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The historical development of the Organization of Turkic States: stages of integration, problems, and prospects

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Abstract. In the 21st century, the global system is becoming more multipolar, while regional integration is playing a growing role in politics and economics. Countries are increasingly turning to multilateral cooperation based on shared history, culture, and geopolitical interests. In this setting, cooperation among Turkic-speaking states has become especially important and has developed actively since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. In 1992, with the support of Turkey, the first summit of the heads of Turkic-speaking states took place. It marked the beginning of regular dialogue in the Turkic world and created a foundation for future cooperation. Another important step came in 2022, when the Turkic Council was transformed into the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) at the Samarkand Summit. Since then, the organization has strengthened its structure, expanded cooperation, and moved toward a more stable form of regional interaction. A notable event was the summit held on November 6, 2024, in Bishkek. During this meeting, the participating countries agreed to develop cooperation in digital technologies, finance, transport, logistics, and international communication. This article looks at how the OTS developed over time and how integration among Turkic states has changed. It also considers current challenges and possible directions for future development in the Eurasian region. Special attention is given to key strategic documents, including the "Vision of the Turkic World – 2040" and the "OTS Strategy for 2022–2026," which outline priorities in political dialogue, economic cooperation, cultural exchange, and humanitarian ties. The research uses descriptive and comparative approaches and is based on academic studies, analytical materials, and open sources. The analysis shows that cooperation among Turkic states has passed through several stages. At first, it focused mainly on culture and education. Later, political cooperation became more structured through regular summits and institutions. Today, the organization is expanding its activities, strengthening economic ties, and increasing its role in the Eurasian region. The findings show that the OTS has strong potential for further development. At the same time, some institutional, economic, and political challenges remain. Even so, current trends point to a gradual strengthening of cooperation and growing opportunities for deeper interaction among Turkic states.

Keywords: Turkic world; Central Asia; Eurasian integration; culture; education; digital technology; green economy, energy

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Түркі мемлекеттері ұйымының тарихи дамуы: интеграция кезеңдері, мәселелері және болашағы

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Аңдатпа. XXI ғасырда халықаралық жүйе көпполярлылықтың күшеюімен және аймақтық интеграциялық бірлестіктердің жаһандық саясат пен экономикадағы рөлінің артуымен сипатталады. Осы жағдайларда мемлекеттер ортақ тарихи, мәдени және геосаяси мүдделерге негізделген көпжақты ынтымақтастық форматтарын дамытуға ұмтылуда. Осы тұрғыда 1991 жылы Кеңес Одағы ыдырағаннан кейін тез дами бастаған түркітілдес мемлекеттер арасындағы ынтымақтастық ерекше маңызды. 1992 жылы Түркияның қолдауымен түркітілдес мемлекеттер басшыларының алғашқы саммиті өтті, бұл түркі әлеміндегі институционалдық диалогтың басталуын белгілеп, интеграциялық процестерді одан әрі дамыту үшін негіз жасады. Ынтымақтастықты одан әрі институционалдандырудың маңызды кезеңі 2022 жылғы Самарқанд саммиті болды, онда Түркі кеңесі Түркі мемлекеттері ұйымына (ТҰҰ) айналды. Содан бері ұйым өзінің институционалдық құрылымын үнемі нығайтып, мүше мемлекеттер арасындағы өзара әрекеттесу салаларын кеңейтіп, аймақтық ынтымақтастықтың тұрақты моделін құруға ұмтылды. ТҰҰ дамуындағы маңызды оқиға 2024 жылдың 6 қарашасында Бішкекте өткен саммит болды, онда цифрлық технологиялар, қаржылық тетіктер, көлік-логистикалық инфрақұрылым және халықаралық коммуникациялар саласындағы ынтымақтастықты дамытуға бағытталған шешімдер қабылданды. ТҰҰ стратегиялық құжаттарына, соның ішінде саяси диалогтың, экономикалық интеграцияның, мәдени өзара әрекеттесудің және мүше мемлекеттер арасындағы гуманитарлық байланыстарды кеңейтудің негізгі бағыттарын анықтайтын "Түркі әлемінің көзқарасы – 2040" және "2022-2026 жылдарға арналған Түркі елдері ұйымының стратегиясына" ерекше назар аударылады. Зерттеуде сипаттамалық және салыстырмалы талдау қолданылды. Жұмыстың эмпирикалық негізі түрік, ресейлік және басқа да халықаралық зерттеушілердің ғылыми басылымдарынан, аналитикалық материалдардан және ашық ақпараттық көздерден тұрады. Кешенді талдау ТҰҰ институционалдық дамуындағы негізгі үрдістерді анықтап, оның аймақтық ынтымақтастық жүйесіндегі рөлін анықтады. ТҰҰ интеграциясының дамуындағы бірнеше кезеңдерді анықтауға мүмкіндік береді. Бастапқыда ынтымақтастық негізінен мәдени және білім беру салаларында дамыды. Келесі кезеңде мемлекет басшыларының тұрақты саммиттерінде, парламенттік кездесулерде және халықаралық форумдарда көрініс тапқан өзара әрекеттесудің саяси институционалдануы күшейе түсті. Қазіргі кезең ТҰҰ географиялық қамтуының кеңеюімен, экономикалық өзара әрекеттесудің күшеюімен және Еуразия аймағындағы рөлінің күшеюімен сипатталады. Зерттеу нәтижелері ұйымның Еуразияның стратегиялық маңызды аймағында орналасқан мүше мемлекеттер арасындағы ынтымақтастықты одан әрі дамыту үшін айтарлықтай әлеуетке ие екенін көрсетеді. Жалпы алғанда, қазіргі үрдістерді талдау ТҰҰ аймақтық саясаттағы рөлінің біртіндеп күшейе түсетінін

