

все государства пересмотрели свои подходы в сторону ужесточения отдельных положений законодательства и практических мер по контролю над деятельностью религиозных объединений.

Опыт разных стран показывает, что одним из способов противодействия распространению религиозного радикализма может стать налаживание диалога различных направлений ислама между собой, открытая и взвешенная государственная политика в этой сфере, обучение и поддержка мусульманских

богословов, способных противостоять деятельности деструктивных течений.

Также одним из методов нивелирования проблемы повышенной потребности во внимании у некоторых радикалов-неофитов стало бы отсутствие такого внимания. Наверное следует прекратить муссировать проблемы «бороды» и «хиджабов», всячески не замечать такое внешне вызывающее поведение последователей деструктивных религиозных течений, что лишило бы их эмоциональной опоры.

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SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION TODAY: THE MOST RELEVANT ASPECTS OF ITS ACTIVITIES

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Annotation. The main purpose of this article is to analyze the state of activity of the SCO at the moment. In the article the expansion of the SCO is considered as an objective and necessary process for the evolution of such a regional association. In an analysis of the economic cooperation in the framework of the SCO, attention is drawn to the conjugation of the Organization's activities on expanding economic relations between the member countries with the Chinese program "One Belt, One Way". On the base of research of the last facts and events in these two aspects the conclusion about newest trend in evolution of the SCO was made.

Key words: Shanghai Cooperation Organization, expansion of the SCO, economic cooperation, the "One Belt, One Way" project.

Аңдатпа. Осы мақаланың негізгі мақсаты - қазіргі уақыттағы ШЫҰ қызметінің жай-күйін талдау. Мақалада ШЫҰ осындай аймақтық бірлестік эволюциясындағы объективті және қажетті үрдіс ретінде қарастырылады. ШЫҰ аясындағы экономикалық ынтымақтастықты талдау кезінде ұйымның мүше елдер арасындағы экономикалық қатынастарды кеңейтудегі қызметі «Бір белдеу, бір жол» қытайлық бағдарламасымен жақындастырылғанына назар аударылады. Аталған екі аспекті бойынша соңғы фактілер мен оқиғаларды зерттеу негізінде ШЫҰ эволюциясындағы соңғы беталыс туралы қорытынды жасалды.

Тірек сөздер: Шанхай ынтымақтастық ұйымы, ШЫҰ-ның кеңеюі, экономикалық ынтымақтастық, «Бір белдеу, бір жол» жобасы.

Аннотация. Основная цель данной статьи - проанализировать состояние деятельности ШОС на данный момент. В статье расширение ШОС рассматривается как объективный и необходимый процесс в эволюции такой региональной ассоциации. В анализе экономического сотрудничества в рамках ШОС внимание обращается на сближение деятельности Организации по расширению экономических отношений между странами-членами с китайской программой «Один пояс, один путь». На основе исследования последних фактов и событий по этим двум

аспектам был сделан вывод о новейшем тренде в процессе эволюции ШОС.

Ключевые слова: Шанхайская организация сотрудничества, расширение ШОС, экономическое сотрудничество, проект «Один пояс, один путь».

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At the methodological level, the analysis of the highlighted problem is organically linked with the understanding of the very essence and nature of the SCO as a regional integration project. According to most experts, the SCO is a new type of interstate organizations model, the essence of which is that the members of the organization, in accordance with the principle of regional security, establish and develop partnership rather than bloc relations. If in the period of formation the SCO was aimed at strengthening the confidence in the military sphere in the border areas and the emphasis was placed on the struggle against the “three evils”: terrorism, national separatism, religious extremism, and then the programs on trade, economic, integration, energy, transport and humanitarian cooperation were initiated. Thus, the Organization soon became universal, covering all aspects of interaction between participating countries.

In our opinion, one of the well-known approaches to the analysis of the SCO in the academic community in the West is the following understanding of the purpose of this Organization: “...to create the potential to act independently of the unipole or at cross with it” (International Relation Theory and the consequences of unipolarity., 2012). And the nature of this Organization, defined by its members mainly as economically, is understood differently by Western researchers. For example, M. de Haas, in his article on the Organization, emphasizes its focus on security issues: “...the SCO’s development towards a full-grown security organization i.e., on its way to an alliance with a span of activities and a depth of cooperation similar to that of NATO” (Marcel de Haas., 2008). Today, when more than 15 years have passed since its inception, it is obvious that the SCO is not an international organization of the classical type. Over the years of its existence, it has not evolved into a typical association with developed multilateralism. Despite the presence of the necessary attributes of the international organization, it really represents a platform for the establishment and development of bilateral relations between its members. As Neil MacFarlane defines: «The organization provides a forum for regular communication that assists in minimizing potentially dangerous misunderstandings... members see value in the SCO as a venue for consultation on the region, for exchange of information, and for coordination of policy where interests coincide» (Neil MacFarlane., 2017).

