

A Strategic Perspective of Uzbekistan's Geopolitical Role in International Security and Regional Development Along the New Silk Road

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Abstract

For thousands of years, the Silk Road was a major series of routes linking Eurasia, South Asia, and Western Europe sharing knowledge in science, medicine, and commercial trade. Due to its central location in Eurasia along the Silk Road, Uzbekistan now holds strategic advantage in economic development and global security by leveraging its logistical influence on the Silk Road infrastructure. Uzbekistan is considered a Global South nation but may evolve into an industrialized nation. Uzbekistan is located along the historic Silk Road and is our first country we will study along the New Silk Road. We explore how this country has developed since 1991, examine its ability to maintain economic and security interests in the region, and evaluate its potential to realize its national strategic goals as a key player along the New Silk Road and beyond. Our research thus far includes a thorough review of the literature. We also are evaluating our shared observations from Tashkent, Tbilisi, Washington, and from other sources. We validate and verify our data sources by continuing our conversations with subject matter experts in security and economic policies as well as those who may be involved in daily business transactions and public policy decisions in Uzbekistan.

Our focus on Uzbekistan is the first in a research series of countries and cultures along the New Silk Road. We are planning to expand our work to include nations from Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and even Iran to learn how nation states along the historic Silk Road have developed and are functioning in the 21st Century. As a baseline, geopolitically, Uzbekistan, as a Global South nation is well positioned to provide meaningful criteria for other Eurasian nations, as they too are at the right place in the East, and at the right time in history to experience transformational growth, stability and security across the region.

Keywords: Geopolitics, International Security, the New Silk Road.

Introduction

The Silk Road was a major series of trade routes linking Eurasia, South Asia, and the Asian Pacific regions dating back to antiquity. The “New Silk Road” is an important transnational logistical infrastructure for land and maritime trade routes in Eurasia and extends to the countries in South Asia and Africa. Geopolitically, Uzbekistan is in the Global South, yet it is well positioned at the right place in the East and at the right time in history to experience transformational change influencing global political economics and transnational security. A major influence for such change is the nation’s emphasis on higher education highlighted by an American foreign policy known as “Soft Power.”

Soft Power is an American national policy phenomenon influencing global public policies in developed and emerging economies. Uzbekistan is a Central Asian leader in promoting soft power policies in higher education as a sort of New Silk Road commodity. The value of American soft power is that it seeks to influence and share American style of education with Uzbekistan. It serves as a national security policy flexible enough to share examples of its arts, pop culture, cuisine, and institutions in this case, educational programs. Soft Power continues to evolve since its inception in 1989 to include colleges and universities in structure and content.¹ Career training centres and trade schools are also an important form of higher education. Education is a powerful source of national human capital supporting national security policies.

The New Silk Road as a Central Asian economic initiative has national security implications for Uzbekistan and other countries along this infrastructure network of various routes in the region. The China’s 2016, Belt-Road Initiative (“BRI”) closely coincides with New Silk Road political economic infrastructures. The BRI also offers modernization, while challenging sovereign governments on leases and loans for equipment and commercial real estate involving debt sustainability and strategic reliance on Beijing. Other national security measures are Uzbekistan's strategic shift to modernizing its military, counterinsurgency programs, and strengthening regional cooperation with its neighbours in transportation, manufacturing, and logistics.² Regional Economic Development.

This Central Asian nation is a key economic growth pole centre connecting information communication technologies and the exchange of consumer goods and services and other commodities to Eurasian countries including India and other South Asian nations.³ Technological innovation is a key feature of Uzbekistan along the New Silk Road as it seeks to develop its educational institutions to support economic growth with entrepreneurial startups and enhanced access to digital resources.⁴ Uzbekistan’s interests have evolved over the past decade as a developing regional power in socioeconomic policies and in its national security posture in cooperation with independent countries of Central Asia, South Asia, the Caucasus along the New Silk Road.

¹ Joseph S. Nye Jr, "The changing nature of world power." *Political Science Quarterly* 105, no. 2 (1990): 178-180.

² Gökhan Tekir, "Uzbekistan in the belt and road initiative: Reviving connectivity." *Journal of Eurasian Studies* 17, no. 1 (2026): 35-36.

