

POLITICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM:

**Increasing Turkification in potential territories
within the borders of Turkic States.**

USG: TURGUT EMİR ÖNDER

ACAS: MESUT EGE ÇAKIRER

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1. Welcoming Letters

1.1. Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Participants,

I welcome you all to the Model Organization of Turkic States 2025 conference.

For the second time, this conference will provide an opportunity to embody and simulate the roles of leaders, diplomats, and international decision-makers of the Turkic world.

Throughout this experience, you will develop fundamental skills such as critical thinking, negotiation, and public speaking. Additionally, you will gain a deeper understanding of current global issues, become more familiar with the structure of the Turkic States Organization, and acquire knowledge that will serve you in your academic and professional endeavours through research on our shared history.

Our academic team is here to enhance and facilitate your experience in the beautifully selected committees by our Secretariat, ensuring an unforgettable conference. I hope that your valuable ideas presented at the conference will contribute to solving both present and future problems and provide you with new perspectives.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Sincerely,

Muhammet Gökhan YILDIZ

Secretary General of the Model Organization of Turkic States

1.2. Letter from the Under-Secretary-General

Distinguished participants of the Political Cooperation Committee,

As the Under-Secretary-General of this committee, I am honoured to welcome you all to this journey.

I thank and appreciate our Secretariat and Organization's with all of my heart. I believe that they are committed to making your experience at the conference one of the finest from the help of high-quality both organization and academic teams they built. They made us able to explore, understand the importance, share our knowledge and discuss this current issue.

I really believe that this committee will be the best place to express your opinions and debate. Your discussions will not go unnoticed so we expect you to express yourself and ideas with utmost confidence, integrity and cleverly.

As the delegates of this committee never forget the importance of being a part of this process and the seriousness of this current issue. I am here to encourage you all to share your primary goals.

This guide which is written by me and my dear Academic Assistant is available for you to understand this committee. We aimed this study guide to be informative to you and help your knowledge about this subject.

If you have further questions or concerns don't hesitate to contact me via 0 505 058 6312.

Sincerely,

Turgut Emir ÖNDER

Under-Secretary-General of the Political Cooperation Committee

1.3. Letter from the Academic Assistant

Dear participants, and all the bright delegates that chose to be in this committee,

I am Mesut Ege akırer, also known as this committee's academic assistant, also known as the guide-contributor to my dearest friend, also known as your Under Secretary General, Turgut Emir nder.

I firstly want to thank our secretariat and organization for putting this amazing conference with all my heart, and also letting me be a part of their amazing work, which is this conference.

I truly believe we have one of the most amazing committees in this conference, and even though, as you opened the document and looked at the number of pages, are currently scared, I assure you that those pages are only there to inform you about everything that you may possibly need in this committee. You can always come up with new ideas, and of course pick any idea in this guide that really stands out, it's all up to your liking.

I really hope that you get the most fun out of this guide and committee altogether, since it is the core for having a successful committee.

I believe in you, honorable representatives!

Sincerely,

Mesut Ege akırer

Academic Assistant of the Political Cooperation Committee

2. Introduction to the Agenda Item

"Turkification" is actually a term that has been used since the Battle of Manzikert. However, at that time, this term was used only to mean increasing the number of ethnic Turks in the population.

In this committee, delegates will aim to promote Turkification in potential territories in the Turkic States to the next level in every field. That is, to integrate Turkification not only in terms of population but also in economic, political, health, cultural and social fields, to increase cooperation and to minimize external dependency.

3. Introduction to the Committee

The Political Cooperation Committee aims to promote collaboration among the Turkic States in social, economic, cultural and other various fields. The collaboration in these fields also emerged from the Political Cooperation Committee. This committee is the main center of management and decision-making authority.

3.1. Historical Overview to the Organization of Turkic States

The Organization of Turkic States was established in 2009 as an intergovernmental organization. Its primary objective is to foster comprehensive cooperation among Turkic States.

In accordance with adopted operational principles, the OTS aims to transfer existing bilateral cooperation in various areas between the Member States into multilateral cooperation. In this regard, existing or potential cooperation barriers are identified at first; the necessary steps on the elimination of these obstacles and the development of cooperation in new areas are taken afterwards. In this connection, working groups comprising experts from Member States in all cooperation areas of the Organization are formed. Decisions made by these groups are reflected in a separate document and are followed carefully. The whole work is done single-handedly, and duplication is avoided.

The Organization enables multi-faceted cooperation among its Member and Observer States in more than 20 different areas, ranging from economy to transport and customs, energy to agriculture, from education to youth and sports, digitalization to justice and security as well as from culture to tourism and health. The OTS takes concrete steps for the welfare of its Members and Observers through various projects and initiatives, including Turkic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Turkic Investment Fund, Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor, Sister Ports Process, Health Science Board as well as Modern Silk Road and Tabarruk Ziyarat Projects, Orkhun Process, Youth and Sports Projects.

Historical overview to this organization is summarized in this 3 minute video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1thVp07kbFM&list=PLqTXqd-7Ujro7w2LHGRzOU6ZA6w2ieEs&t=55s>

3.1.1. First Summit / October 20, 2011

The Almaty Summit was hosted by President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev on 20-21 October 2011 and was attended by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, President of Kyrgyzstan Roza Otunbayeva and Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag.

3.1.2. Second Summit / August 22, 2012 - August 23, 2012

The Second Summit was held on 22-23 August 2012 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Bishkek Summit was organized under the topic of “Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation”.

3.1.3. Third Summit / August 15, 2013 - August 16, 2013

The Third Summit was held on 15-16 August 2013 in Gabala, Azerbaijan. Hosted by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, the Summit brought together the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambayev, President of Turkey Abdullah Gul, and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan Sapardurdy Toilyev. The main theme of this Summit was “Transport and Connectivity”.