A review of the works of domestic and foreign

researchers on the stated subject shows that the most considered problems regarding the activities of the SCO are the expansion of the Organization and the economic sphere of interaction among the member countries. This is a very interesting fact for the Organization, which positions itself as a security organization, but it fits into the framework of the “universality” declared for the SCO.

In July 2015, at the SCO summit in Ufa (Russia), a historic event for all parties took place - the process of acceptance of India and Pakistan into the ranks of the Organization was launched. Decisions on the joining of these countries the Organization were signed during the meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States during the summit and became the first official procedure for the admission of new members during the existence of the organization since 2001. The starting point of membership of these states in the SCO was the Astana summit of the organization, which was held on June 9, 2017. ‘The heads of state stressed the historical nature of the admission of the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as full member states of the Organization. In this regard, they noted the implementation by India and Pakistan of memoranda of commitment to obtain the status of the SCO member state from 2016 and approved the decisions of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO member states on granting them the status of a Member State of the Organization (Astaniinskaya deklaraciya., 2017).

At the summit in Ufa, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia and Nepal were joined to the SCO as dialogue partners. The status of Belarus was raised to the level of the observer state.

Membership of India and Pakistan in the SCO was perceived in the expert community, first of all, in terms of confrontation, geopolitical struggle between world centers of power. This should be expected because, as it was said above, initially the Organization was painted in geopolitical tones in the eyes of the international community. “India’s accession to this organization has been approved by the US in order to be able to control Russia and China.” The joining of these countries the SCO is seen as a continuation of Russian-Chinese rivalry within the organization. Russia traditionally supports the Indian side, China prefers Pakistan. Thus, the two great powers, as it were, make up groups within the Organization to advance their interests.

Undoubtedly, the activity of the Organization is complicated by the fact that there are some territorial disputes between India and China, India and

Pakistan. Nevertheless, without these South Asian states, the Organization will not be able to fully consider and solve the problems of regional security.

The answer to the question why India and Pakistan sought to join the SCO lies, first of all, in the economic, geo-economic plane. In the case of India, these are growing needs of the economy in resources and markets, and in the case of Pakistan the construction of the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through its territory, which will consist of roads and railways, as well as power lines that will link the foothills of the north to the southern coast. The total cost of this project, which should become one of the branches of the new 'Silk Road' is estimated at 56 billion dollars, of which 46 billion have already been allocated.

It should be noted that India has territorial disputes with both China (because of the Arunachal Pradesh state) and Pakistan (because of the state of Jammu and Kashmir), but Narendra Modi, following Xi Jinping, decided to follow pragmatism: the volume of trade of these bordering with each other countries are not comparable with the trade of both with the US, so the volume for its increase is huge. At the same time, China's cooling economy forces it to look for new projects for investing outside of the country than India as the largest neighbor of China, it would be nice to take advantage of it: with a comparable population (1.4 billion in China and 1.3 billion in India) the welfare of these countries varies at times. With the accession to the SCO, these countries have more opportunities to access the participation of international projects for the extraction and transportation of energy resources in Central Asia.

The following expert opinion speaks of the difficulty of reaching agreement between the new SCO members in the geo-economic field: "India despite Pakistan and China's offer to become part of CPEC has stayed away from China led regional connectivity initiative on the grounds that CPEC violates India's sovereign in Jammu and Kashmir. Indian stubbornness is irrational and against the United Nations Security Council resolution that accept state of Jammu and Kashmir as disputed territory between Pakistan and India. As CPEC does not change the status of state of Jammu and Kashmir, Indian opposition and subversive activities against the mega economic project is immensely destabilizing for economic rise of South Asia. Russia is supporting the BRI which essentially means endorsing CPEC for regional connectivity. After becoming member of SCO, there are expectations from India that it will stop irrational policy of opposition to CPEC and engage with China and Russia for regional connectivity through Pakistan" (Muhammad Adil Sivia., 2017).