³ Thomas E. Kleiner. "Workforce Development in Uzbekistan's New Silk Road. In *Entrepreneurship and Reflexivity: Critical Visions from the Global South*", ed. Oscar Javier Montiel Méndez, Rosa Azalea Canales García, Anel Flores Novelo, R. Duncan M. Pelly, (Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2026), 285-300.

⁴ Shoh-Jakhon Khamdamov, "The role of technology and innovation in driving economic growth in Uzbekistan." *American Journal of Modern World Sciences* 1, no. 1 (2024): 126.

Research Methodology and Obtained Results

Soft power is not a formal methodology but a framework for developing grounded theory in public policy. Soft power policies persuade without coercion or force as a descriptive rather than a prescriptive concept, leveraging, in our case American values, through cultural exchange agreements, transfers of knowledge educational platforms developed by Nye.⁵ We begin with the research question for providing criteria for structuring a chronological literature review to inform scope and context for case study research from which we can develop grounded theory. The research question reflects the conceptual formation of our research gained from an iterative data collection process exploring the body of literature of soft power policies. It is an important step in our inquiry into the effects of soft power on Uzbekistan's education system that would inform national security and economic development.

The research question is the following: what factors identify Uzbekistan an influential nation within the context of soft power policies and the New Silk Road? Subordinate hypotheses testing may include, (1) Uzbekistan's educational, economic and national security mechanisms strongly emphasize its role in the context of New Silk Road Initiative, (2) Relationships between U.S. soft power policies and educational institutions in Uzbekistan and other Central Asian nations, (3) Public policies guiding Uzbekistan's economic development since 1991, and (4) Transformational effects of soft power policies influencing its national security strategy.

The literature review is a chronological approach to understanding the evolution and relationships between Soft Power policies and education. This approach aligns, structures, and informs our research to identify theoretical constructs as a timeline as published or developed.⁶ We study the evolution of soft power policy to Uzbekistan's 1991 independence from the USSR to reveal content on which to pursue investigative thematic trends. The literature thus far has revealed the following aspect: if soft power is introduced to nations willing to implement it in a collaborative environment mindful of regional norms, values, and belief systems, then it may indeed be practiced as both theory and practice. Informed by data collected in our CLR, we explore soft power in education, economic development, and national security as a case study series approach beginning in Uzbekistan. Our approach seeks to describe phenomena, situations, and programs to understand complexity with Uzbekistan as our exploratory (Pilot) study in our process of inquiry.⁷ As we begin to build constructs, dimensions, and themes, we are developing grounded theory.

Our goal is to develop pragmatic public policies for consideration by public policy officials in policy.⁸ Grounded theory is an innovative, inductive research process building actionable theories based on

⁵ Joseph S. Nye Jr, "Public diplomacy and soft power." *The annals of the American academy of political and social science* 616, no. 1 (2008): 100-101.

⁶ Yuliia Serhiivna Serpeninova, "Integrated reporting: chronological literature review." (2022): 42-43. <https://echas.vnu.edu.ua/index.php/echas/en/article/view/729/590> (14.05.2026)

⁷ Lesley Bartlett and Frances Vavrus. *Rethinking case study research: A comparative approach*. (New York: Routledge, 2016), 27-28.

⁸ Simona Vasilevskytė, "Discussing soft power theory after Nye: the case of Geun Lee's theoretical approach." *Regioninės studijos* 7 (2013): 145-146.

observable, empirical data to understand complexity in dynamically evolving phenomena to formulate, implement, and test public policy.⁹

Research results - key findings

Leveraging Education as Soft Power Public Policy

The New Silk Road infrastructure is a multinational initiative operating along the historic Silk Road. It parallels China's Belt Road Initiative (BRI) that was established 2013 involving nations in Eurasia, Africa, South Asia, and the Pacific Rim as a thirty-year project. To grow and sustain its economy, Uzbekistan is actively developing international agreements with other nations as a core function of its educational policy to attract, train, and retain an informed and talented workforce by establishing a system of learning centers, primarily in higher education and technical career centers.¹⁰ A decade ago, the Ministry of Education solicited and welcomed Western style colleges and universities to establish their programs in Tashkent, Uzbekistan's capitol. The purpose was to ignite and sustain requisite institutional practices of universities to come to Central Asia to educate and train students.¹¹ In this case, by encouraging American universities to establish a regional campus in Uzbekistan. As an American soft power initiative, the pathway for sharing each country mutual interests. In spite of initial challenges, in culture and communication, this approach seems to be gaining traction.¹²

