the security situation of Central Asian countries and China's Xinjiang.

Security cooperation between China and Central Asian countries includes: jointly combating the "three evil forces" under the framework of bilateral and Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and jointly safeguarding regional security; conducting military and military-technical cooperation, China provides military assistance to Central Asian countries, and helps Central Asian countries to equip military, improve border defense facilities and train military personnel, etc.; China continues to support and participate in conferences and forums on geo-security initiated by Central Asian countries to keep the process of security dialogue and cooperation smooth; strengthen efforts to combat drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and transnational crimes Cooperation with non-traditional security areas such as illegal immigration.

With the joint efforts of China, Russia and Central Asian countries, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has withstood the test of survival after the "9.11" incident, and gradually developed into a cohesive and influential international organization: the task of the establishment stage of the mechanism has been completed, We have entered a period of comprehensive development; security cooperation within the framework has been continuously expanded, economic and trade cooperation has also been gradually developed, and investment and financial cooperation have also been strengthened. With the development of multilateral economic and trade cooperation, the trade volume of member countries has increased year by year, and economic and technological cooperation has expanded.

(It should be pointed out that at this stage, the United States implemented the "color revolution" policy in Central Asia, which caused the Central Asian countries to sway between China and Russia, and the relations between China and Central Asian countries developed more rapidly).

At this stage, with the establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, China finally determined the policy of actively participating in Central Asian affairs and developing all-round cooperative relations with Central Asian countries. The energy cooperation between China and Central Asian countries (especially Kazakhstan) has achieved substantial results. The role of Central Asia as an important source of China's crude oil imports has begun to emerge. China has strengthened its cooperative relations with Central Asian countries and maintained its own the urgency and importance of interests in the Central Asian region are very clear. Under the complicated conditions that Western countries are strongly involved in Central Asian affairs and Russia wants to take advantage of China's strength and guard against China, China takes advantage of the situation and further deepens all-round cooperation with Central Asian countries.

# 3.3.4.2013-2020 China and Central Asian countries develop all-round bilateral and multilateral cooperative relations under the "Silk Road Economic Belt" policy

In September 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the strategic concept of jointly building the "Silk Road Economic Belt" during his visit to Kazakhstan. This concept breaks through the traditional mode of regional economic cooperation, and advocates building an open and inclusive system that accepts the active participation of all parties with an open attitude. Reactivating this ancient trade route has great strategic significance for the economic construction of the countries along the route, regional prosperity and even the balance of the world economy. Once the idea was put forward, it immediately aroused the high attention of relevant countries. This ancient road of civilization once again bears the historical burden of promoting regional economic prosperity and promoting the integration of Eastern and Western civilizations.

Before the "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative was put forward, the relationship between China and Central Asian countries mainly experienced the development of political relations to political, security, economic and cultural cooperation, from bilateral cooperation to multilateral cooperation, from good and friendly neighbors. The cooperative relationship has been upgraded to three major changes in the strategic partnership. Especially after the establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in 2001, China began to comprehensively enhance its relations with Central Asian countries bilaterally and multilaterally, and gradually became one of the protagonists of the regional pattern. By the time of proposing the "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative, China and Central Asian countries have established strategic partnerships, including a comprehensive strategic partnership with Kazakhstan.

The proposal of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative marked the entry of a new stage in the relationship between China and Central Asian countries, and led to a new round of cooperation between China and Central Asian countries:

Give full play to the advantages of Central Asia as a strategic channel connecting the East and the West, increase the construction of interconnection, jointly build Central Asia into a major land channel connecting China and Europe, and open up the East Asian economic circle and the European economic circle with active international economy. Make China and Central Asian countries occupy a more favorable position in the global economic and trade pattern; open up the connection between Central Asian countries and the outside world, make up for the shortcomings of Central Asian countries that do not have access to the sea, and at the same time promote the relationship between China and Central Asian countries on this basis. “Soft Connectivity” between policies, systems, technologies and standards; actively explore and establish a new regional cooperation model centered on the concept of win-win cooperation in Central Asia, adhere to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and fully take into account the diversity and differences of countries, strive to find the greatest common divisor of cooperation among countries, strengthen the docking of development strategies, projects and systems between each other, promote the formation of a large market in Central Asia, carry out larger-scale, higher-level and deeper-level bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and create an open, inclusive A new type of cooperation framework that is balanced and beneficial to all, realizes sustainable and benign cooperation between China and Central Asian countries, and promotes common development; further enhances strategic mutual trust among Central Asian countries on the basis of cooperation, and strengthens dialogue among civilizations and mutual learning. , to build a closer community of interests, responsibility and destiny together.