At the moment, the situation is such that all parties have already reconciled that China controls part of one Indian state, and Pakistan is another, and the preservation of the status quo now meets the interests of all countries. In addition, all three

countries border Afghanistan, where almost all the armed forces of Western countries were recently withdrawn, and also have an active Islamist underground. In Pakistan, the worst situation in this regard is observed in Waziristan, which is almost controlled by the Taliban, in India is Kashmir, and in China is the Sindzhan-Uyghur Autonomous Region. These 'hot spots' make all three countries vulnerable to the threat of an ever-expanding "Islamic state" and require the development of a common approach and countermeasures to fight Islamism.

One of the important moments is the desire of Iran to become a full member of the Organization. In cultural and historical terms, Iran is part of the Central Asian region, and accordingly is a natural economic partner of the countries that are members of the SCO. The recent meetings between the leaders of Russia and Iran, then China and Iran, the dynamism of Russian-Iranian, Sino-Iranian relations show that the issue of taking this country into the organization of the near future. The decision to build the Urumqi-Tehran railway reached during Xi Jinping's visit to Iran in January 2016 symbolically linked China, the countries of Central Asia and Iran. The joining of Iran the SCO could bring the Organization to a qualitatively new level. However, the Tajiks have blocked the entry of Iran into the SCO, explaining this by the fact that Tehran was involved in the insurgency in Tajikistan and that it supports the Islamists. A. Knyazev gives the following explanation for such behavior of Tajikistan: "Dushanbe confidently demonstrates its completely revolutionary foreign policy reorientation from the earlier close, related and friendly Iran toward the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" (V SHOS eshche raz zadumalis'..., 2017).

Turkey's accession to the SCO as a partner in the dialogue aroused many questions as for a long time the country has been striving to become a member of the European Union. Moreover, Turkey is a member of NATO and has the second largest army after the United States. The foreign policy of Turkish President Erdogan in recent years has alienated it from Western partners. Geostrategic interests of Turkey in the Eurasian space, the improvement of Russian-Turkish relations, further escalation of tension around the Kurdish problem may become as key factors of Turkey's membership in the SCO membership. "Brexit could spread, such voices are being heard in France and Italy. In these circumstances, Turkey must be clam. Why should Turkey not become a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization?, - Erdogan told journalists on his plane while returning to Turkey from a visit to Uzbekistan (Erdogan., 2016). But the Turkish expert community assesses the situation differently, for example, Oktay Tanrısever believes: "Turkey is not a country that considers the prospect of full membership in the SCO, it is more a dialogue partner. Turkey keeps its intention to become a full member of the EU. The view of our country on the SCO is formed in the following framework: "Do not stay away from

regional entities that increase their influence in the world economy, maintain relations with them, albeit at a low level, monitor developments and take economic advantages that all this gives" (Ekonomika SHOS., 2017). For a short time Afghanistan changed its status from a permanent guest of the SCO summits to observer state. This was the result of understanding by the SCO members that peace and security in the whole region depend on the situation in this country. The Shanghai Organization will inevitably have to assume the role of the leading political structure in the region and in an expanded composition with the direct participation of India and Pakistan to develop new approaches and measures to improve the situation in Afghanistan.

If you look at the new composition of the SCO from the economic point of view, the picture will be impressive. The existing and prospective economic parameters of the new education can be the most advanced in the world and stand in line with the BRICS potential. In addition, according to the aggregate number of the population of the countries that are members of the Organization, the SCO became the second after the UN.

After the expansion of the SCO, there became four states officially possessing nuclear weapons that are Russia, China, Pakistan and India. In fact, a second "nuclear club" has created. Given the continuing high level of tension around Syria and the instability in Afghanistan, the Shanghai Organization will inevitably have to take on the role of the leading political structure in the region in an enlarged composition with the direct participation of India and Pakistan and develop new approaches and measures to improve the situation in Afghanistan.

Here it is necessary to note one gap related to the countries of Central Asia, which declared their region as a nuclear free zone. "SCO's further expansion also poses its own challenges. Uzbek President Islam Karimov has already shown concerns regarding the inclusion of two arch rival nuclear powers (India and Pakistan) into the group, which will prevent it from truly operating as a cohesive unit. With Central Asia declared as nuclear-weapons-free zone (NWFZ), it suddenly find itself in a club with four nuclear-armed countries" (Roashan Taj., 2018).