The implications for positive change are immediate and pragmatic. Realistic soft power is critical to having a qualified and competent workforce to remain relevant and grow as an internationally linked economy. Researchers contend that an underlying theme exists across cultures and industry sectors that workforce development is critical for sustainable economic growth. Workforce development is widely known across various organizational disciplines, academia, and public and private sectors. It is also misunderstood and applied according to the encapsulated experiences of those who will define it according to their work perspectives and professional biases. They see the need for better understanding of what workforce development means in the global workplace by linking economics to workforce competencies and sustainability.¹³ Colleges and universities are a means of institutionalizing good career development practices that in turn provide the engine for regional economic development. However, there appears to be a gap caused by inadequate career counselling as major barriers to job entry and further economic

⁹ Hosein Aslipour, and Mohamad Reza Zargar. "Developing grounded theory systematic approach for public policy researches." *International Journal of Qualitative Methods* 21 (2022): 3.

¹⁰ Paradorn Rangsimaporn, "Uzbekistan and Southeast Asia: Exploring the Opportunities for Strengthening Relations." *Silk Road: A Journal of Eurasia Development* 3, no. 1 (2022): 7-8.

¹¹ Shoh-Jakhon Khamdamov. "The role of technology and innovation in driving economic growth in Uzbekistan." *American Journal of Modern World Sciences* 1, no. 1 (2024): 128.

¹² Tina A. Coffelt, "Crossroads on the Silk Road: accounts of a US-American faculty member's culture shock and adaptation in Uzbekistan." *Review of Communication* 24, no. 2 (2024): 120.

¹³ Harris, Roger, and Tom Short. *Workforce development: Perspectives and issues*. (New York, Dordrecht, Heidelberg, London: Springer, 2013), 2-3.

growth in good paying technical and industrial positions.¹⁴ Researchers also report discrepancies in job availability and entrepreneurial opportunities varying across geographical regions within Uzbekistan.¹⁵

Uzbekistan's Economy and the New Silk Road

Following independence in 1991, Uzbekistan continued the Soviet policy of a state dominated market to promote industrial development. It pursued this through policies such as the control of exchange and interest rates, high taxes and government expenditures, establishment of artificial monopolies, and limits on imports.¹⁶ Since 2017, Uzbekistan has implemented measures such as liberalizing the foreign exchange system and adoption of a new investment legislation in order to modernize the economy, improve the business environment, and attract foreign investment.¹⁷

The reforms have stimulated entrepreneurship, enhanced the stability of the banking system as well as mechanisms to protect private property, contributing to an overall increase in quality of life in villages and communities.¹⁸ Despite these changes there is need for improvement in areas such as improving market clarity, consistency, and transparency of investment rules as well as promoting responsible business conduct among other priorities.¹⁹ Uzbekistan has also embarked on an effort to expand its presence within the global financial and economic market. One of these efforts include the launch of the Uzbek National Investment Fund IPO on the London Stock Exchange.²⁰

Given its location on the historic silk road and central location within the geographic location of China's Belt and Road Initiative, Uzbekistan has been heavily involved in the project. As such, President Mizriyoyev made four proposals during an address in 2019: the establishment of a China-Central Asia-West Asia Corridor, joint efforts to advance agriculture, enhancement of collaboration in research and innovation, and increasing the tourism volume between China and Uzbekistan.²¹

¹⁴ To'rayeva Surayyo Quدراتovna, "Advancing Technology Education in Uzbekistan's Secondary Schools: Memajukan Pendidikan Teknologi di Sekolah Menengah Uzbekistan." *Pedagogia: Jurnal Pendidikan* 14, no. 1 (2025): 24-25.

¹⁵ Odilova Feruza Odilovna, "Factors Affecting the Increase of Professional Skills of Vocational Education Graduates: Faktor-Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Peningkatan Keterampilan Profesional Lulusan Pendidikan Vokasi." *Academia Open* 10, no. 1 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.21070/acopen.10.2025.10662>.

¹⁶ Yuliy Yusupov. "Economic reforms in Uzbekistan: Achievements, problems, perspectives. The Foreign Policy Center." (July, 2020). <https://fpc.org.uk/economic-reforms-in-uzbekistan-achievements-problems-perspectives/> (14.05.2026).