3.1.4. Fourth Summit / June 4, 2014 - June 5, 2014

The Fourth Summit was held on 4-5 June 2014 in Bodrum, Turkey. Bodrum Summit was organized under the topic of “Cooperation in Tourism”.

3.1.5. Fifth Summit / September 11, 2015

The Fifth Summit was held on 11 September 2015 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The guests of the important event, hosted by President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, were President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambayev, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey İsmet Yılmaz and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan Sapardurdy Toilyev.

3.1.6. Sixth Summit / September 3, 2018

The Sixth Summit of the Turkic Council was hosted by H.E. Sooronbai Zheenbekov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic on 3 September 2018 in Cholpon-Ata on the theme of “Youths and National Sports”. H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and H.E. Recep Tayyip

Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey honored the Summit, whereas H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and H.E. Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary participated as guests of the Host. Ambassador Baghdad Amreyev was elected as the Turkic Council Secretary General and Hungary received observer status at the Turkic Council. At the end of the meeting, Heads of State signed the Cholpon-Ata Declaration.

3.1.7. Seventh Summit / October 15, 2019

The Seventh Summit was convened on 15 October 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan on the theme of “Supporting the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)” with the participation of Ilham Aliyev as the host, Nursultan Nazarbayev, First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan-Elbasy, Sooronbai Zheenbekov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary, Purlı Agamyradov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan and the Turkic Council Secretary General Baghdad Amreyev. The Summit coincided with the 10th Anniversary of the Nakhchivan Agreement founding the Turkic Council and greeted Uzbekistan as the new member of the organization.

3.1.8. Eighth Summit / November 12, 2021

The Eighth Summit hosted by the President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and attended by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Kasım-Jomart Tokayev, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Sadyr Jabarov, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Gurbangulu Berdimuhamedov, the Prime Minister of Hungary, H.E. Viktor Orbán and the Secretary General of the Turkic Council H.E. Baghdad Amreyev was held in Istanbul on 12 November 2021. The First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Honorary Chairman of the Organization of Turkic States, Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev addressed the Summit via a video message. During the Summit, which was dedicated to the theme of "Green Technologies and Smart Cities in the Digital Age", the Leaders underlined the importance of common action concerning the pressing topics of the global agenda and took decisions on a number of important issues concerning the future of the Organization, primarily changing the name of the Turkic Council to the “Organization of Turkic States”. The Summit coincided with the 30th anniversary of the Independence of the Turkic States and greeted Turkmenistan as the new observer member to the Organization. The main agenda topics among others were determination of new cooperation modalities with third parties and institutions, the establishment of Turkic Investment Fund and approval of the Turkic World Vision-2040, which lays out the Organization's medium and long-term goals and tasks.

3.1.9. Ninth Summit / November 11, 2022

Hosted by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the Ninth Summit of the Organization of Turkic States was held in Samarkand, which was declared the Capital of Turkic Civilization on 11 November 2022. The Summit was attended by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Sadyr Japarov, the President of the Republic of Türkiye H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the Prime Minister of Hungary H.E. Viktor Orbán, the Chairman of the Halk Maslakhaty of the Milli Gengesh of Turkmenistan H.E. Gurbangulu Berdimuhamedov, and the Secretary General of the Organization of Turkic States H.E. Baghdad Amreyev. During the historic Summit, which was dedicated to the theme of “New Era for Turkic Civilization: Towards Common Development and Prosperity”, the Leaders underlined the strong commitment of Member and Observer States to Turkic integration and the Turkic World Vision 2040.

3.2. Former Initiatives of the Political Cooperation Committee

The activities of the OTS cover a wide range of cooperation between member states and according to the Nakhchivan Agreement, political cooperation is among the main goals and objectives of the organization.

3.2.1. *Council Of Foreign Ministers (CFM)*

The principal platform of political cooperation among the Turkic States is the annual Summits of Heads of State. The Foreign Ministers of Member States meet on a regular basis on the side-lines of Leaders Summits, at the meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers. Foreign Ministers may also hold additional meetings to discuss the topics of mutual concern, often coming together during some international events. As has become customary, the informal meetings of Foreign Ministers have been held annually on the side-lines of the UN General Assembly since 2011.

Foreign Ministers also gather at the Extraordinary Meetings. The First Extraordinary CFM was convened on 6 February 2020 in Baku to follow-up and to facilitate the implementation of the decisions of the Heads of States taken at the Baku Summit. The Foreign Ministers met at another Extraordinary Meeting with the agenda of “Afghanistan” on 27 September 2021 in Istanbul where they exchanged views on the current situation in Afghanistan and its regional and global ramifications. Upon the initiative of H.E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye as the Chairperson in the Office of the Organization, the Council of Foreign Ministers held an extraordinary video conference meeting to discuss the developments in Kazakhstan, on 11 January 2022. The Foreign Ministers met in Istanbul on 17 October 2022 at the Extraordinary Meeting and discussed the preparations and the agenda of the Summit of the Heads of States to be held in Samarkand on 11 November 2022 and exchanged views on pressing issues on the OTS agenda. Lately, the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of Turkic States convened in Ankara on 16 March 2023

in an Extraordinary Session to finalize the agenda items to be discussed by the Heads of State during the Extraordinary Summit of the OTS.

The last regular Meeting of the CFM was convened preceding the OTS 10th Summit held on 3 November 2023 in Astana, to finalize the documents to be signed by the Heads of State, as well as discussed various issues in the agenda of the Organization.

3.2.2. *Council Of Elders (CoE)*

In line with the Turkic history and tradition, Member States decided to constitute the Council of Elders (CoE) as an advisory-consultative mechanism while establishing then called Turkic Council. CoE is inscribed in the Nakhchivan Agreement as one of the organs of the Turkic Council together with the Council of Heads of State (CHS), Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), Senior Officials Committee (SOC), and the Secretariat.