және түркі мемлекеттері арасындағы өзара әрекеттесуді одан әрі тереңдету мүмкіндіктерінің кеңейетінін көрсетеді.

Түйін сөздер: Түркі әлемі; Орталық Азия; еуразиялық интеграция; мәдениет; білім; цифрлық технологиялар; жасыл экономика; энергетика

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Историческое развитие Организации тюркских государств: этапы интеграции, проблемы и перспективы

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Аннотация. В XXI веке международная система характеризуется усилением процессов многополярности и возрастанием роли региональных интеграционных объединений в мировой политике и экономике. В этих условиях государства всё чаще стремятся развивать многосторонние форматы сотрудничества, основанные на общности исторических, культурных и геополитических интересов. В данном контексте особое значение приобретает сотрудничество между тюркоязычными государствами, которое начало активно формироваться после распада Советского Союза в 1991 году. В 1992 году при поддержке Турции состоялся первый саммит глав тюркоязычных государств, положивший начало институциональному диалогу в тюркском мире и создавший основу для дальнейшего развития интеграционных процессов. Важным этапом дальнейшей институционализации сотрудничества стал Самаркандский саммит 2022 года, на котором Тюркский совет был преобразован в Организацию тюркских государств (ОТГ). С этого времени организация последовательно укрепляет свою институциональную структуру, расширяет направления взаимодействия между государствами-участниками и стремится к формированию устойчивой модели регионального сотрудничества. Значимым событием в развитии ОТГ стал саммит, состоявшийся 6 ноября 2024 года в Бишкеке, где были приняты решения, направленные на развитие сотрудничества в сфере цифровых технологий, финансовых механизмов, транспортно-логистической инфраструктуры и международных коммуникаций. Особое внимание уделяется стратегическим документам ОТГ, включая "Видение тюркского мира – 2040" и "Стратегию ОТГ на 2022–2026 годы", которые определяют ключевые направления политического диалога, экономической интеграции, культурного взаимодействия и расширения гуманитарных контактов между государствами-участниками. В исследовании применялись методы описательного и сравнительного анализа. Эмпирическую основу работы составили научные публикации турецких, российских и других зарубежных исследователей, аналитические материалы и открытые информационные источники. Комплексный анализ позволил выявить основные тенденции институционального развития ОТГ и определить её роль

