

ПОЛІТИЧНІ НАУКИ

UDC 94:327: 323/324 (574)

TURKISH STATES IN THE LIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL DATA

Ağalar Abbasbeyli

Baku State University

23 Z. Khalilova str., 1148, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

In the 20th century, the most remarkable issues in the international relations discipline are the collapse of the Soviets and the changing political geography of Eurasia. In terms of ensuring the national stability and evaluating the existing potentials of the Turkish States which have gained independence the relations of these states with each other are of great importance. In the study, Azerbaijan and Central Asian Turkic Republics were compared in the light of international data.

Key words: Azerbaijan, Central Asian Turkic Republics, International data.

Middle Asia and Caucasus, where have great importance due to their adjacency to Turkey, Russia, China, Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan, draw attention with their population potential and rich energy source. Especially, Turkish states had to deal with various problems passed from Soviet after independence in 90's but not soon after, these states in Caucasus manages to become leading actors of the system. Undoubtedly, it has been a major factor to create a chance to adapt to system by freeing political and economic systems from Soviet traditions and developing new reformist and westerner ones.

Desiring to integrate global politics and economy, Turkish states has been slow and sure to each other in especially first years of independence. The states, having stayed under Soviet oppression for many years, came together easily under the roof of regional-global organizations, however bilateral relations took some time to develop. Middle Asia is in a strategic point of Silk Road which connects Asia and Europe. Having rich petroleum and natural gas resource, the region draws attention not only by supplying raw materials but also offering agricultural potential. In the region where Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan lie in, China increasing its influence in addition to rivalry between Russia and USA. Because of all these reasons, the position of Turkish states in the political, economic and social indicators is very important.

The Collapse of the Soviet Union and the Independent Turkish States. Turkish States in Caucasus, whose lands were occupied by Russia as a result of expansion policy in 1800's, were separated by planned Russian politics in aspects of language, religion and ethnic identity. Beginning in Imperial Russia, assimilation policies were followed by Soviets and in this process, Turkish States were exploited by Soviet System as alienated but completing each other. Rich energy sources in Middle Asia and Caucasus played an important role in Russia's becoming a financial giant. For example, Baku, thanks to the blooming petroleum industry in 19th century, supplied the 95% of Russia and 50% of the world oil alone in the 20th century [5, p. 138].

In the beginning, Soviet system, which was based on flawless socialism and promised 'equality' to all nations, was demolished; policies especially in financial issues revealed discrimination to other communities. It did not take long to understand that Imperial Russia called 'Prison of the Peoples' left the stage to 'Prison of the Nations' Union of Soviet Socialist Republics [3]. For example, Soviet system, which is central-management, has primary importance, Turkish States with rich energy sources were kept under strict control even when industrialization reached peak

speed. In these times, Turkish States in the system were directed to agriculture; industrial centers were established in Slavic Republics [2, p. 260]. In addition, unequal practices in politics and social issues caused raising “national” speeches and embracement by groups of these practices.

Although, international affairs increased partly in last quarter of 20th century, over-growth in population and economy brought up various problems. Moreover, rivalry between the USA in defense and space technologies affected economy in negative way [1, p. 11].

Unable to keep up with technological advancements, Soviet Union fell behind of the USA. At this point, Central management half difficulties to sustain economic system which is closed and lacks rivalry. After Gorbachev took the government in 1985, glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring) which has politics, economic and social results, however they fasten the break up process instead of fixing the congestions of the system. As a result, in the beginning of 90’s, Soviet Union, which has 287,6 millions of population and the biggest area in the world, collapsed; two-poled world system left its place to one-poled world controlled by the USA. Considering the states it included, collapse of the union, with the number of border neighbors, not only affected 15 states which gained independence but also whole world.

Middle Asia and Caucasus have both lots of underground wealth sources especially petroleum and natural gas and strategic position geographically. Turks have the major portion of population in the region which became the main interest of global forces in 20th century. Prohibition of Islam and offering atheism as a policy of state in Soviet era played an important role in the plans of DE familiarizing Turks to their own cultural and religious values. However, the main factor to keep the states together after collapse, – though it is not enough to integrate all alone- as well as perfectly embraced history and common culture is the notion of “religion”. Young republics, which faced political, social, and economic crises after subsequent independences in 1991, had to make effort both to cope with mentioned crisis and to adapt international system which they were isolated long years. In this time, ethnic conflicts and problems to determine the border were other reasons to delay integration of Turkish republics. In present time, mentioned problems were partly solved, however collaboration and communication among Turkish republics are not at desired level.