Taking the opportunity of jointly building the "Belt and Road", China-Central Asian relations have entered a new active period, and a series of breakthroughs have been made, indicating that the relations between China and Central Asian countries have begun to change in the direction of active planning and active actions - actively promoting the "Belt and Road". The "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative has been linked with the development strategies of Central Asian countries, which has greatly improved the level of political mutual trust with regional countries, and promoted mutual policy communication to an unprecedented level.

In 2014, China and Tajikistan signed the "Memorandum of Understanding on Jointly Promoting the Construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt", and Tajikistan became the first country to sign a memorandum of cooperation on the "Belt and Road" with China[[119]](#footnote-119). In 2017, China and Kazakhstan signed the "Silk Road Economic Belt" Construction and "Bright Road" New Economic Policy Docking Cooperation Plan, which is the first intergovernmental agreement signed between China and the countries along the "Silk Road Economic Belt[[120]](#footnote-120)". Docking cooperation plan. China and Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan have also reached a high degree of consensus on jointly building the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and signed relevant cooperation documents.

China and Central Asian countries are advancing the process of jointly building the "Silk Road Economic Belt", and economic and trade cooperation between China and Central Asian countries has also been greatly strengthened:

In terms of bilateral trade: Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Central Asian countries, the bilateral trade volume has grown rapidly, from US$460 million at the beginning of the establishment of diplomatic relations to US$40.266 billion in 2013[[121]](#footnote-121). In recent years, due to the dual influence of China's industrial structure adjustment and the trade structure adjustment of Central Asian countries, the bilateral trade volume has declined. In 2016, the bilateral trade volume dropped to 30.148 billion US dollars. The decline in trade volume between China and Central Asian countries is related to the low degree of diversification of the trade structure of Central Asian countries[[122]](#footnote-122).

The slowdown of China's economic growth, the international economic situation and fluctuations in commodity prices also affected the bilateral trade volume to a certain extent. Although the trade volume between China and Central Asian countries has declined, the quality of bilateral cooperation has been further optimized. After 2016, the downward trend of bilateral trade volume eased. In 2017, the total trade volume between China and Central Asian countries reached US$3.628 billion, which is the fastest-growing area of trade between China and the countries along the "Silk Road Economic Belt". The two sides have a good momentum of cooperation and huge growth potential.

From 2018 to 2020, the total trade volume between China and Central Asian countries was US$30.5 billion, US$46.34 billion and US$38.6 billion respectively.

In terms of infrastructure construction, China has successfully completed the "Anglian-Papu" railway tunnel, known as the "longest tunnel in Central Asia" in Uzbekistan, and completed high-voltage power transmission and transformation in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The project as well as the construction of roads, tunnels and bridges, jointly implemented and operated the China-Kazakhstan (Lianyungang) logistics station project with Kazakhstan. The construction of Line D of the pipeline was started, the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan International Highway was put into operation, bilateral international road transport agreements between China and Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and other countries, as well as multilateral international road transport agreements or agreements such as China-Bahaji, China-Kazakhstan, China-Uzbekistan, etc. Signed, the China-Kyrgyzstan-Ukraine railway project is actively promoting the preliminary research, China has signed the Silk Road Optical Cable Cooperation Agreement with Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan, and the Silk Road Optical Cable Project has been substantially launched.

At the same time, remarkable achievements have been made in the construction of a number of cooperative parks such as the China-Kazakhstan Horgos International Border Cooperation Center, China-Ukraine Pengsheng Industrial Park, Zhongta Industrial Park, and New Silk Road Agricultural Textile Industry Processing Park. China has opened a "green channel" for quick customs clearance of agricultural products in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, and the transit time of agricultural products has actually been shortened by 90%[[123]](#footnote-123). China signed bilateral local currency swap agreements with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, China signed a border local currency settlement agreement with Kyrgyzstan, and the Shanghai Stock Exchange signed a cooperation agreement with Kazakhstan’s Astana International Financial Center Authority to jointly invest in construction Astana International Exchange affected by the global economic downturn, the economies of Central Asian countries generally fell into low-speed and slow growth.