в системе регионального сотрудничества. Проведённый анализ позволяет выделить несколько этапов развития интеграции тюркских государств. На начальном этапе сотрудничество преимущественно развивалось в культурно-образовательной сфере. На следующем этапе усилилась политическая институционализация взаимодействия, выразившаяся в регулярных саммитах глав государств, парламентских встречах и международных форумах. Современный этап характеризуется расширением географии деятельности ОТГ, активизацией экономического взаимодействия и укреплением её роли в евразийском регионе. Результаты исследования показывают, что организация обладает значительным потенциалом для дальнейшего развития сотрудничества между государствами-участниками, расположенными в стратегически важном регионе Евразии. В целом анализ текущей динамики позволяет сделать вывод о постепенном усилении роли ОТГ в региональной политике и расширении возможностей для дальнейшего углубления взаимодействия между тюркскими государствами.
Ключевые слова: Тюркский мир; Центральная Азия;, Евроазиатская интеграция; культура, образование; цифровая технология; зеленная экономика; энергетика

Introduction

The Turkic world is currently going through noticeable changes. Cooperation within the Organization of Turkic States is already producing results in areas such as the economy, culture, science and education. At present, there are six internationally recognized Turkic states, along with several Turkic communities in the Eurasian region. The total population of these countries is about 170 million people, and their combined territory is around 4.7 million square kilometers. Today, the number of Turkic-speaking people worldwide is about 210 million, which makes up a significant share of the global Turkic population (Kriterdergi.com 4.11.2021).

A key recent event was the 12th Summit of the Organization of Turkic States, held on October 7–9, 2025, in Gabala. At the meeting, the leaders discussed political, economic and cultural cooperation under the theme “Regional Peace and Security”. The Gabala Declaration was adopted after the meeting. It highlights cooperation, cultural heritage and the development of creative industries. The “OTS+” format was introduced to expand cooperation with external partners and international organizations. It may help increase the visibility and effectiveness of initiatives related to the Turkic world (The 12th Summit of the Organization of Turkic States: Turksoy.org: 7.10. 2025).

Methods and Materials

This study primarily employs descriptive and comparative analysís, allowing for a detailed examination of the historical development of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) across political, economic, and cultural domains, as well as within the information space. The research draws on a wide range of open-source materials, including interstate agreements, statistical data, offícial reports, and speeches by political leaders. Taking a systematic approach, the study applies several analytical tools, including retrospective analysis, comparative historical analysis, and the historical-typological method. These tools facilitate a nuanced comparison of the OTS's activities, particularly in the area of cultural diplomacy among Turkic-speaking countries of Eurasia. Furthermore, a systems-based perspective is used to develop a comprehensive understanding of OTS policies and their role within the broader context of regional cultural cooperation.

Periodicals (newspapers, magazines, analytical publications) are considered an important source that reflects current trends, socio-political discourse, and interpretations of the activities of the OTS in the media space. Publications are chosen based on their thematic focus, proximity to the events under study, and the reliability of the information presented. A critical analysis of periodicals helps identify different perspectives and track how the activities of the OTS are covered in different countries.

Literature Review

The academic literature on cooperation among Turkic-speaking states is extensive and has developed in several stages. Early studies mainly focused on cultural, civilizational, and linguistic ties that historically connect the Turkic peoples of Central Asia, the South Caucasus, and Turkey. During this period, the Turkic world was often viewed as a community based on shared identity and historical memory.

Since the 2000s, and especially in recent years, research has shifted toward the institutionalization of cooperation. In this context, the transformation of the Turkic Council into the OTS is seen as a new stage, marking the transition from symbolic interaction to institutionalized integration. This study is based on a comprehensive review of periodicals in Russian, Turkish, and English, as well as academic articles and analytical reports on the topic. It also includes materials from online platforms, providing a broad and up-to-date perspective. Particular attention is given to scholars from countries that are members of the OTS. Turkish researchers such as Çınar Y. and Uzun Y. (2023), Özkan G. and Demirtepe M. (2012), and Tomar D. (2021) generally consider the OTS an important tool for strengthening Turkey's regional role and promoting multi-level integration in Eurasia. Central Asian scholars, including Altymyshova Z., Omurova J. (2025), Rasulev A., and Khuzhaev Sh. (2025), emphasize the practical nature of cooperation and view the OTS as a platform for developing economic ties, transport potential, and regional stability. Other researchers, including Avakov V., Badranov A. (2013), Zhang Yuyan (2023), and Mevlüt A. (2023), highlight the importance of soft power, cultural diplomacy, and economic cooperation in strengthening the Turkic world. Overall, the literature presents the OTS as a promising platform for regional integration with significant potential in economic, cultural, and political areas. At the same time, scholars point to several challenges, including differences in national interests, uneven economic development, and external political influences. Thus, the OTS is seen not only as a result of shared historical and cultural ties, but also as a developing center of regional cooperation with long-term integration potential.