With its high-level members possessing huge experience mainly in bureaucracy, statesmanship or academia, CoE submits opinions, recommendations, programs, projects and proposals to the CFM and CHS for the promotion of the cooperation among the Turkic States within the framework of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS). They can also facilitate the implementation of the ongoing projects of the OTS or help overcome some problematic points with their experience.

CoEs main purpose is to support the preservation and development of high spiritual and moral values of history, culture, language and traditions of the peoples of Member States. For this purpose, its members attend international conferences, seminars, workshops, and other initiatives aiming at promoting cooperation among the Member States. CoE is also tasked with conducting other activities assigned by the CHS.

The CoE, having strengthened its structure with some amendments adopted at the 8th Summit of the OTS held in Istanbul on 11 November 2021, has convened 14 times so far, and the last meeting was held on 17-18 October 2023 in Samarkand.

Currently, every Member and Observer State appoints one elder in the CoE from amongst their nationals who are reputable and respected in the Turkic World, for a four-year term. With its new structure, CoE has a Chairman who performs as the Chief Executive Officer. As the elder of the host country of the Secretariat, Türkiye appointed the first Chairman of CoE, which will be followed by the other Member States on a rotational basis in accordance with the English alphabetical order of their official names. Chairman represents the CoE at the meetings of the OTS and Turkic Cooperation Organizations (TURKPA, TURKSOY, Turkic Academy and Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation) and Coordination Committee of Cooperation Organizations of the Turkic States, as well as to participate in relevant meetings of international organizations upon the consent of the Member States.

In principle, CoE convenes twice a year. CoE decisions are taken by consensus. CoE may also convene in an extraordinary format if needed by the call of the Chairman or upon a request submitted by one of the Elders. Proposals and recommendations of CoE have an advisory character for the CFM and CHS. Secretarial work of the CoE is performed by the Secretariat of the OTS.

3.2.3. Security Consultations

Security consultations among the Member States have been convened annually since 2013. Three rounds of security consultations have taken place so far. This mechanism serves as a tool to further cooperation among the Member States on issues related to regional and international security. The relations of the Member States with Afghanistan, issues such as prevention of violent extremism and countering the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters prevailed on the agenda of the last round of consultations hosted by Türkiye on 6 February 2016 in Ankara.

First Meeting of the Heads of National Security Council of the Member and Observer States of the OTS was organized on 29 June 2022 in Ankara with the participation of the relevant authorities of the Member States. At the meeting, issues related to global and regional security and the development of cooperation in the field of security were discussed. Within the scope of the visit, the delegation also held meetings with Turkish Aerospace, Ministry of Interior and National Intelligence Organization and was received by President Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

The Second Meeting of Heads of the National Security Councils (NSCs) of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was held on 19-20 October 2023 in Tashkent with the participation of the Secretaries of the NSCs of the OTS Member States and the Secretary General of the OTS. During the meeting, Parties elaborated on the existing security environment and emerging developments in the OTS region and the world. They discussed at length the current security threats and challenges targeting the OTS countries, as well as potential ramifications of certain regional and global situations and trends to the Turkic region. Heads of NSCs paid a special emphasis on devising mechanisms within the framework of the OTS to enhance the existing security cooperation with concrete projects and programs. Parties agreed to establish an Expert Group and prepare a Road Map for the realization of the decisions taken at the NSC meetings.

3.2.4. Junior Diplomats Joint Training Program

In accordance with the “Cooperation Protocol among the Ministries of Foreign Affairs”, signed at the 3rd Summit of the Organization of Turkic States, “Junior Diplomats Joint Training Program” was incorporated into the activities of the Secretariat. The training program includes language courses aiming at familiarizing the participants with the languages of the Member States at the basic level, stressing common characteristics, as well

as sessions on common Turkic history, international organizations, negotiation techniques, public relations, role of international and regional organizations, security issues and foreign policy priorities, trade and transportation networks, conflicts in the region and common cultural diplomacy of the Turkic States. The last 6th Joint Training Program was successfully implemented with the close collaboration of ADA University on 12-26 May 2019 in Azerbaijan.

This Training program is also included as a case study under the title of “South-South Cooperation and Diplomacy: Junior Diplomats Training Program (JDTP) to United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation Publication “South-South in Action on Peace and Development”, which was presented at BAPA+40 Side Event: South-South Cooperation on Peace and Development at the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos-Aires, Argentina on 19 March 2019. It is noted in the Publication that the Organization of Turkic States has devised a tailored training initiative in order to support the evolution of cooperation among young diplomats. Since the inception of the Program in 2014, 138 junior diplomats have benefitted from the training program; 65 of them were women.

Due to the pandemic the program was paused. The next is planned to be held in Kazakhstan.

3.2.5. Cooperation Among Foreign Policy Research Centers

The cooperation process among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers of the Member States was initiated by the Secretariat of OTS. The first meeting among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers was hosted by the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SAM Azerbaijan) in Baku on 8 May 2015. The meeting was followed by the signing ceremony of the MoU among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers of the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States.

As the implementation of the decision taken at the first meeting among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers, SAM Türkiye prepared a special publication, ‘Fifth Summit of the Organization of Turkic States: A Raising Actor in Regional Cooperation in Eurasia’ devoted to the Fifth Summit of the Organization of Turkic States and it was presented to the Heads of State during the 5th Summit. Within the framework of this cooperation process, SAM Azerbaijan launched the internship for researchers from other Research Centers. As a result of this internship, the “Organization of Turkic States Countries: Infrastructure, Trade, Logistics, and Transportation” Report was released in English as the special publication series of the SAM of Azerbaijan in November 2017. It was co-authored by SAM’s Research Fellow at the Economic Analysis and Global Affairs Department Mahir Humbatov, a PhD candidate at SOAS University of London and Kazım Sarı, Associate Professor at the Beykent University. This report aims to investigate the logistics and transportation potential of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. It also sheds light on the trade and economic relations of the mentioned countries, available infrastructure

projects and the promising infrastructure development programs planned to be implemented in the near future. The Organization of Turkic States and SAM Türkiye also published a special academic edition dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Independence of the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States on the occasion of the 6th Summit of the Organization of Turkic States.

