

The Role Of Regional And International Actors In The Development Of Trans-Afghan Projects

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Abstract: In recent years, strategic Trans-Afghan projects passing through the territory of Afghanistan have played an important role in the integration processes between Central and South Asia. These projects - CASA-1000, the TAPI gas pipeline, the Trans-Afghan railway, and the Surkhan-Puli Khumri power transmission line - are aimed at strengthening the energy, transport, and political stability of the region. In this process, the geopolitical and economic interests of major global actors, such as the USA, Iran, India, Pakistan, Russia, and China, as well as the internal instability of Afghanistan, play an important role. The article analyzes the role, opportunities, and potential risks of each country in the project. These integration initiatives are expected to contribute to regional stability, security, and economic development.

Keywords: Trans-Afghan projects, Afghanistan, Central Asia, South Asia, Geopolitics, Trans-Afghan Railway, CASA-1000, TAPI gas pipeline, Energy integration, Regional stability, Transport infrastructure, International cooperation.

Introduction: In recent years, the processes of economic and political integration between Central and South Asia have reached a new level. In this process, Afghanistan, due to its geostrategic location, has become an important bridge and one of the main directions for expanding regional cooperation and transit opportunities. In particular, strategic infrastructure projects passing through the territory of Afghanistan - Trans-Afghan projects - serve to strengthen transport, energy, and trade relations between the countries of Central and South Asia. Such initiatives as the CASA-1000 energy project, the TAPI gas pipeline, the Trans-Afghan railway, and the Surkhan-Puli-Khumri power transmission line are expected to serve not only to improve economic ties but also to ensure political stability and security in the region.

Trans-Afghan projects are of strategic importance not only for regional states, but also for global geopolitical actors - the USA, China, Russia, Iran, India, and Pakistan. Each party strives to expand its role in these projects, taking into account its own political and economic interests. At the same time, internal instability and security problems in Afghanistan complicate the implementation of projects.

This analysis is aimed at studying the role of Trans-Afghan projects in the regional and global context, their economic and geopolitical significance, as well as the interests of the major states participating in the projects. The success of projects is an important factor in ensuring the development, security, and integration of the region, and at the same time can become a platform for competition between global powers.

METHOD

Trans-Afghan projects are one of the main pillars of regional integration. They are opening new trade routes, connecting transport and energy networks between Central and South Asia through Afghanistan. Through these projects, regional states will be able to effectively distribute their resources and deliver goods and services faster. For example:

The CASA-1000 project provides for the transmission of electricity from Central Asia to South Asia. This project will contribute to the formation of a regional energy market, create an additional source of economic income for Afghanistan, and increase the stability of energy supply.

The TAPI gas pipeline (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India), while ensuring energy security in the region, will diversify energy supply routes, meet the

demand of South Asian countries for natural gas, and bring transit revenues to Afghanistan.

The Trans-Afghan railway and other transport projects play an important role in the development of regional trade. Through them, Afghanistan will become not only a transit country, but also a center for expanding its economy.

Trans-Afghan projects have not only economic, but also political and geopolitical significance. In these projects, the interests of different states clash, and along with mutual cooperation, competition also arises:

China is actively participating in Trans-Afghan projects to expand integration into Central and South Asia within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. It strives to connect Afghanistan with its trade and energy routes.

Russia pays special attention to regional security and economic cooperation to maintain its influence in Central Asia. Stability in Afghanistan is also important for Russia.

The US and Western countries are trying to influence projects to ensure security in Afghanistan and promote their interests in regional competition.

Iran and India will participate in regional energy and transport projects to realize their strategic interests.

The success of trans-Afghan projects largely depends on the conditions of internal political stability and security in Afghanistan. Armed conflicts, terrorist threats, and political instability in the country make it difficult to ensure the security of transit routes. This can slow down or suspend the implementation of projects. Therefore:

1. Regional states strive to maintain Afghanistan's internal stability.
2. The international community emphasizes the need for joint efforts for security and economic recovery.

The future of trans-Afghan projects depends on the political will and cooperation between the states of the region. Projects create a great opportunity for economic growth and political stability in the region, but there are the following problems: Political and religious contradictions; threats to internal and external security; insufficient development of infrastructure; low trust between regional states.

To solve these problems, it is necessary to strengthen regional cooperation, ensure stability in Afghanistan, and organize effective project management.

CONCLUSION

Trans-Afghan projects are an important tool for regional integration and economic development. They

are creating new trade routes by connecting transport and energy networks between Central and South Asia through Afghanistan. These projects will not only bring economic benefits to regional states, but also serve to harmonize political and geopolitical interests.

However, security problems and political instability in Afghanistan are hindering the success of the projects. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen cooperation between regional states, ensure security, and strengthen stability. Only in this way can Trans-Afghan projects strengthen regional integration and contribute to economic prosperity and political stability.

In the future, the full implementation of these projects will usher in a new era of dialogue and cooperation between the countries of Central and South Asia, further strengthening regional integration processes.

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