Discussion and Results

The Eurasian region is very important because it connects East and West. Many Turkic states are located in this region. Because of this, they are in a good position for cooperation. Today, the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) is becoming stronger. It is starting to play a bigger role as a regional actor. Member countries are working together in different areas, such as the economy, culture, and politics. The member states can be divided into several groups. These include the Turkestan region, the South Caucasus, and some European countries.

Today, the OTS has five full members: Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. It also has three observer states: Hungary, Turkmenistan, and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The main goal of the OTS is to develop cooperation between these countries.

This cooperation is based on their shared history, language, and culture (Altymyshova 2025: 42-43).

The Secretariat of the OTS is in Istanbul. TURKSOY is based in Ankara. The International Turkic Academy is in Kazakhstan, and TURKPA is in Azerbaijan. The flag of the organization was created in 2012. It is based on the national flags of Turkic countries and Turkey. At the 11th OTS Summit in Bishkek on November 6, 2024, the flag was updated (Republic Disiliskiler.ktb.gov.tr: 28.11.2024).

The new flag includes an octagon, a crescent, and a star. There is also a sun in the center with evenly spaced rays. The background of the flag is turquoise. The flag shows important ideas such as Turkic identity, unity, and shared culture. It also represents cooperation between the countries of the OTS (Mevlüt 2023: 479).

Stages of integration relations

The analysis shows that integration among Turkic states developed in three main stages. Each stage represents a different level of cooperation and institutional development. The first stage covers the period from 1992 to 2008. During this time, cooperation among Turkic states began mainly in the cultural and educational fields. Initial projects were relatively small, but they helped build connections and laid the foundation for further cooperation.

Table 1. *Stages of Integration of the Turkic States*

Main stages	Characteristics of the activity	Projects
First stage, 1992-2008	The independence of the Turkic states was recognized, which led to the strengthening of historical ties and the development of cultural, educational and scientific cooperation. Between 1994 and 2000, five summits of the heads of state were held.	Establishment of TIKA (1992); creation of TURKSOY (1993).
Second stage, 2009-2020	During this period active interaction among Turkic countries, in political, economic and cultural fields.	Creation of TURKPA (2008); establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States (2009); launch of the “Turkology” project (2000); opening of the Turkic Academy (2010); creation of the Union of Turkic Universities.
Third stage, 2021-present	This stage included the transformation of the Turkic Council into the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) and the expansion of areas of cooperation.	Adoption of the “Vision of the Turkic World – 2040”; adoption of the OTS Strategy for 2022–2026; creation of the Turkic Investment Fund; development of digital, transport and logistics cooperation.

The first stage began in 1992 and was linked to the establishment of diplomatic and cultural contacts among newly independent states.

The first stage started in 1992. At that time, newly independent countries began to build diplomatic and cultural relations. In 1992, the Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) were created. In its early years, it opened offices in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. Most of its work focused on education and social projects in Central Asia.

After 2010, TIKA expanded its activities. New offices were opened in different regions, especially in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Balkans. By 2021, the organization was working in many countries around the world. The number of offices increased over time. It grew from 12 in 2002 to 33 in 2012, and later reached 63 in 2022. The budget and the number of projects grew. Central Asia and the Caucasus remain important regions for TIKA. The organization still supports educational, cultural, and social projects there. These regions are also a priority in TIKA's 2024-2028 strategy. The International TURKSOY organization was created in 1993. At first, it focused on cultural cooperation between Turkic states. It also helped promote the culture and traditions of Turkic peoples around the world (Özkan 2012: 648).