In particular, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, which are at the forefront of the regional economy, were hit by the slump in international oil prices, and their economies experienced sharp declines. Central Asian countries have launched new national development strategies to stabilize people's hearts and find a way out. Against this background, the "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative launched by China has put forward a solution to the development problems of Central Asia and provided new opportunities for Central Asian countries to get out of their economic difficulties. China proposes to jointly build the "Silk Road Economic Belt" with Central Asian countries, highlighting economic cooperation and having the greatest inclusiveness. The "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative fully respects the diversity and differences of Central Asian countries, actively connects the development strategies of Central Asian countries, and plays a positive role in the economic development of China and Central Asian countries.

After the independence of the Central Asian countries, external forces competed to intervene and launched and implemented their own regional governance plans, resulting in the coexistence of various governance mechanisms and plans in the Central Asian region, and the lack of orderly and efficient regional governance. The "C5+1" mechanism advocated by the United States and the Eurasian Economic Union led by Russia are highly competitive, with obvious antagonism and exclusivity, which makes the regional governance of Central Asia "fragmented". However, the "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative proposed by China emphasizes inclusiveness, cooperation and openness. Responding to the urgent desire of Central Asian countries to "seek development and cooperation", it provides a new choice and hope for the Central Asian regional governance to get out of the predicament.

However, the regional cooperation mechanism in Central Asia faces difficulties: the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Eurasian Economic Union are the two most active regional cooperation mechanisms in Central Asia, but neither covers all Central Asian countries (Turkmenistan does not participate in The SCO, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan are not members of the Eurasian Economic Union), both mechanisms have their own problems, so regional governance capacity and effectiveness are limited. In this context, China, through the development strategy of connecting countries in the Central Asia region, has formed a joint force among the countries in the region and embarked on a new path of regional cooperation, which has provided a solution to this problem. It provides new options and hope for the Central Asian regional governance to get out of the predicament.

Regardless of historical, cultural and traditional influences, as well as practical roles and practical influences, Russia undoubtedly has an unparalleled advantage in Central Asia, and any Central Asian governance plan bypasses or excludes Russia will be difficult to succeed. China has always respected Russia's interests in Central Asia, and has always maintained good cooperation with Russia, from jointly solving border issues between China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, to the establishment of the "Shanghai Five" mechanism, to the establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Sino-Russian cooperation in Central Asia has gradually become institutionalized and institutionalized[[124]](#footnote-124).

China took the initiative to communicate and coordinate with Russia on how to develop friendly and cooperative relations with Central Asian countries in the Central Asian region, to dispel Russia's doubts and worries, and ultimately win Russia's understanding and support. In 2015, China and Russia signed the "Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation on the Coordination and Cooperation of the Construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Construction of the Eurasian Economic Union[[125]](#footnote-125)", which opened up a new era of peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation between China and Russia in Central Asia. It also paves the way for friendly cooperation between China and Central Asian countries. In May 2018, China signed the Agreement on Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and the Eurasian Economic Union with the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union and the Eurasian Economic Commission, marking a new realm for the docking of the "Silk Road Economic Belt"[[126]](#footnote-126) into institutional docking. The cooperation between China and Russia in Central Asia provides a basic institutional guarantee. At the same time, China has actively responded to Russia’s proposal for the Greater Eurasian Partnership.

The cooperation space between China and Russia in Central Asia has been further expanded, the foundation of cooperation between the two sides in Central Asia has been implemented, and more favorable conditions have been created for the continuous advancement of China's Central Asia diplomacy. After the former US President Trump came into office, he introduced a national security strategy, which for the first time simultaneously characterized China and Russia as strategic competitors and tried their best to suppress them. It also objectively accelerated the further approach of China and Russia, and prompted the two sides to carry out more in-depth cooperation in Central Asia.