The 5th Meeting was hosted on 3 October 2019 in Baku by the Center for Analysis of the International Relations (AIR Centre) of the Republic of Azerbaijan. On the sidelines of this meeting, AIR Centre also organized an international conference, “Organization of Turkic States: the 10th Anniversary of the Nakhichevan Agreement”. During the meeting and the conference, the Parties discussed the perspectives of further cooperation among themselves, as well as had a panel discussion on problems and prospects of institutionalization and development of the Organization of Turkic States and future perspectives for cooperation among the Member States. Another Special Publication dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of the Nakhchivan Agreement was issued by the Secretariat and AIR Centre with the contribution of the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers of the Parties and Turkic Cooperation Organizations. The 6th Meeting was hosted by the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic in the format of a video conference call on 19 November 2020.

The 7th meeting of the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers of the Member and Observer States of the Organization of Turkic States hosted by the Center for Strategic Research of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye was held in Istanbul on 10 December 2021. The panelists shared their views and proposals on the cooperation among the Member and Observer States along with the Vision document and its further implementation. The importance of strengthening collaboration in the field of economy and trade, and effective utilization of the joint economic and transit transport potential of the Member and Observer States was also underlined in the panel. Furthermore, the experts had productive discussions on the next steps, such as elaborating on issuing special publications on the “Turkic World Vision - 2040”, as well as using scholarship opportunities for their researchers, and exchanging works and publications related to the activities and projects of the Organization of Turkic States. The Parties also agreed to hold a conference in Shusha city, the cultural capital of Azerbaijan.

The 8th meeting of the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers of the Member and Observer States of the Organization of Turkic States hosted by the Institute for Strategic and International Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tashkent on 14 October 2022. The meeting that was held on the topic “OTS space: prospects to develop trade and economic cooperation and transport and logistics interconnectedness”, brought together representatives of the Center of Analysis of International Relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies Under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Center for Strategic Research of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Institute for

Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. Profile scientists and specialists from universities of Uzbekistan, including the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, Tashkent State Transport University also participated in the Conference.

The experts had detailed panel discussions on prospects of cooperation in the new geopolitical conditions, the untapped potential in the fields of industry, energy, agriculture and trade as well as transport and logistics connectivity of the OTS countries and shared their recommendations with the Secretariat of the OTS. The heads of delegations signed the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation among the official research centers of the Member and Observer States for maintaining regular contacts and developing comprehensive cooperation in order to facilitate the further process of integration within the OTS. The Parties also agreed to hold the next regular meeting of the Research Centers in Kazakhstan in 2023.

3.2.6. Election Observer Missions

The Organization of Turkic States participates in the election processes of the Member States by commissioning international observer missions to ensure fair, transparent and democratic elections. The Missions are composed of officials from the Organization of Turkic States Secretariat and the representatives of the Central Election Commissions of the Member States. Since 2011, the Organization of Turkic States has sent more than 30 observer missions to presidential and parliamentary elections as well as referenda taking place in the Member States to support the political participation in respective countries.

3.2.7. Turkic World Vision 2040

Turkic World Vision 2040 document was approved by the Heads of State at the 8th Summit of the Organization on 12 November 2021 in Istanbul.

Turkic World Vision – 2040 aims to develop a framework to support the capacity of its members to address, individually and collectively, the challenges of our time. The existing spirit of cooperation will be harnessed to serve the fundamental objective of each Member State to raise the political, economic, social and cultural standards of their societies. Through cooperative mechanisms and joint projects, pooling of experiences and offering material and intellectual resources when needed, the Organization will provide a robust and transparent platform of growing cooperation and solidarity. Cognizant of global and regional geopolitical realities, the Organization will endeavor to function as a positive and increasingly capable group ready to engage all partners willing to cooperate constructively towards the attainment of regional and international peace, stability and prosperity. In this process, the Organization will uphold international law and the culture of multilateral cooperation aimed at supporting a predictable state of affairs internationally.

The document will provide direction for individual and joint action by the Member States to further build their administrative capacities to serve the needs and aspirations of their people. The Vision, based on four pillars, provides a strategic approach promising to render each Member State stronger with its people and stronger as a group, without prejudice to their already existing international commitments. The space of cooperation, development and solidarity the Organization aims to build will rest upon mutual interests, trust and respect facilitated by the fraternal affinities between the Member States. Given its broader goals, positive engagement with other countries and international organizations will be a key course of action for the Organization.

3.2.8. Policy Planning Consultations

The First Policy Planning Consultations of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was held on 24 June 2022 in Istanbul, Türkiye. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye at the Headquarters of the OTS Secretariat. At the meeting, Parties exchanged views on the global strategic overview and perceptions on major current and future events to take place in the upcoming period. Parties further discussed the regional strategic outlook, political and economic developments in Europe and in Asia, as well as the role of the Organization of Turkic States in the contexts. Referring to the “Turkic World Vision 2040”, which was adopted at the 8th Summit of the OTS in Istanbul, Participants stressed the importance of enhanced and institutionalized cooperation and solidarity among the Member and Observer States to tackle the impacts of the regional and global implications. Political and economic developments, including the security and interconnectivity in Europe, Asia and beyond, were raised during the meeting. Parties agreed to transform the policy planning consultations into a regular mechanism among the relevant authorities of the Member and Observer States to discuss the issues high on the regional and global agenda.