¹⁷ OECD. Roadmap for Sustainable Investment Policy Reforms in Uzbekistan (Paris: OECD Investment Policy Reviews, 2025), 25; 132; 305. https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2025/11/roadmap-for-sustainable-investment-policy-reforms-in-uzbekistan_68204584/20865f29-en.pdf (14.05.2026).

¹⁸ Sharofiddin Nazarov. "Constitution of Uzbekistan: economic reforms are aimed at justifying public trust. Embassy of Uzbekistan in the United States". (June, 2023). <https://uzbekistan.org/constitution-of-uzbekistan-economic-reforms-are-aimed-at-justifying-public-trust/3165/> (14.05.2026).

¹⁹ OECD. Roadmap for Sustainable Investment Policy Reforms in Uzbekistan (Paris: OECD Investment Policy Reviews, 2025), 12. https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2025/11/roadmap-for-sustainable-investment-policy-reforms-in-uzbekistan_68204584/20865f29-en.pdf (14.05.2026)

²⁰ International Trade Administration. Uzbekistan Country Commercial Guide (International Trade Administration, 2025). <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/uzbekistan-market-overview> (14.05.2026)

²¹ Eldor Aripov. "One Belt One Road": Four Initiatives of the President of Uzbekistan." Development Strategy Center. (November 2019), <https://strategy.uz/index.php?news=693&lang=en> (14.05.2026).

Work would begin on the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan project in 2025 within the Belt and Road Initiative following the resolution of border disputes between Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.²² This is especially important for Uzbekistan, one of only two double-landlocked countries in the world that has traditionally faced significant barriers and costs to trade.²³ Uzbekistan's involvement in the Belt and Road initiative has contributed to China becoming Uzbekistan's largest trade partner, accounting for over 25% of Uzbekistan's trade volume.²⁴

The influence of China over the Uzbek economy is concerning especially considering the significant trade imbalance in favor of China.²⁵ In order to avoid overreliance on China, Uzbekistan has pursued a multi-vector approach for integration with the global economy. For example, Uzbekistan renewed its efforts to gain accession in 2020.²⁶ The country has also pursued an active policy of establishing free-trade agreements. In addition to this, Uzbekistan's relations with its Central Asian neighbors have transitioned one determined by political and security matters to regional economic integration and trade facilitation.²⁷

Uzbekistan's national security conditions and its effect on New Silk Road initiative

The collaboration of Uzbekistan as well as other states of the region with such great powers as United States of America, Russian Federation, People's Republic of China, South Korea, Japan, etc. have been predominantly depending on the national security concepts of these actors. Notably, Russia pays much attention to the 1992 Collective Security Treaty Organization, having a very important essence on the ongoing processes of Central Asia. Bearing in mind also China's interest in ensuring homeland security (certainly, putting emphasis on Shanghai Cooperation Organization)²⁸, one might argue that Uzbekistan's security approaches gain importance in the context of New Silk Road project. Uzbekistan's government, especially during the era of Islam Karimov's rule, facing certain challenges of dismantling the authoritarian style of governance, found it beneficial to have the allies such as aforementioned great powers in order to deal with those challenges, especially in the context of security. Nevertheless, Mirziyoev's attitudes have been modified. The security matters shifted from the political elite's personal safety to the national

²² Ali Dayar. "A New Link in Global Trade: The China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan Railway and Its Role in the Middle Corridor." Caspian Policy Center (October, 2025). <https://caspiandpolicy.org/research/middle-corridor/a-new-link-in-global-trade-the-china-kyrgyzstan-uzbekistan-railway-and-its-role-in-the-middle-corridor> (14.05.2026).

²³ Gökhan Tekir, "Uzbekistan in the belt and road initiative: Reviving connectivity." Journal of Eurasian Studies 17, no. 1 (2026): 37.

²⁴ National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover reaches \$18 billion in the first quarter. National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2026. <https://uza.uz/en/posts/uzbekistans-foreign-trade-turnover-reaches-18-billion-in-the-first-quarter> 853051 (14.05.2026).

²⁵ Gökhan Tekir, "Uzbekistan in the belt and road initiative: Reviving connectivity." Journal of Eurasian Studies 17, no. 1 (2026): 37-38.