Caucasus and Central Asian Turkish States in the Light of International Data. Change to free market economy from centrally-planned economy system after the collapse of USSR caused some various problems in Turkish republics. In this process, the republics, which opened their gate to foreign investors, achieved economic growth thanks to some reforms such as privatization, reform in banking system, debt reconstructing, and freeing market. In this context, it possible list major macro-economic achievements since independence in Caucasus and Middle Asia republics [4, p. 1–18]:

1) in Caucasus and Middle Asia, with 7% in average between 1996 and 2011, higher growth rate was recorded than rest of the world and poverty decreased;

2) in 1990’s, rate of inflation and interest decreased sharply from high rates. In mid-1990’s, inflation rates decreased from three-digits to one-digits in most of CCA countries;

3) financial buffers were set successfully before global economic crisis and these buffers were used effectively by Caucasus and Middle Asia countries to support economic growth and to control economic crisis in the region.

4) importing petroleum and natural gas, countries in the region increased living standards dramatically thanks to their income from underground sources.

After these partly achieved reforms, especially Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan draw attention among these young republics with their great energy investments and economic growth rate. Though, they have the fourth richest natural gas reserves in the world, Turkmenistan, with

the effect of declaration of neutral status in 1995, could not achieve economic growth rate parallel to their potential. Most crowded country in Middle Asia, Turkmenistan holds a key position geopolitically. Though, it holds fourth place in cotton production and fifth place as gold reserves, level of prosperity is rather low. Kyrgyzstan, with no major energy source, is the poorest country of Middle Asia. As a result, thanks to new discoveries and production booms in the early 2000s energy sectors in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan have surged since the breakup of the Soviet Union. Development of energy industry both increase economic growth rate and helped to raise living standards in these countries.

Table 1

Central Asian and Caucasian Turkish states in Selected Indicators in 1990 and 2017

Countries	GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	Inflation	Life expectancy at birth, total (years)	Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)	Imports of goods and services (% of GDP)	Agriculture, forestry, fishing, value added (% of GDP)	Industry (including construction), value added (% of GDP)	GDP growth (annual %)
Azerbaijan (1990/2017)	3,360; 16,650	83,5; 16,0	65; 72	44; 49	39; 42	27; 6	30; 50	0.7; 0.1
Kazakhstan (1990/2017)	6,980; 23,440	96,4; 6,4	68; 72	74; 32	75; 28	23; 4	39; 32	11.0; 4.0
Uzbekistan (1990/2017)	1,760; 7,130	4,0; 19,0	66; 71	29; 29	48; 30	33; 17	33; 30	1.6; 5.3
Turkmenistan (1990/2017)	4,430; 17,320	20,9; 9,9	63; 68	39; –	27; –	33; 9	30; 57	35,4; 6,5
Kyrgyzstan (1990/2017)	2,250; 3,620	7,9; 4,6	68; 71	29; 35	50; 67	33; 12	34; 26	5,7; 4,6

Source: <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/embed-int/CountryProfile/id/b450fd57>

In Table 1, Turkish republics are compared in some different aspects with regarding data between 1990 and 2017. When considering every country alone, it is seen that GNI increases in every country within those years. Though, Kazakhstan has the highest share in GNI per capita, Azerbaijan made the biggest development with a near five-fold increase in the time period. Kyrgyzstan is the country with the lowest GNI per capita in the mentioned years. Inflation rates, which were rather high in 1990's, decreased in all countries thanks to political stability and economic reforms; it declined to one digit numbers in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan in 2017. Success in economic issues is easily seen in prosperity level and life expectancy in all countries increased between 3 and 7 years.

The highest rate of goods and service exports in GDP was in Kazakhstan with 74% in 1990 and Azerbaijan took the first place in 2017 with 49%. While Kazakhstan had the highest rate with 75% in service import in 1990, Kyrgyzstan took the first place with the rate of 67% in 2017. Added-value of agriculture, forestry and fishing industries in GDP declined in all countries but sharpest decline was seen in Kazakhstan. While added-value of industry in GDP increased in Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, it decreased in other countries. Finally, Turkmenistan was the country providing the highest GDP growth with 35% in 1990 and 6.5% in 2017.