During the Second Policy Planning Consultations of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), which was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 18 May 2023 in Baku, the consultations focused on the global and regional strategic outlook, future development scenarios for the OTS, and the assessment of the spread of Turkic culture and languages around the world. Referring to the “Turkic World Vision 2040” and the OTS Strategy for 2022-2026 documents the participants also stressed the importance of enhanced and institutionalized cooperation and solidarity among the Member and Observer States to tackle the impacts of the regional and global challenges.

Based on the growing emphasis that the Heads of State have paid on holding consultations on regional and international issues affecting the interests of the Turkic World in order to develop a consolidated position among the Member States and their clear instruction to organize such consultations in case of emerging issues that would affect the interests of the Member States and hence require their common action, the Policy Consultations are decided

to be organized among the Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the respective OTS countries.

3.2.9. Representation Office In Budapest

Hungary became an observer member of the then called Turkic Council and the Turkic Academy at the 6th Summit of the Turkic Council in Cholpon-Ata on 3 September 2019. It was a historic occasion for the OTS since the Organization realized its first enlargement since its foundation with Hungary's obtention of observer status.

In the aftermath of its official involvement with the OTS, Hungary has become a valuable partner of the brotherly Turkic States and was deeply incorporated in the ongoing cooperation structure of the Organization in a short span of time. Indeed, with its robust foreign policy orientation called "Eastern Opening", Hungary has made valuable contributions to the OTS's sectorial efforts particularly in the economic field.

As a token of its committed cooperation with the OTS, Prime Minister of Hungary, H.E. Viktor Orbán, proposed to gear up the ongoing cooperation through the establishment of the "European Office of the OTS" in Budapest. Inaugurated in September 2019 with an official ceremony participated by the Foreign Ministers of the Member States and Hungary, the European Office has become a new center of attraction for boosting lucrative cooperation among the sides. The Office has been working to enhance relations of OTS with Hungary as well as to strengthen its ties with the European countries and institutions such as the EU, OSCE and Visegrád Group. The Office has been conducting and supporting programs and projects in the political, economic, historical, cultural areas and other fields of mutual interest; and facilitating the cooperation between business communities of the Member States and Hungary. It also has strong cooperation with the brotherly Turkic Cooperation Organizations, TURKSOY, TURKPA, Turkic Academy, Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, and organizes joint activities in Hungary.

As for economic relations, over the past 10 years Hungary has more than doubled the turnover of trade with Turkic countries. Hungary's Eximbank has offered around 1 billion dollars in loans aimed at assisting Hungarian companies with initiatives in Turkic countries. In this direction, the OTS is currently working with the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hungarian Export Promotion Agency (HEPA) and Hungarian Eximbank to establish closer ties between the business communities of the brotherly countries of OTS and Hungary while providing access to available resources.

In the period following the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, OTS countries showed considerable solidarity and supported each other with medical equipment, including face masks, safety glasses, gloves and test kits, among others. These aids were highly appreciated by the public opinion. In reference to this strong solidarity, Foreign Minister of Hungary, Mr.

Peter Sziijártó once eloquently expressed: “Real friends show up in times of trouble”, which reflects the true essence of the cooperation within the Turkic World.

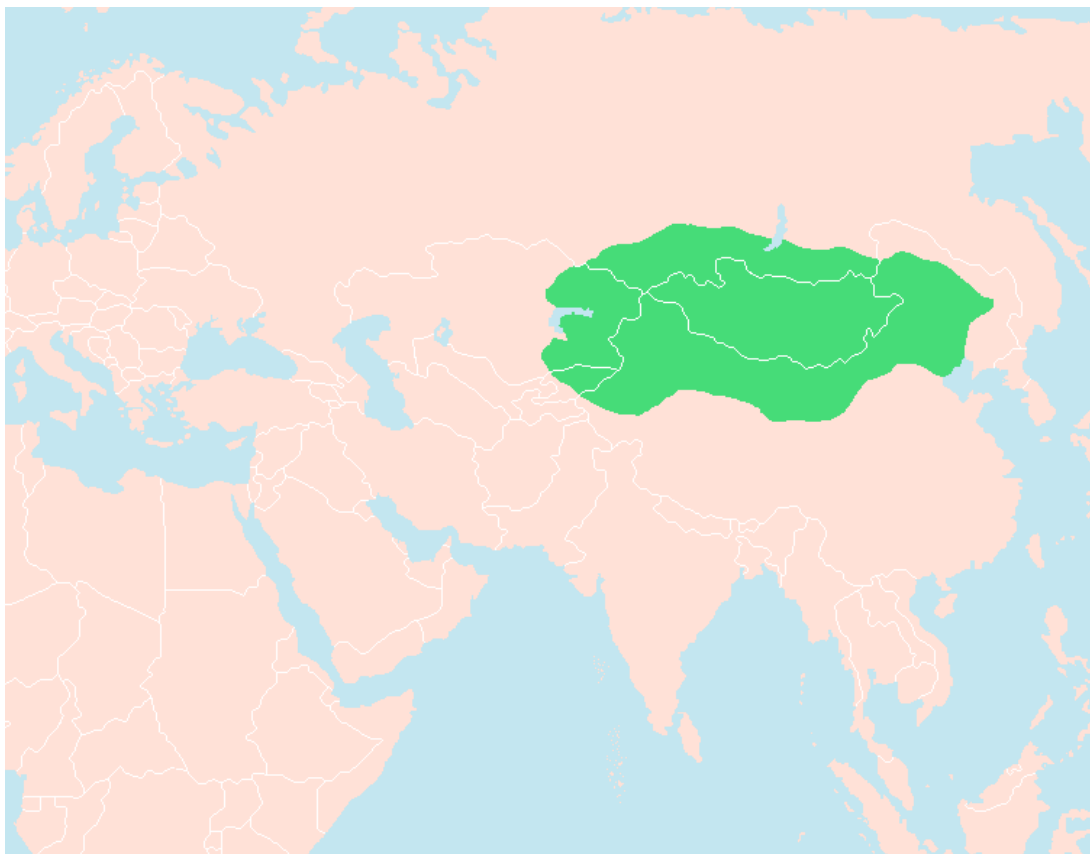
Furthermore, Hungary has elevated its relations with all Turkic countries to a “strategic partnership level” with its recent decision to open Embassies in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. In light of the Turkic World Vision-2040 and the OTS Strategy 2022-2026 aiming at closer cooperation and deeper integration, brotherly ties and cooperation opportunities between the OTS and Hungary will continue to increasingly strengthen in the years to come.