²⁶ Bekzod Zakirov and Bakhrom Mirkasimov. "How can Uzbekistan integrate into the global economy?" The Hague Research Institute for Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, & Central Asia. (2024). <https://hagueresearch.org/how-can-uzbekistan-integrate-into-the-global-economy/> (14.05.2026).

²⁷ Bekzod Zakirov and Bakhrom Mirkasimov. "How can Uzbekistan integrate into the global economy?" The Hague Research Institute for Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, & Central Asia. (2024). <https://hagueresearch.org/how-can-uzbekistan-integrate-into-the-global-economy/> (14.05.2026).

²⁸ Timur Dadabaev, "De-securitizing the "Silk Road": Uzbekistan's cooperation agenda with Russia, China, Japan, and South Korea in the post-Karimov era." Journal of Eurasian Studies 11, no. 2 (2020): 174.

interests. These so-called “de-securitization” policy²⁹ is an important factor while assessing Uzbekistan’s security stance in the context of regional geopolitical activities.

In fact, it can be discussed that Uzbekistan gained an essential role in the security context of New Silk Road. Bearing in mind the fact that the “Silk Road visa: project, enabling the foreign citizens the visa-free movement in the most states of Central Asia in case of possessing either Uzbekistan or Kazakhstan’s visas in their passports³⁰, Uzbekistan can be confidently seen as a milestone in the context of New Silk Road. Precisely, from the security perspective, Uzbekistan is a country that shapes the regional context of the New Silk Road countries and influences its future enhancement trajectory. In other words, this Asian Schengen area³¹ initiative derives from Uzbekistan and shows the increasingly important role of Uzbekistan’s national security strategy in the frames of cooperation not only between Central Asian former Soviet -countries but also South Asia, Caucasus and all areas that the New Silk Road covers.

Uzbekistan’s importance in the New Silk Road initiative security aspects was highlighted by Karimov’s offer to set up transport corridor from China to his country through Kazakhstan. Considering also the significant territorial essence of Uzbekistan with regard to radical insurgents and separatists (that would cause territorial concerns of the neighboring states),³² it becomes evident that Uzbekistan, as a regional actor, has an essential role in New Silk Road initiative. It can be assumed that Uzbeks’ national security policy is firmly linked to this initiative and influences it. Thereafter, it might not be a surprise that the railroads connecting China with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan not only highlights Uzbekistan’s geopolitical strength inside the region but creates security guarantees for the country, especially with regard to Russian Federation’s possible expansionist taste. This factor was important not only in the frames of New Silk Road but Belt and Road Initiative as well.³³ Such circumstances draw the full painting: Uzbekistan’s national security policy is shaped so that it creates the state’s attractiveness for such great actors as China. So the security conditions of the Uzbek nation influence the New Silk Road initiative and the initiative itself also affects Uzbekistan’s security (and other internal political) aspects, as China is willing to engage it in the chain of trade, transportation and other geostrategic operations. Ugli’s work, involving not only desk research but also the data gathered from 100 respondents inside Uzbekistan, depicted the importance of the state in the field of security of the New Silk Road chain due to the increasing involvement of China, Russia, USA and other actors.³⁴ This circumstance, on the one hand, focuses on Uzbekistan’s principal role

²⁹ Timur Dadabaev, "De-securitizing the “Silk Road”: Uzbekistan’s cooperation agenda with Russia, China, Japan, and South Korea in the post-Karimov era." *Journal of Eurasian Studies* 11, no. 2 (2020): 174-175.

³⁰ Timur Dadabaev, "De-securitizing the “Silk Road”: Uzbekistan’s cooperation agenda with Russia, China, Japan, and South Korea in the post-Karimov era." *Journal of Eurasian Studies* 11, no. 2 (2020): 175.

³¹ Timur Dadabaev, "De-securitizing the “Silk Road”: Uzbekistan’s cooperation agenda with Russia, China, Japan, and South Korea in the post-Karimov era." *Journal of Eurasian Studies* 11, no. 2 (2020): 175-177.

³² Timur Dadabaev, "De-securitizing the “Silk Road”: Uzbekistan’s cooperation agenda with Russia, China, Japan, and South Korea in the post-Karimov era." *Journal of Eurasian Studies* 11, no. 2 (2020): 179-180.