The second stage (2000-2021) saw stronger political and economic cooperation and a growing role of the Turkic world.

The second stage lasted from 2000 to 2021. At that time, political and economic cooperation became stronger. The Turkic world also became more influential. One of the main projects is the "Turkology" program. It started in 2000 and now covers many countries. In this program, universities open special departments and courses. Students study the history, language, and culture of Turkey. The seventh summit was held in Istanbul in 2001. Uzbekistan did not take part at the level of heads of state. Instead, it was represented by the Speaker of the Supreme Assembly, Yerkin Khalilov (Altymyshova 2025: 44).

The eighth summit took place in Antalya after a long break. It was organized by Turkey. Turkey, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Kyrgyzstan were represented by their presidents. Turkmenistan sent its ambassador to Ankara. Uzbekistan did not participate.

In 2009, the ninth summit was held in Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan. It took place on October 2–3. This meeting was an important step for the Turkic world. During the summit, several countries signed the Nakhchivan Agreement. These countries were Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. They decided to create a new organization called the Turkic Council. This decision was important. It made cooperation between Turkic countries more organized. It also helped develop cultural, scientific, and economic ties.

Later, the Turkic Council became the basis for the Organization of Turkic States. In 2010, another summit was held in Istanbul. At this meeting, Halil Akinci was appointed as the first Secretary General. The Secretariat of the Turkic Council is located in Istanbul. It works to support cooperation. Since 2018, it has been led by Ambassador Baghdad Amreyev from Kazakhstan.

Table No. 2. *Summits of the Turkic Council / Organization of Turkic States*

Year, day	City and Country	The main topics of the summit
First summit, October 20-21, 2011	Almaty, Kazakhstan	"Economic and Trade Cooperation"
Second Summit, August 22-23, 2012	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Education, Science and Cultural Cooperation
Third Summit, August 16, 2013	Gabala, Azerbaijan	"Transport"

Fourth summit, June 4-5, 2014	Bodrum, Türkiye	"Tourism"
Fifth summit, September 11, 2015	Astana, Kazakhstan	"Media and Information Technology"
Sixth Summit, September 2, 2018	Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan	"Youth and Sports"
Seventh Summit, October 15, 2019	Baku, Azerbaijan	"Support for small and medium-sized enterprises"
The Extraordinary Summit of the CCTS took place on April 10, 2020	video conference	During the Summit, issues of effectively combating the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed.
The Eighth Summit of the OTS, November 12, 2021	Istanbul, Türkiye	"Green Technologies and Smart Cities in the Digital Age."
Ninth OTS, Summit, 11 November 2022	Samarkand, Uzbekistan	"A New Era for Turkic Civilization: Towards Common Development and Prosperity."
The Tenth Summit of the United Territories of Kazakhstan, November 3, 2023	г. Астане, Казахстан	"TURKTIME"
11th OTS Summit, November 6, 2024	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	"Strengthening the Turkic World: Economic Integration, Sustainable Development, Digital Future, and Security for All"
12th OTS Summit, October 7, 2025	Gabala, Azerbaijan	"Regional Peace and Security"

The third stage – 2021 to the present. Current development trends.

The third stage started in 2021 and continues today. This stage shows how the organization is developing now. One important step was the creation of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States. Later, it became the Organization of Turkic States (OTS). This change made cooperation more organized. On November 12, 2021, the eighth summit was held in Istanbul. At this meeting, the organization received the name "Organization of Turkic States (OTS)." At the summit, the document "Vision of the Turkic World 2040" was adopted. It explains the main goals of the organization for the future. The OTS has a multi-level structure. It helps coordinate cooperation in different areas (Yuyang 2023: 80)

Table 3. *Main organs and institutions of the OTS*

Category of organs	Institutes	Functions
Higher authorities	Council of Heads of State, Council of Foreign Ministers	They determine strategic directions for development and make key decisions on all matters of cooperation.
Executive structures	Council of Senior Officials, Secretariat	They coordinate the implementation of decisions and organize the activities of the organization.
Institutes	TURKSOY, TURKPA, Turkic Academy, Turkic Business Council (Turkpa.org, 29.11.2024)	Develop cooperation in cultural, scientific, educational and other spheres.