In 2020, the new crown pneumonia is spreading around the world. In the face of great difficulties in international cooperation, China and Central Asian countries have cooperated to provide each other with emergency assistance, dispatched medical teams, donated new crown vaccines, and the valuable experience of joint anti-epidemic has further deepened China. Friendly relations with countries in Asia. At the same time, efforts are made to open up broad prospects for mutually beneficial economic and trade cooperation and actively serve the core interests of all countries. The new crown epidemic has not seriously affected the good trend of economic and trade cooperation between China and Central Asian countries.

At this stage, under the initiative of the "Silk Road Economic Belt", innovative cooperation methods have been used to make the countries along the New Silk Road closer in terms of economic ties, broader areas of cooperation, and deeper multilateral cooperation. From the perspective of international effects, through mutually beneficial and win-win economic and trade cooperation and exchanges, the construction of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" is conducive to deepening the relationship between China and Central Asian countries, strengthening regional exchanges and cooperation, and promoting the in-depth development of Eurasian economic and trade cooperation. From the perspective of China's internal effects, the construction of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" can drive the economic development of western China, create a good surrounding political and economic environment for China, digest China's severe excess capacity, and open up new economic growth points. The proposal of "Silk Road Economic Belt" is in line with the development needs of China and Central Asian countries. The cooperation between China's direct investment in Central Asian countries in the fields of energy, transportation, finance and production capacity has also been continuously improved. The economic structures of China and Central Asian countries are complementary, and under the initiative of jointly building the "Silk Road Economic Belt", they have shown a good momentum of cooperation.

The "Silk Road Economic Belt" is a transnational economic belt and a new model for building regional cooperation. The "Silk Road Economic Belt" does not set high-end goals, it is not a "closely integrated cooperation organization", it will not break the existing regional institutional arrangements, and it is more a pragmatic and flexible economic cooperation arrangement.

China and Central Asian countries in the 21st century are good neighbors, good friends and good partners. China and Central Asian countries respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, do not interfere in each other's internal affairs, and will never tolerate any attempt to violate the above-mentioned basic principles on their own territory.

Both China and Central Asian countries are developing countries, with many intersections of key interests and a high degree of alignment of development strategies. China's reform and opening up, achievements in economic construction, experience in poverty alleviation and high-tech industries have opened up vast opportunities for the development of Central Asian countries. At the same time, China and Central Asian countries respect each other's right to choose their own development paths according to their historical and national characteristics, create favorable conditions for each other's development, and complement each other in economic cooperation. Economic and trade cooperation developed rapidly.

In 2013, China proposed the "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative, and the interconnection between Central Asia has entered a period of rapid development, and a large number of major infrastructure projects have been put into operation. The joint construction of the "Belt and Road" has opened up transportation channels for Central Asian countries to major seaports in the world, and Central Asia's important role as a land transportation hub in Europe and Asia has become increasingly prominent.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a new type of international organization, always firmly on its own path, constantly seeking new opportunities for cooperation within the organization and with external partners.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization provides a new model for building multilateral partnerships for international organizations in the 21st century.

Standing at a new historical starting point, Central Asian countries will continue to strengthen regional cooperation with China to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and common prosperity in the region. The Central Asian countries, together with China, carry out continuous and in-depth work and continue to forge a common space for a secure, sustainable, broad and open partnership.

As time-tested strategic partners, China and Central Asian countries are entering a new era of cooperative relations. The relationship between China and the Central Asian countries is an active and equal choice of all countries. It is rooted in the history of good-neighborly exchanges between countries for many years, and is based on the recognition of similar or identical development characteristics of the contemporary world and their own countries. It is in line with the beautiful vision of coordinated development and common prosperity.