Table 2
Countries in Selected Indicators within the Framework of Human Development Index 2018

Countries	HDI	Life expectancy at birth	Mean years of schooling	Gross national income (GNI) per capita	Gender Development Index ¹	Gender Inequality Index (Rank)	Unemployment
Azerbaijan	80	72.1	10.7	15.600	3	71	5.0
Kazakhstan	58	70.0	11.8	22.626	1	43	4.9
Uzbekistan	105	71.4	11.5	6.470	3	59	7.2
Turkmenistan	110	68.0	9.8	15,594	–	–	3.4
Kyrgyzstan	122	71.1	10.9	3.255	2	91	7.3

Source: Human Development Indices and Indicators 2018

Human Development Report, which is published by UN regularly and measures human development of countries based on three criteria such as life expectancy at birth, rate of adult literate persons and GDP per capita, is another source offers reliable data for the Turkic republics in Middle Asia and Caucasus. While, in human development index, which took 173 countries into consideration, in 1993 Kazakhstan held the 53rd, Azerbaijan 62nd, Turkmenistan 66th, Uzbekistan 80th, and Kyrgyzstan 83rd place, in 1995 all countries held lower places. So, in human development index, which took 174 countries into consideration, in 1995, Kazakhstan held the 64th, Turkmenistan 86th, Uzbekistan 94th, Kyrgyzstan 89th, Azerbaijan 99th places [6].

Finally, some indicators from last Human Development Report, which 189 countries taken into consideration, in 2018, were shown in Table II. According to the table, while Kazakhstan became the country showing the highest human development among the Turkish states, Kyrgyzstan became the country showing the lowest human development. Again, Kazakhstan became the country with the highest mean years of schooling, gross national income per capita and gender inequality index. Kyrgyzstan, which holds the 122nd place in Human Development Index, had the worst rates among mentioned countries with lowest GNI per capita, highest rate of unemployment and gender inequality.

¹ Gender Development Index groups: Countries are divided into five groups by absolute deviation from gender parity in HDI values. Group 1 comprises countries with high equality in HDI achievements between women and men (absolute deviation of less than 2.5 percent), group 2 comprises countries with medium to high equality in HDI achievements between women and men (absolute deviation of 2.5–5 percent), group 3 comprises countries with medium equality in HDI achievements between women and men (absolute deviation of 5–7.5 percent), group 4 comprises countries with medium to low equality in HDI achievements between women and men (absolute deviation of 7.5–10 percent) and group 5 comprises countries with low equality in HDI achievements between women and men (absolute deviation from gender parity of more than 10 percent).

Table 3

Real GDP growth at market prices in percent, (unless indicated otherwise)

Countries	2015	2016	2017	2018
Azerbaijan	1.1	-3.1	0.1	1.8
Kazakhstan	1.2	1.1	4.0	3.7
Turkmenistan	6.5	6.2	6.5	6.3
Uzbekistan	7.9	7.8	5.3	5.0
Kyrgyzstan	3.9	4.3	4.6	4.2

Source: World Bank 2018

When the table is analyzed, Turkmenistan has been the country with the most stable GDP growth in the last 4 years due to policies such as reducing imported goods from abroad and increasing the production of products made from local raw materials. Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan are the Turkish states most affected by the decline in oil prices. Therefore, there was a low level of GDP growth in both countries' economy in recent years. Especially in 2016, Azerbaijan's GDP growth shrank by -3.1 percent. Uzbekistan's economy, which achieved a successful growth in 2015 and 2016, had lower rates in the last two years. Despite smaller growth rates, the economy of Kyrgyzstan seems to be maintaining its stability.