Educational networks	Union of Turkic Universities	Implements academic interaction, student exchange and
Umbrella organization	Turkic Chamber of Commerce and Industry	coordinating trade cooperation mechanisms
Umbrella organization	Turkic Investment Fund	coordinating investment cooperation mechanisms

A Business Council was created in 2011. Since then, several meetings took place. At these meetings, countries signed agreements to support small and medium businesses and improve investment conditions. They also agreed to cooperate in media and television. In tourism, a joint project called "Modern Silk Road" was launched. It is a 14-day route through cultural and historical cities in member countries.

In recent years, the OTS has become more active. At first, cooperation was mostly cultural and humanitarian. Now it also includes the economy, transport, and digital projects. An important document is the "Vision of the Turkic World 2040." It sets the main goals for the future. These include stronger economic ties, better transport systems, digital trade, and closer cooperation between countries (Tomar 19.11.2021; Analysis AA.com 07.11.2024).

The 11th OTS summit was held on November 6, 2024, in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. Several important decisions were made at this meeting. New initiatives were introduced, such as the "Turkic Green Concept" and the "Charter of the Turkic World." Bishkek was also named the digital capital of the Turkic world for 2025 (The 11th Summit Turksoy.org, 01.04.2025). The countries signed several agreements. These included cooperation in the digital economy, civil protection, and space activities. There were also agreements on green finance and the development of a Turkic language model. Some awards were presented during the summit. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán received the Order of the Turkic World. Professor Aziz Sancar was given the Ali Shir Nevai International Prize (Areas of... Turkicstates.org 31.03.2025).

At the end of the summit, Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Jeenbek Kulubayev spoke about future plans. He noted that Kyrgyzstan's chairmanship would help continue work in these areas. An informal summit was held on May 21, 2025, in Budapest. It was organized under the chairmanship of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. This was the first time such a meeting took place in Europe, in an observer country.

After the meeting, the Budapest Declaration was adopted. It focused on several key issues. These included economic cooperation, digital development, and security. The declaration also mentioned the Cyprus issue. It stressed the need for a peaceful solution that considers the current situation on the island. The participants also expressed support for the Turkish Cypriots (On the results ..Aksoncenter.ru/news 30.05.2025).

The 12th OTS summit was held on October 7, 2025, in Gabala. The main theme was "Regional Peace and Security." At the summit, the leaders adopted the Gabala Declaration. It includes many points related to politics, the economy, security, and cooperation between countries. During the meeting, Kyrgyzstan passed the chairmanship of the organization to Azerbaijan (The 12th Summit of the Organization of Turkic States: Turksoy.org: 7.10. 2025).

The participants also agreed to create a new format called "OTS+." It is meant to improve cooperation with external partners. In addition, several important projects were discussed again. These include the Middle Corridor, the Zangezur Corridor, and railway projects such as Baku-Tbilisi-Kars and China-Kyrgyzstan-–Uzbekistan.

Challenges and Prospects of the OTS.

Integration also faces some challenges. These include different national interests, long distances between countries, and the influence of external factors. When making their policies, Turkic states focus on their own interests. At the same time, they also consider regional and global goals. Because of this, cooperation between them develops in different areas. Economic cooperation is one of the most important areas. It helps to develop trade, investment, and infrastructure. This makes cooperation useful for all countries involved. Economic cooperation is also a key factor in integration. Even though Turkic countries have had close relations for many years, their economic potential is not fully used yet. For example, in 2021, the total foreign trade of member states was about 720 billion US dollars. However, trade between these countries was only about 14 billion US dollars. This shows that the level of internal trade is still quite low (Mevlüt 2023: 486-487).

One of the main problems is the distance between the countries. It makes cooperation more difficult. Another issue is weak transport infrastructure. In many regions, roads and connections are not well developed. Financial systems are also not strong enough. Because of this, economic cooperation is less effective. Investment between the member states is still low. This shows that cooperation is not fully developed.