Establishment of the “Drought Prevention Institute” within the framework of the OTS Representation Office in Budapest at the Samarkand Summit in November 2022 is yet another testament to the productive cooperation between Hungary and the Turkic States.

4. Background of the “Turkification”

4.1. Historical Context of the Turkification

As a term, Turkification was born due to increasing numbers of Turks in Central Asia as a consequence of Turkic Migration. These new arrivals forever altered the ethnic makeup of Central Asia. Previously, the region had been predominantly Persian and Indo-European; when the waves of Turkic tribes penetrated into the area, though, they occupied the great steppe and agricultural basin of Central Asia and pushed these Persian groups to the fringes. Over time, they slowly Turkified the area, endowing it with a more nomadic character.



Turkic settlement before the migration period

These Turkic wanderers belonged to an unstable confederation of clans and tribes roaming the steppe, loosely bound under a khagan, a charismatic monarch who laid claim to some sort of divine providence. Khagan made use of their personal charisma, as well as their political and military smarts, in order to maintain group cohesion and ward off challenges to their authority. Under strong khagans, tribal confederations were capable of wielding incredible power, but, more often than not, they were notoriously volatile and often imploded upon the death of their leader, collapsing into a brutal struggle for power. The winners in this struggle forced the losers out of the area, and while many went to the north or south, most to the west. Victorious tribes remained in Mongolia on the highly-prized Orkhon Steppe, located near Lake Baikal.

Periodic Turkic migrations into Central Asia transformed the sedentary culture of the region. These steppe peoples lived by practicing pastoral nomadism, a way of life centered around herding that most likely predated the Turks but was eventually adopted by them. Their culture was utilitarian in nature and provided all the necessities for life on the great plains of Central Asia, including food, clothing, shelter, and transportation. In order to maintain their pastures, these horsemen followed a fixed, seasonal pattern of migration because they did not want their flocks to overgraze. During the winter, for instance, they camped in foothills and mountain valleys, where it was warmer at lower altitudes. There they built fixed shelters with one main objective: survival. The oral tradition, which included songs, epic narratives, and parables, flourished during the inhospitable winter months. In the spring, the nomads made a ten-day trip to the prairieland to graze their herds on fresh grass that just emerged from mountain runoff. There the women and children erected a central camp, usually comprising four yurts, while the men divided the flocks into their specific pastures. They established about ten satellite camps around the central camp, with each herd positioned about ten to twenty miles from the center. This separation of camps minimized the potential threat that their enemies posed to their herds. During the summer, they traveled to mid-mountain fields, where it was cooler and offered access to water. Covering about ten miles per day, it took them approximately fifty days to reach this campground. Finally, in the fall, they returned to the steppe in order to make provisions for the harsh winter. These preparations included drying and preserving their meat, and taking milk from their animals.

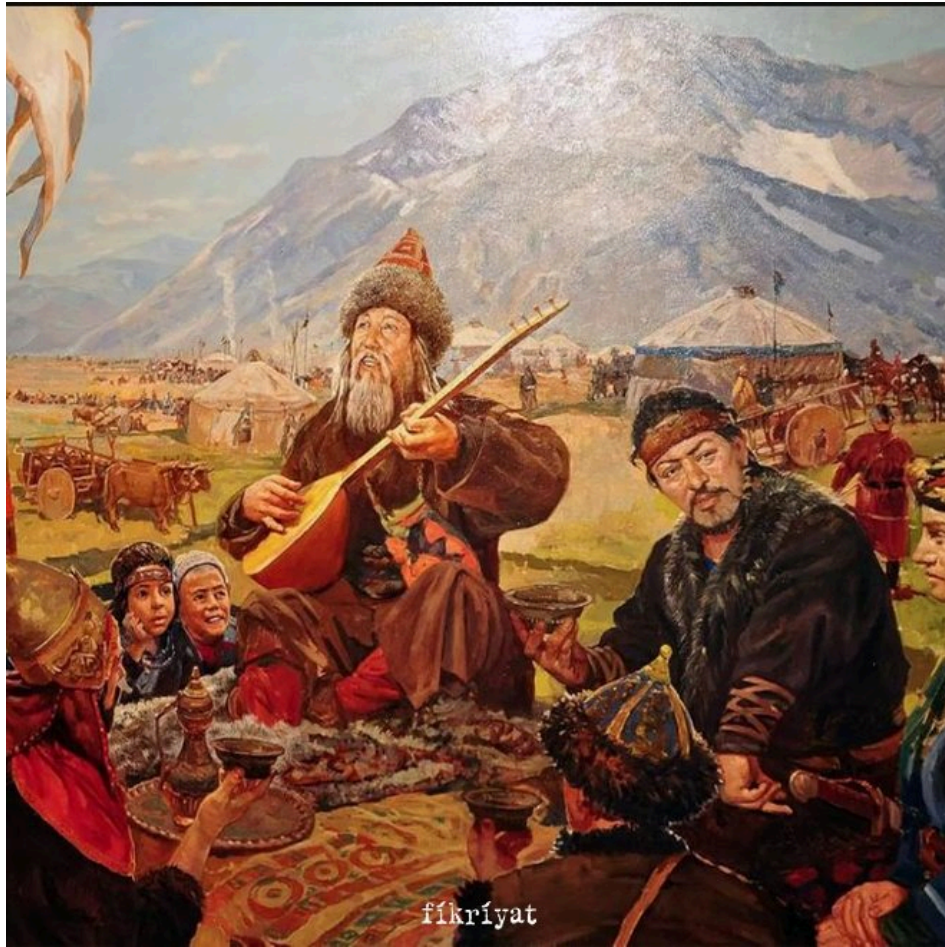
Enhanced mobility was the key to the survival of pastoral nomads. They actually spent a good portion of their lives on horseback and were accustomed to moving over long distances, taking all of life's necessities with them. This allowed them to retreat quickly from rival attacks or areas affected by natural disasters. Though their way of life appeared seemingly innocuous, it enhanced the ability of these horsemen to expand rapidly and conquer neighboring groups. It was in this manner that pastoral nomadism accorded its practitioners certain martial advantages. The annual Great Hunt served as a military proving ground that helped them hone their fighting skills. In preparation for winter, tribes deployed groups of mounted men, who dispersed in different directions, with the intent of driving every animal within a set perimeter inwards to converge at a pre-established central point. With great