China, Pakistan and India try to conduct a differently directed policy, first of all, in their own region. That is why the new configuration of the SCO will radically change the image of the region, strengthening cooperation between the countries of Central and South Asia, and participation in this process of Russia gives this cooperation a global character. However, the problem can arise for the reason that in the region there is a very complex interlacing of interests of different powers and status of states. It is already known that the world is moving towards multipolarity. It is still unknown what power of 'attraction' will have new poles. New countries that are not related to the original 'core' can bring new problems and set unexpected tasks.

An important factor that can influence the success of the work of the SCO is that the founding countries of the Organization that make up the core of the Organization have a common past and similar visions of internal and external contexts. This enables the cooperation to move at an accelerated pace and to find quickly common ground on the issues under consideration. With the expansion of the basic structure of the Organization, the situation will begin to change radically. Moreover, at present, the SCO member countries, like other regions of the world, are experiencing a slowdown in economic growth. Due to country specificities the negative manifestations are distributed unevenly. Such a different speed development can make some adjustments to the issues of economic cooperation of states that are compelled to protect their market.

A number of experts point to existing problems of a functional nature, which may be exacerbated with expansion. In theory, it is known that the complexity of management will increase in a geometric progression with the joining of new elements. There is a risk of new pressures on the SCO management mechanisms, most likely, non-core in terms of the current state. This will inevitably entail new configurations in the structure of the Organization.

Naturally, this raises a number of questions and problems. Expansion of the organization can entail changes in principle, basic character, and on the other side, functional and technical ones. It is possible to reformat the activities of the SCO in particular and its concept, as a whole, since all decisions of the Organization are the concentrated on the collective interests of all members. There may be problems in reaching consensus in decision-making. For this reason, it will be necessary to change the decision-making procedure based on consensus. The list of official languages of the SCO will have to be expanded; perhaps English will become a part of it. The necessary aspect is to reformat the Secretariat of the Organization, the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure. It is assumed that the bureaucracy will increase, and the efficiency and controllability will decrease. But the main concern is connected with the redistribution of forces within the Organization, not in favor of the founding countries of the SCO.

In the expert community no one took seriously the expansion of the SCO and believed in the joining of India and Pakistan. In spite of that, the expansion of the Organization has become a reality and it will not be surprising if a new expansion takes place in the near future. Afghanistan and Iran are in the queue. Serbia, Egypt, and Qatar are showing interest in establishing contacts with the SCO. Geography of the latest updates of SCO indicates that the SCO expansion is going on the second option listed above (the space in which all countries are related to the organization, including observers and dialogue partners).

It must be noted that there are constraints within the Organization itself in terms of expansion.

The name of the Organization serves as a deterrent, because not all countries trust China, its strategy and economic policy. The analysts stress that the word 'Shanghai' in the definition of the SCO is associated exclusively with China and its control over the Organization. Without detracting from China's virtues and role in the SCO, it may be possible to focus on the region and the specifics of the Organization in its name in the future. In this vein, there are proposals to rename the SCO to the Organization of Eurasian Cooperation (OEAC) (Leonid Shershnev., 2013).

In some points, the obvious or not obvious rivalry between Russia and China, projected on their mutual relations within the framework of the Organization, can play a deterrent role (the case of Iran is an exception). Also, this rivalry can be an accelerator, as in the case of India and Pakistan, when India was under the patronage of the Russian Federation, and Pakistan under the Chinese.

In September 2003, the heads of government of the SCO member states signed a detailed program of multilateral trade and economic cooperation, designed for 20 years. This program set the task in the medium term of stable, predictable and favorable conditions in the field of trade and investment, norms and rules of economic cooperation were worked out. During the immediate implementation of this program, issues were identified that needed to be resolved at a non-interstate level. So, to facilitate the customs procedures in 2007, the "Agreement between the SCO member states on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters" was adopted. In 2010, the "Agreement between the SCO member states on cooperation in the field of agriculture", and next year the "Agreement between the SCO member states on cooperation in the field of health" were signed.

In 2008 the spheres of economic cooperation and interaction within the SCO were expanded in accordance with the updated plan of activities for the implementation of the above program. In addition to trade and investments, the following directions were announced: customs, cooperation in the application of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures, financial and taxation spheres, transport, fuel and energy complex, agro-industrial complex, science and technology, information and telecommunication technologies, nature management and protection environment. In 2012, the documentary base for economic cooperation was again clarified - the Council of Heads of State signed "The main directions of the SCO development strategy for the medium term».