# Conclusion

Through the simple analysis of the development of economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China, this paper selects the empirical data and policy theories of the two countries in the process of economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China from 1992 to 2020. The background of the economic and trade cooperation relationship (the status of social economic development, the status of geographical advantages, the status of the import and export trade environment), the bilateral economic policy, the field of economic cooperation, the strategies and trends related to the development of the economic cooperation relationship and other factors can be combined. The following research conclusions are drawn:

China's rising international status and profound economic strength, as well as China's status as a window to the outside world in Asia, coupled with the geographical advantages of Kazakhstan and Kazakhstan, make the economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China become the focus of the Asian region development strategy. The results of years of economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China, as well as other bilateral and multilateral agreements and cooperation projects, have promoted cooperation and exchanges between Kazakhstan and several other countries in Central Asia, and ensured the smooth economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. carry out. In the context of global economic integration, Kazakhstan and China, according to the actual situation, have been engaged in economic development in energy, transportation, investment, and high-tech production industries.

In the economic field, the cooperation between the two sides has been further strengthened. Economic development is the foundation for the development of economic and trade relations between the two countries. Kazakhstan and China, as important strategic partners, have achieved good results with the frequent bilateral economic and trade exchanges. Under the background of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" policy, the economic development of the two countries has increased opportunities: the economic development of Kazakhstan and China can increase market demand and market potential, which is conducive to the cross-border investment of Chinese capital, especially in Kazakhstan.

The field of infrastructure construction in Stan is not only conducive to the export of China's capital and technology, but also to the economic development of Kazakhstan; Kazakhstan and China have great complementarities in the fields of energy and minerals, and the two countries give full play to their respective advantages. It has achieved complementarity, innovated the way of cooperation, deepened the content of cooperation, and accelerated the development of bilateral economic and trade relations to a higher level. Therefore, the stable and healthy economic development of the two countries is conducive to the establishment of bilateral common interests and the expansion of cooperation space. In the common national interests of economic development and foreign economic and trade cooperation, the two governments should give full play to the complementary advantages of their respective countries, seek maximum cooperation in future economic development, and maximize the benefits of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Kazakhstan and China are important economic and trade partners in Central Asia. The economic and trade relations between the two countries are at a high level of cooperation and development. To further deepen cooperation, it is necessary to improve the soft environment for economic and trade development between the two countries. The improvement of trade facilitation is very important to enhance domestic import and export trade and attract foreign capital investment. The two governments should attach great importance to the role of the government in promoting bilateral economic and trade exchanges. Continuously improve government efficiency and government public service level, establish a rapid and efficient service mechanism, and promote the rapid development of bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and China with good government service level.

The economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China has achieved fruitful results, and the scale of bilateral trade and investment has continued to increase. However, on the whole, the economic cooperation between the two countries is mainly concentrated in energy, minerals and energy exploration, infrastructure projects, processing of agricultural and sideline products, etc., relatively speaking, it is relatively concentrated, single and narrow. Kazakhstan and China should continue to deepen the field of economic and trade development. While expanding the scale of economic and trade, they should break through the traditional fields of cooperation and expand to education, culture, tourism, finance, science and technology and other fields, and establish a multi-field and multi-level economic and trade cooperation platform.

Over the past 30 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and China, the two countries have grasped the "main theme" of friendly cooperation, played the "strongest voice" of mutual benefit and win-win results, and achieved leapfrog development from a friendly and friendly neighbor relationship to a permanent comprehensive strategic partnership. Bilateral economic and trade cooperation has continued to advance in broad areas, in-depth and all-round depth, and made positive contributions to the high-quality development of the joint construction of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" with fruitful cooperation results.

Trade and investment developed rapidly. Over the past 30 years, the scale of trade between Kazakhstan and China has continued to expand, and the trade structure has continued to be optimized. In 1992, the total import and export of goods between China and Kazakhstan was 368 million US dollars; in 2020, it has reached 21.43 billion US dollars, an increase of nearly 60 times[[127]](#footnote-127). China is Kazakhstan's second largest trading partner, the largest export destination and the second largest source of imports. At the same time, China continues to be one of the main sources of foreign investment in Kazakhstan. The two sides have carried out comprehensive and deepened investment cooperation in many fields such as energy resources, equipment manufacturing, transportation, modern agriculture, financial services, medicine and health, and infrastructure construction.