Central Asia is one of the most prominent regions in the last twenty-five years due to its rich energy resources and geo-strategic position. While the Turkish states, which gained their independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union, tried to adapt to the international system, the region became a competitive area of global powers. In the early years of independence, the Turkish states, which had difficulty in adapting to the global system, achieved a welfare increase especially in the 2000s. At this point, the most successful countries have been Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan due to their rich energy resources and the freedom to use these resources. For example, though, Kazakhstan has the highest share in GNI per capita in 2017, Azerbaijan made the biggest development with a near five-fold increase compared to 1990. While Uzbekistan was the country with the lowest GNI per capita in 1990. In 2017, Kyrgyzstan was the country with the lowest GNI per capita. High inflation in 1990 was one of the biggest problems in all countries but it declined to one digit numbers in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan in 2017. Human Development Report, which is published by UN regularly and measures human development of countries based on three criteria such as life expectancy at birth, rate of adult literate persons and GDP per capita, is another source offers reliable data for the Turkish republics in Middle Asia and Caucasus. According to 2018 Human Development Report, while Kazakhstan (its ranked 58) became the country showing the highest human development among the Turkish states, Kyrgyzstan (its ranked 122) became the country showing the lowest human development. The difference between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan is noteworthy. Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan are the Turkish states most affected by the decline in oil prices because they are more adapted to the global system. Therefore, there was a low level of GDP growth in both countries' economy in recent years. Especially in 2016, Azerbaijan's GDP growth shrank by -3.1 percent. Generally, it should be stated that Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan stand out compared to other countries in terms of human development and economic development. Turkmenistan, especially in recent years, attracts attention with stable economic growth rates. Determining the strengths and weaknesses and establishing effective communication among these countries in every field is important in terms of ensuring regional development. The all countries except Kyrgyzstan are equipped with rich energy resources. It is the most important reason for economic growth and prosperity in these countries.

References

1. Remzi B. SSCB'nin Dağılması ve Rusya Federasyonu'nda Serbest Piyasaya Geçiş, Mehmet Akif Ersoy *Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences Journal*. 2014. № 1 (2). S. 7–19.
2. Gürbüz M., Karabulut M. SSCB'nin Dağılmasıyla Bağımsızlığına Kavuşan Ülkelerde Sosyo-Ekonomik Benzerlik Analizi. *Bilig*. 2009. Summer 50. S. 31–50.
3. Füsün K. Kırgız Sovyet Devleti'nin Oluşması. *International Journal of Social Science*. 2013. № 6 (2). S. 1749–1767.
4. Middle East and Central Asia Department. *The Caucasus and Central Asia: transitioning to emerging markets*. Washington, D.C. : International Monetary Fund. 2014.
5. Shammedov F. *Azərbaycan'da Kentleşme ve Sanayileşme Süreci Çerçevesinde Bakü Orneği*. Mimarşinan Fine Arts University Master Thesis, İstanbul. 2006.
6. UNDP. *Human Development Report 1993* (New York, UNDP). 1993.
7. UNDP. *Human Development Report 1995* (New York, UNDP). 1995.
8. UNDP. *Human Development Indices and Indicators* (New York, UNDP). 2018.
9. World Bank. *Global Economic Prospects* (Washington, World Bank). 2018.

ТЮРКСЬКІ ДЕРЖАВИ У СВІТЛІ МІЖНАРОДНИХ ДАНИХ

Агалар Аббасбейлі

Бакинський державний університет

вул. 3. Халилова, 23, 1148, м. Баку, Республіка Азербайджан

У ХХ столітті найбільш значними проблемами в історії міжнародних відносин є розпад Рад і зміна політичної карти Євразії. Щодо забезпечення національної стабільності та оцінювання наявних потенціалів тюркських держав, які здобули незалежність, відносини цих держав одна з одною мають велике значення. У дослідженні порівняно Азербайджан і Центральнo-Азіатські тюркські республіки у світлі міжнародних даних, а також обговорено відносини Азербайджану з цими країнами.

Ключові слова: Азербайджан, країни Центральної Азії тюркські республіки, міжнародні дані.

(Footnotes)

1 Gender Development Index groups: Countries are divided into five groups by absolute deviation from gender parity in HDI values. Group 1 comprises countries with high equality in HDI achievements between women and men (absolute deviation of less than 2.5 percent), group 2 comprises countries with medium to high equality in HDI achievements between women and men (absolute deviation of 2.5–5 percent), group 3 comprises countries with medium equality in HDI achievements between women and men (absolute deviation of 5–7.5 percent), group 4 comprises countries with medium to low equality in HDI achievements between women and men (absolute deviation of 7.5–10 percent) and group 5 comprises countries with low equality in HDI achievements between women and men (absolute deviation from gender parity of more than 10 percent).