As the experts note, despite the programs and documents adopted by the SCO, which call for "expanding", "deepening," cooperation within the organization does not go at the pace that was planned when they were adopted. The overwhelming majority of these projects implemented in the SCO

space are clearly bilateral. All reports on the activities of the organization and the participation of members in it contain mainly bilateral, and to a lesser extent, multilateral projects. At the same time, according to A. Lukin, "having only the attitude to the SCO that members are involved in them" (A. Lukin., 2007). Also, the characteristic features of these projects are that "more and more projects are carried out not in an intergovernmental format, but in the corporate sector" (K. Barsky., 2013). To date, any projects of an economic nature, for example, between Russia and Kazakhstan, can be attributed equally well both to the sphere of cooperation in the Eurasian economic union, and similar topics within the SCO framework. The Chinese idea of creating a free trade zone suggests gracefully avoiding such acute angles in the result of their conjugation. According to K. Syroezhkin: "Formally, this looks like a proposal for the integration of the economic space of the EAEC and the SCO." But he believes that "even in the long term, the realization of this idea is possible only under strictly stipulated conditions, otherwise, China will simply swallow the entire economic space of the SCO" (K. Syroezhkin., 2006).

Economic cooperation within the SCO is assessed critically by experts. According to S. Luzyanin, "the SCO multilateral cooperation program" has remained on the paper" (S. Luzyanin., 2015). D. Orlov calls what is happening in the SCO, "an" imitation of the stormy activities "undertaken by China" (Vzaimodeystvie v ramkah SHOS., 2012). From the total failure in the sphere of economic cooperation, the SCO is saved by the fact that all successful projects implemented by the member countries fit into the framework of the organization. For example, a successfully launched oil transportation project between Kazakhstan and China. Today, this pipeline delivers Kazakhstani and Russian oil to China and can be considered "Shanghai" only by the composition of the involved countries. The autocorridor "Western China-Western Europe", thanks to which the trade turnover between the countries along it has increased, has the same attitude to the SCO.

The Chinese project "One belt, one way", announced in 2013 and conjugated with the SCO, became an indicator of what actually is the SCO and what happens there. This project includes a development plan aimed at exporting China's production capabilities through improving logistic links with Europe, South Asia, Oceania and Africa. There are two ways - land and sea ones:

1. The economic belt of the Silk Road: the development of infrastructure in Eurasia, the Middle East and Europe.

2. Sea Silk Road: the connection of China's ports with Southeast Asia, Oceania and East Africa. (Boston Consulting Group. Review., 2016).



A source :<http://www.eurasiareview.com/20022018-belt-and-road-and-us-china-relations-in-2018-analysis/>

There are several available sources of financing for the Chinese transport initiative: the Asian Bank for Infrastructure Investment, the BRICS Development Bank and the Silk Road Fund. In addition, of course, Chinese state and private structures are making financial injections into the projects of the «One Belt, One Way». In essence, this means that in the course of implementing this project, China acts as a financial, investment driver in regions lying in three directions to the north-west, south-west, south-east from its borders. The SCO zone practically covers all these directions, as direct members, observer countries, partner countries for dialogue are located on them.

Special optimism about the future of the project is expressed by Chinese experts: "The initiative on the construction of the belt and the way proposed by China in 2013 gives new chances for the development of the SCO. Joint planning and participation in the implementation of this project will contribute to the creation of new points of economic growth and will increase its dynamics" (Yan Yu., 2016). It is doubtful to talk about the possibility of joint planning, because it is unlikely that China will finance projects that are not profitable in terms of its economic interests.

The SCO member states have reached unanimity on the joint construction of the "One Belt, One Way" and have written it in the declaration of the summit in Ufa (2015); the heads of China, Russia and Mongolia signed the "Planned Summary on the Construction of the China-Mongolian-Russian Economic Corridor". At the Tashkent summit (2016), the leaders of the SCO member states expressed their intention to seek the integration of national development strategies and supported the China's initiative to jointly form the Economic belt of the Silk

Road as one of the tools for activating regional economic interaction. In September 2016, at a symposium of the think tanks of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Beijing, experts from different countries supported and approved proposals for the implementation of the initiative of the belt and the way within the SCO (Silk Way-Review., October 2016).