coordination taking place over vast distances, these migrants learned how to coordinate their movements based on a color scheme of arrows and whistling patterns. Their herding tactics easily translated to military tactics and proved devastating in combat.

Nomad society was certainly capable of waging war. Their ability to shoot from horseback provided them with a mobile and lethal means to overcome slower, infantry based armies. These horsemen carried portable, three-foot-long recurve bows capable of piercing enemy armor from over 450 meters. Metal thumb rings enabled a rapid rate of fire without damaging the archer's fingers. Raised hunting and herding from horseback, nomads even learned how to sleep in the saddle of the Mongol Horse, their indigenous horse. Though not tall in stature, these sturdy mounts displayed impressive endurance and allowed groups to traverse great distances, often up to 160 kilometers per day. The speed with which they could cover territory on their steeds often confused sedentary forces and multiplied the terror factor. Native to the region, these horses were able to forage for themselves and survive on their own. Nomads did not require supply lines and could, therefore, remain on campaign for an average of three years. The combination of the skills acquired from herding, the double-compound bow, and the Mongol Horse, translated to a formula for political domination of Central Asia, at least until the arrival of Genghis Khan and the Mongols.

Turkic domination of the region began on the battlefield, where the strategies of steppe warfare proved devastating to infantry-based armies. The first stage of the nomad battle strategy often commenced with a feigned retreat, in which a group of their cavalry engaged the adversary, retreated, and encouraged their opponents to follow them. This technique lengthened the lines of their challengers, as they pursued the "retreating" Turkic cavalymen, who were busy shooting backwards from horseback. The next stage of battle involved outflanking the enemy and enveloping them. They then showered their foes with arrows, the objective being to pin the opponent in place. This alone was often enough to break a sedentary power. When fighting against another steppe power, their reserves charged the opponent's lines so as to break their forces into pieces and finish them off piecemeal. Most importantly, because of their limited numbers, the Turkic horsemen were reluctant to risk fighting an enemy that they did not believe they could defeat, instead, they would poison water wells, scorch the earth, and retreat. The Mongols would later employ similar battle tactics that allowed them to conquer the whole of Central Asia.

To summarize; Turks warrior spirit and survival instinct which reflected their lifestyle ensured their superiority in Central Asia. These events are the first recordings of Turkifying.



Central Asia Period, Turk's Culture

After the conquests of Alexander the Great, Asia Minor was mostly Hellenized and remained solidly Greek until the 11th century, with Armenians forming the majority in the eastern parts of the region, as they had since antiquity.

In the second half of the first millennium CE, Turkic peoples were gradually streaming into most of Central Asia from their original homeland in the Altai mountains of western Mongolia. They gradually displaced or assimilated both the settled and nomadic Iranian-speaking people.

In the 11th century, Turks began appearing at the edges of Asia Minor (Anatolia), which was then controlled by the Greeks. Many of the Turks were mercenaries in the employ of local Arab and Persian rulers to the east of the Byzantine Empire and Armenia, the dominant states in Asia Minor. In 1037, the Seljuk Empire, a Turkic state, was founded northeast of Iran in Central Asia and quickly overran much of Persia, Iraq, and the Levant. By the 1060s, the Seljuk Empire bordered Byzantine Asia Minor. The main strategic threat to the Turks was the Fatimid Caliphate based in Egypt. The Fatimids were Ismaili Shia. The Seljuk Empire was a combination of lots of aristocratic families and Turkic tribes, these heterogeneity posed a threat for Seljuk since some of the families were Ismaili Shia and restless too. These groups subsequently raided settled populations under the control of the Seljuk Empire.

As a result, many of the Turkic tribes and families were placed on the frontiers of the Seljuk Empire, including on the frontier of the Byzantine Empire. Turkish raids into Asia Minor commenced, greatly annoying the Byzantines.

In 1045, the Byzantines conquered Armenia. Their frontier with the Seljuks was not particularly strong or pacified as a result of the intermittent warfare there. Additionally, many Armenians did not like the Byzantines and did not help them resist the Turkish raids. Eventually, by 1071, the Byzantines, exasperated at constant Turkish raiding, decided to move a large army to their borders to eliminate the Turkish threat once and for all. Unfortunately, this was not a particularly good idea, because their strength lay in manning border forts against lightly armed tribal warriors. By attempting to fight a pitched battle, they also risked total defeat. Furthermore, the Seljuk Turks did not want to antagonize the Byzantines. Their state apparatus was directed against Egypt; it was only tribes that were barely under central Seljuk control that were raiding the Byzantines. Romanus IV Diogenes, the Byzantine Emperor, created a previously non-existent threat for the Seljuks by moving some 40,000 troops to his eastern border, thus alerting the Seljuk Sultan Alp Arslan to the threat from Asia Minor. Thus, the Byzantines, by diverting the Turks' attention from Egypt, brought a Turkic army to Asia Minor from Persia and Central Asia.