³³ Amirkhon Musokhoni Alisher Ugli, “Uzbekistan’s Strategic Role in Infrastructure Development and Regional Cooperation within the New Silk Road”. *International Journal of Business Diplomacy and Economy* 4, no. 1 (2024): 91.

³⁴ Amirkhon Musokhoni Alisher Ugli, “Uzbekistan’s Strategic Role in Infrastructure Development and Regional Cooperation within the New Silk Road”. *International Journal of Business Diplomacy and Economy* 4, no. 1 (2024): 96.

in the security affairs of the New Silk Road and on the other hand, emphasizes the necessity to carry out the in-depth research about the national security of Uzbekistan in the context of the New Silk Road. It becomes evident that the scientific field lacks research for the security matters of Uzbekistan in the frames of the New Silk Road.

Uzbekistan's security policy is important in the context of transnational crime and international terrorism as well. Having an official border with Afghanistan, the homeland of Taliban, has been creating the threat of drug flow through the country. Therefore, Uzbekistan has been establishing strict border protection policy to the other states of the Central Asian region, especially after the massive bombings by the Islamist groups in February 1999.³⁵ Certainly, one might see the security drawbacks of the country in such facts. However, it is also understandable that the unstable situation in the region, created by terrorist groups and organized crime's elements, has to be dealt in a rational way. Bearing in mind the fact that after such measures, taken by Uzbekistan, the drug route was closed on its border³⁶, Uzbekistan's strict national security approaches seem to be important evident. Uzbekistan, actually, appears to be strongly opposing any kind of illegal activities that might negatively affect not only the state's but also the New Silk Road future. So Uzbekistan appears to be an important geopolitical actor and its security approaches need to be studied and emphasized not only on policy planning but on scientific level as well.

Conclusion

Uzbekistan has become a geopolitical actor in the frames of the New Silk Road, strengthening the regional development affairs. Its educational reforms as well as economic progress and security approaches have created a space for the state to get rid of Communist heritage and become an important part of the Central Asian region, being a target of political and economic relations of such great powers as China, USA, South Korea, etc. The research demonstrates the vital significance of the state not only in the context of infrastructural and administrative projects but geopolitical initiatives such as the New Silk Road, Belt and Road Initiative and other important mechanisms of regional and international cooperation. As a result, it is obvious that the government of Uzbekistan tries to acquire a rational choice and undertake each pragmatic step which may create welfare and better living conditions for its nation.

The study has revealed several important components in order to evaluate Uzbekistan's approaches. First and foremost, the country's focus on implementation of global educational trends, evolving especially from the Western states, highlights its ambition to play a pivotal role in such big projects as the New Silk Road is. Acquiring creative capabilities, developing entrepreneurial skills, collecting best practices in most cases of the world... - this is the insufficient list of the circumstances which the government as well as society of Uzbekistan try to implement in order to obtain a better key to success as a unified nation. These aspects are strongly influenced by the soft power, having not only a psychological but also political and managerial influence on the procedural development of state institutions inside the country. Major research findings

³⁵ Martha Brill Olcott and Natalia Udalova Zwart, "Drug Trafficking on the Great Silk Road: The Security Environment in Central Asia". Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, no. 11 (2000): 14.

³⁶ Martha Brill Olcott and Natalia Udalova Zwart, "Drug Trafficking on the Great Silk Road: The Security Environment in Central Asia". Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, no. 11 (2000): 14.

highlight the understandable nature of Uzbeks with regard to taking notice of technological advancements and developing human resources as a unified human capital. This neat interaction between educational and economic sectors of the state seems to have significantly broadened the horizon of the Uzbek nation.

The research also shows the vital essence of national security strategies for the enhancement of Uzbekistan's existing geopolitical role. The state is strongly motivated to be the outstanding participant in the projects firmly tight with connectivity, commercialization, cultural and social relations. Therefore, the state tries to combat such problematic fields as terrorism and radical groups, transnational crime and organized criminal segments, the flow of drugs, etc. It tries to create a habitat that will assist not only its growth as an independent entity of international law but also strengthening of a healthy regional atmosphere. Such circumstances increase Uzbekistan's potential to become one of (if not primary) the locomotives of the New Silk Road. Thereafter, the research should continue with field research means in order to better understand Uzbekistan's essence. It may also be preferable to study the other actors of the region (e. g. Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, etc.) to strengthen the context of New Silk Road initiative.

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