According to the official website of the Bank of China, as of the end of March 2017, the Bank of China carried out about 460 large projects along the Belt and the Way, the total investment exceeded 472.2 billion US dollars, the volume of targeted credit support exceeded \$ 100.5 billion USA. (Silk Way-Review., January 2018).

Over the past 4 years China and the countries of Central Asia have simplified trade procedures, so that their trade relations have become even closer. At present, China has become the largest trading partner of Kyrgyzstan, the second largest trading partner of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. According to the statistics of Chinese customs, trade turnover between China and Central Asia in January-September of 2017 amounted to 299 million US dollars, the annual growth was 6, 61%. Trade and economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and China is very intensive. In 2016 annual growth in agricultural trade between countries reached 39%. In the same year, Kazakhstan imported 295,000 tons of wheat from Kazakhstan, which was a record indicator. Kazakhstan, for its part, for the first time exported flour to China. According to the data by the end of the first half of 2017 China invested in Kazakhstan a total of about 42 million US dollars. Thus, Kazakhstan has taken the 1-st place in terms of Chinese investment in the countries of the "Belt and Way". The parties have already agreed on 51 projects of cooperation in

the field of production capacities. In June 2017, during the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Kazakhstan, the "Zhongxin" Bank of China with the participation of the Chinese investment company "Shuangwei" concluded an agreement in Astana with the People's Bank of Kazakhstan on the transaction, acquiring the rights to the shares of the latter. The Kazakh side does not see anything out of the ordinary in this activity of China. Kazakhstani experts are sure that such policy is common for China and Chinese investments are extremely beneficial for our country. The President of Kazakhstan N.Nazarbayev initiated the integration of the Kazakhstan program on the development of the transport and logistics system "Nurlyjol" with the "Belt and Way" project.

Inclusion of Pakistan in the SCO seemed to expand the geography of economic cooperation within the Organization. But in fact, what was happening between China and Pakistan in the economy and investment, successfully blended into the framework of the SCO. It's about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). «CPEC is a flagship project under One Belt One Road (OBOR) and will provide natural connectivity link to SCO member states. It is already connected to six routes of SCO through the nodal point of Kashgar. CPEC-SCO connectivity would further enhance economic cooperation. Moreover, special economic zones along the length of the Corridor would spur growth and economic opportunities for the entire region» (CPEC-SCO connectivity to further boost economic cooperation: Aziz..., 2018).

The current situation of the SCO is somewhat paradoxical in view of the fact that the whole regional organization for cooperation has turned into an instrument for realizing the geo-economic goals of one power. «The organization is an important platform for the joint construction of the "One Belt, One Way". This expression can often be found in the latest official documents of the Organization. The SCO, in fact, facilitates China's way to wide-scale trade and economic expansion in the SCO zone and beyond and promotes the implementation of its policy on the dispersion of both economic capacities and

human resources around the world.

Along with this, there is one aspect related to the role of China in the SCO. Perhaps this role will be decisive in the Organization in light of the latest trends in the Chinese society. "China will go all out to ensure four home-field diplomatic events in 2018 are a success in a bid to "open a new chapter" for win-win cooperation between China and other countries". - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi pledged in an exclusive interview with People's Daily. He said that in 2018, China will implement the results reached at the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and put in place follow-up mechanisms to boost cooperation based on the principle of wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. Infrastructure, international capacity cooperation, economic channels and corridors will be prioritized in the all-round efforts to construct the Belt and Way. He stressed that China will increase its efforts to engage in global governance, and make economic globalization more open, inclusive and beneficial to more people" (China to open new chapter...2018). Proceeding from this context, we should at last recognize that the SCO, in spite of Russia's participation, is, first of all, a Chinese project. Today for China, the economic component of the SCO is more important than security issues. This Organization is now called to serve as a convenient platform for the implementation of the Chinese regional economic strategy called "One Belt, One Way". As the Kazakhstani expert Yerlan Karin underlines: "Given the growing role of China, Beijing will seek to use the SCO platform to launch new global initiatives in 2018. On this background, China will celebrate the 5th anniversary of the "One Belt, One Way" initiative. This will give a new impetus to the implementation of Chinese projects in the economic and other spheres" (Y. Karin., 2017). Under such conditions it is possible to expect that the unique character of the SCO will deepen in short and medium terms.

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