There are also problems with movement between countries. Visa rules, work permits, and residence permits are not flexible. This makes it harder for people to travel and work. It also slows down cultural cooperation (Çınar 2023: 150).

Geopolitical and military cooperation is viewed differently by the countries. Each state has its own priorities and foreign policy. Because of this, not all initiatives are supported by everyone. Many Turkic countries are also members of other organizations. This affects their decisions. For example, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan are part of the Collective Security Treaty Organization. Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan also take part in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Turkey is a member of NATO, which also influences its position.

At the same time, a broader idea of cooperation in Eurasia is becoming more important. It is often called "Greater Eurasian Integration." This idea focuses on cooperation across the whole region. Within this framework, countries can work with different organizations. These include the Eurasian Economic Union, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and other partners. Large projects like "One Belt, One Road" are also important. Some experts have different opinions about this process. For example, Viktor Nadein-Raevsky noted that China is cautious about the strengthening of the Turkic world. He also mentioned that China is concerned about Turkey's role in this process. At the same time, Turkey sees itself as a supporter of Turkic peoples in different regions.

Some analysts believe that the Organization of Turkic States has certain weaknesses. One of the main problems is that integration is often based mostly on cultural, linguistic, and national similarities. At the same time, this approach does not fully consider countries like Tajikistan. It also ignores the long history of interaction between Persian and Turkic cultures in the region. In Central Asia, this may create some risks. It can lead to divisions instead of cooperation. It may also affect agreements reached within the Consultative Meetings of Central Asian states. There are also concerns about certain initiatives. These include ideas about a common language, a shared alphabet, or even the use of the name "Turkestan." Some experts believe that such steps could weaken the unique identities of different peoples in Central Asia. Because of this, some analysts see these initiatives as an attempt to create a new political and cultural space. However, this view is debated. Central Asia has a long history of interaction between different cultures. In many cases, cooperation and mutual influence were more important than separation (Avakov 2013: 12).

The OTS is still a relatively new organization. It is still developing and building its structure. There are some challenges and weaknesses. Some areas still need improvement. At the same time, the organization has strong potential. If member states continue to support it, these problems can be solved over time. In the future, the OTS may become stronger and more developed (Minasyan 2025; Rasulev 2025).

Prospects of the Organization of Turkic States

Some Turkic scholars believe that the region is becoming more important in the world. Many countries are now paying more attention to it, especially because of economic and energy challenges. Over the past twenty years, trade in this region has grown several times. Because of this, different countries are trying to build stronger relations with the states of the region. Turkey and the OTS can play an important role in this process. Their cooperation is based on unity and common interests. This may help the Turkic world become more influential in the future. Turkey has a special position in this system. It is located between Europe and Asia and has a large population of more than 85 million people. The country also has a strong economy, developed services, and significant military capabilities. Because of this, Turkey can play a leading role in the Turkic world (Analysis – Vision..AA.com 07.11.2024).

This can be seen in the growing unity between the member states. They are working together more actively on different platforms. A good example is the speech of the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, on February 14, 2024. In his speech, he said that strengthening the OTS is a key priority for Azerbaijan. Many media sources also reported this. Azerbaijan sees the OTS as its main international organization. As Ilham Aliyev said: "The Organization of Turkic States is our family. We have no other family. Our family is the Turkic world." (Streng...Caliber.az 06.11.2024)

The 11th OTS summit was held in Bishkek on November 6, 2024. It showed that the organization is developing actively. After the meeting, Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Jeenbek Kulubaev spoke about the main topics. These included strengthening the Turkic world, economic cooperation, sustainable development, digital projects, and security (The 11th...Turksoy.org 01.04.2025).

Before the summit, a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers was held. At this meeting, they discussed the main issues and prepared documents for the heads of state. After the summit, eight documents were signed. The Bishkek Declaration was also adopted. Some of the main documents focused on digital cooperation. Countries agreed to develop digital trade and online interaction. Another agreement was about civil protection and joint actions during natural disasters. There was also a memorandum on space activities. It supports cooperation and joint projects in space technologies (Strengthening ...Turksoy.org 06.11.2024).