Production capacity cooperation has yielded fruitful results. Over the past 30 years, the two sides have aimed at high standards, sustainability, and people's livelihood, and have effectively transformed political consensus into concrete actions, conceptual recognition into practical results, and promoted the implementation of many major strategic projects in Harbin. In recent years, the upgrading and reconstruction projects of the two major refineries in Atyrau and Shymkent have been successfully completed, becoming the shining pearls on the China-Kazakhstan Energy Silk Road; The successful completion of new energy projects such as the hydropower station and the Turgusong hydropower station has laid a solid foundation for Kazakhstan's economy to embark on a green and low-carbon road:

Effective connectivity: Over the past 30 years, Kazakhstan and China have given full play to their geographical advantages of being connected by mountains and rivers, and vigorously developed road and rail transit transport and international land-sea multimodal transport. The two countries have opened 5 pairs of perennial highway ports and 2 cross-border railway lines, and established the China-Kazakhstan Horgos International Border Cooperation Center, the Horgos-Dongdamen Dry Port and the China-Kazakhstan Logistics Cooperation Base in Lianyungang, China . During the epidemic, the China-Europe trains passing through Kazakhstan through Horgos and Alashankou ports rose against the trend, and the number of trains and the comprehensive heavy box rate increased significantly, becoming Bestune's veritable "steel camel team" in Eurasia. The two countries have actively developed cross-border transportation channels in the Eurasian continent, which has played a prominent role in ensuring the stability and smoothness of the international supply chain under the epidemic.

Emerging business formats are booming: Over the past 30 years, China and Kazakhstan have continuously innovated cooperation models, expanded cooperation space, and created cooperation highlights. Chinese-funded financial institutions actively promoted financial cooperation with Kazakhstan in the fields of settlement, payment, financing, credit granting, etc., deeply participated in the construction and development of Astana International Financial Center, and successfully issued the first offshore RMB bond "Eagle Bond" in Kazakhstan; two China has actively held "Cloud Exhibition", "Cloud Negotiation" and "Cloud Signing". Kazakhstan has participated in the China International Import Expo for 4 consecutive years. The two countries are actively developing cross-border e-commerce. High-quality specialty products from Kazakhstan.

As the relations between Kazakhstan and China enter a new era, the two countries will continue to adhere to the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, focus on deepening the integration of interests, tighten the ties of common interests, and promote the steady development of China-Kazakhstan relations on the forward track. , to foster more pragmatic cooperation outcomes that benefit the two peoples, deepen China-Kazakhstan permanent comprehensive strategic partnership, and promote regional economic prosperity and development:

Combining the history of economic and trade cooperation between Kazakhstan and China and the current economic development trend, Kazakhstan should consider the following in the future economic and trade cooperation with China: the need to develop high-potential industries, such as deep processing of resources, in areas rich in oil and gas resources , not just preliminary resource exploitation, but on the basis of development, establish high value-added industrial clusters (such as oil and gas chemical industry and coal chemical industry), and carry out project cooperation with China, which has a large foreign exchange reserve and advanced technology. And further improve the infrastructure related to energy transportation to provide more sufficient conditions for cooperation in the energy field between the two countries.

On the other hand, with the development of high and new technologies, rapidly updated scientific and technological means are also having a significant impact. Kazakhstan wants to truly integrate into economic globalization and maintain strong international competitiveness. Cooperation at the level of technological innovation is also a new direction for cooperation between Kazakhstan and China.

Technological innovation not only includes aviation biotechnology, engineering technology, telecommunications, space exploration and other technologies innovation in the field, but also innovation at the level of organization and management technology.

Actively develop new cooperation projects in these fields, and carry out extensive and in-depth contacts, and ultimately achieve the rapid and comprehensive development of Kazakhstan's economy.

lack of research:Due to the limitations of knowledge and understanding, the research of this paper will inevitably have certain deficiencies: there are many factors affecting the development of economic and trade relations between Kazakhstan and China, not only involving economic growth, trade environment, surrounding environment, international environment and progress the export environment, etc., may also include other factors, such as exchange rates, national consumption environment, social openness, social and cultural identity and other factors, which may have a certain impact on the economic and trade relations between Kazakhstan and China. However, due to the difficulty of data collection and the limitation of cognitive ability, it is difficult for this paper to incorporate these factors into the research of this paper, which will cause omissions and errors in the analysis, which affects the research of this paper to a certain extent. Analyze the results.

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