The Bishkek Declaration highlights the need to improve digital and transport connections. It supports projects such as the Middle Corridor and the Trans-Caspian Customs Transit Portal. These projects help improve trade routes and strengthen cooperation in the region. The Digital Silk Road is also an important initiative. It can help improve digital systems and support economic development. It may also make cooperation between countries stronger. The declaration also focuses on cooperation in several areas. These include labor, healthcare, social protection, agriculture, and environmental protection. Special attention is given to employment, digital healthcare, and water management. Renewable energy is also an important part of this cooperation (Strengthening...Inbusiness.kz 11.12.2024).

In 2025, the OTS held more than 150 events. These included over 30 high-level meetings between countries. About 10 new projects were also launched. During the year, the organization started to work in new areas. For the first time, meetings were held with central banks, financial agencies, and other institutions. These also included organizations working in defense, intellectual property, and social policy. Several new structures were created. These include

the Council for Green Finance, the Turkic World Insurance Union, and the Turkic Investment Promotion Network (12th Summit...Turksoy.org 09.10.2025).

Cultural cooperation also became more active in 2025. Kyrgyzstan hosted the third Youth Universiade of Turkic states. Almaty was named the Youth Capital of the Turkic World, and Manas became the Tourism Capital. The OTS also became more active internationally. It organized events in cities such as Geneva, Vienna, New York, and Brussels. There were also official visits to Mongolia, Mexico, and the United States.

Conclusion

The OTS is gradually establishing itself as a significant regional institution, with its role in the Eurasian geopolitical landscape steadily expanding. In an international system characterized by rapid change, regional integration initiatives are increasingly critical to fostering stability and cooperation. The process of interaction within the Turkic world began with relatively modest initiatives following the dissolution of the Soviet Union and has progressively intensified over time. This study examines the historical development of the OTS, beginning with the early summits of Turkic-speaking states, and provides an analysis of the evolution of integration processes across political, economic, and cultural domains in the Turkic world.

The "Summit of the Heads of Turkic-Speaking States," initiated in 1992 in Ankara shortly after the independence of the Turkic republics, gradually evolved into a formalized institutional framework. In 2009, this framework was transformed into the Turkic Council, and later, in 2021, it was further developed into the OTS. In recent years, the OTS has expanded the geographical scope of its activities to include strategically important regions, establishing the conditions necessary for sustainable regional integration within Eurasia. Today, the OTS stands as a key actor in the region's integration processes, demonstrating a strong capacity to adapt to the evolving dynamics of international relations. It has rapidly emerged as an effective and influential institution, facilitating both bilateral and multilateral cooperation among its member states.

Today, integration initiatives within the Turkic world continue to advance under the framework of the OTS, encompassing a broad spectrum of cooperative activities. During the initial stages of integration, the primary focus was on fostering cultural unity and mutual understanding. Over time, however, the Organization has increasingly prioritized the strengthening of trade, economic, and investment linkages, alongside the development of key transit corridors. Although challenges remain to ensuring the sustainable development of the OTS, coordinated actions and strategically balanced decisions by member states provide a solid foundation for addressing these obstacles and further consolidating the Organization's role in both regional and international affairs.

In the context of changes in the global political landscape caused by ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, the OTS needs to adapt to new geopolitical risks and opportunities. Therefore, it is important to deepen multilateral cooperation by expanding interaction among member states in key areas to strengthen the organization’s resilience and effectiveness. A key priority is the shift from declarative interaction to practical, action-oriented integration.

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Authors' contribution
Kylychev A.M. and Omurova J.O. collected, systematized, and analyzed the sources, reviewed the historiography, and formulated the structure and main findings of the article.
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Кылычев А.М. и Омурова Ж.О. осуществили сбор, систематизацию и анализ источников, провели обзор историографии, сформулировали структуру и основные результаты статьи. Абдрахманов Т.А. предложил идею и общую концепцию статьи, участвовал в подготовке результатов и формулировании выводов.

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