The Seljuk and Byzantine armies met at Manzikert in eastern Turkey, where the Byzantines were crushed. This is arguably one of the most decisive battles in history, as it resulted in the eventual establishment of Turkish power in Asia Minor. It was likely that the battle was lost by the Byzantines due to treachery, because units commanded by generals belonging to alternative court factions in Constantinople simply never showed up for the battle, despite being in the vicinity, and returned home afterwards.

Sultan Alp Arslan captured Emperor Diogenes and offered him generous terms before sending him home. However shortly afterwards, the Byzantine empire suffered a civil war between Diogenes and other contenders for the throne and several generals broke his treaty with the Turks. This left Asia Minor devoid of soldiers and gave the Turks good reason to occupy it. By 1081, they were across the Bosphorus Straits from Constantinople. Although the Byzantines and Crusaders later recovered some territory in Asia Minor, from then on, the majority of the region remained under Turkish control.

After the Seljuk victory, many Turks poured into Asia Minor, establishing little statelets, and ruling over the native population. Following the subsequent Mongol invasions, even more poured in, fleeing from their former lands in Persia and Central Asia. Unlike in many other cases, where a dominant minority eventually became assimilated into the majority population, because of the unstable, chaotic frontier situation, the Turks did not assimilate into the population. Indeed, many locals attached themselves to Turkish warlords for protection as clients. This client-patron relationship spread out over many bands and tribes across Asia Minor and ensured that the majority of the population assimilated into the Turkish religion, language, and culture instead of vice versa.

Asia Minor was the most populous part of the Byzantine Empire, its heartland. Without it, the empire simply didn't have enough resources to compete in the long run. Turkification was also helped by the fact that the Greeks were of a different religion than the Turks.

Furthermore, in the later Ottoman Empire, the Turkish language prevailed at the official level, and not local languages. As a result of all these factors, densely populated Asia Minor became the region of the world with the largest concentration of Turkic-speaking peoples, far away from their original homeland in Central Asia. This event had a major impact on global geopolitics for centuries to come.

4.2. Evolution of the Term and Concept

Turkification, Turkization, or Turkicization describes a shift whereby populations or places receive or adopt Turkic attributes such as culture, language, history, or ethnicity. However, often this term is more narrowly applied to mean specifically Turkish rather than merely Turkic, meaning that it refers more frequently to the Ottoman Empire's policies or the Turkish nationalist policies of the Republic of Turkey toward ethnic minorities in Turkey.

Prior to the 20th century, Anatolian, Balkan, Caucasian, and Middle Eastern regions were said to undergo Ottomanization. "Turkification" started being used interchangeably with "Ottomanization" after the rise of Turkish nationalism in the 20th century.

The term has been used in the Greek language since the 1300s or late-Byzantine era as "εκτουρκισμός", or "τούρκεμα". It literally translates to "becoming a Turk". Apart from people, it may also refer to cities that were conquered by Turks or churches that were converted to mosques. It is more frequently used in the verb form "τουρκεύω" (to Turkify, to become Muslim or Turk).^[7] (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkification#cite_note-7)

4.3. Previous “Turkification” Policies and Actions

4.3.1. Ottoman Empire to Republic of Turkey

The nature of population politics was forcibly changed in order, first to compete with a new global dynamic premised on nationstates and second to impede the fragmentation of the empire due to successful national movements.

Nationalist movements which were born during the Renaissance in France, frequently showed its effects on the Ottoman Empire. Since the Ottoman Empire had an ethnically heterogeneous population, people who were affected by the nationalist movements started uprising for their own independence.

Post-Balkan Wars Period was a duration for the Ottoman Empire to enhance its policies. The first policy the Empire tried to prevent itself from falling was Ottomanization policy which

aimed to create a unified identity among the empire's diverse populations. This ideology failed because many non-Turkish ethnic groups saw Ottomanization as a form of Turkification in disguise, leading to resistance. Then Sultan Abdulhamit II. changed Ottoman's policy from Ottomanization to Pan-Islamism to unite Muslims across the empire and counteract European interference. Even among Muslims, ethnic differences created competing loyalties that undermined the unifying vision of Pan-Islamism. So that also failed.

People who lived side by side in the Ottoman Empire became enemies. As a result, the Ottoman Empire adopted a Nationalist policy which was Turkification.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb2Rfr_WEe0&t=7s (This video will help you to understand how the Ottoman Empire affected our current culture.)

4.3.2. *Early Republican Era*

Turkification gained momentum after the establishment of the Republic of Turkey in 1923, as leaders sought to unify a diverse population under a single Turkish identity.

After the Turkish victories in the Greco-Turkish War, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk needed to create new political and societal institutions for the new Republic of Turkey to survive while also separating it from the Ottoman Empire. Atatürk outlawed religion from public life, abolished the Committee for Union and Progress, and eliminated the Sultanate. He accomplished this by utilizing Turkish nationalism, language, and education to create a new nation. Atatürk's innate focus on these ideological practices helped unify Turkey. One of the most important aspects of Turkish nation building in the early years was the imposition of the Turkish language campaign that pressured non-Turks to speak the Turkish language in public.

Later in 1928 efforts were made to revise the Arabic script of Ottoman Turkish to have a better way to represent spoken Turkish. This mainly involved changing the Arabic script into the Latin script that is widely used today. Initially, the new Turkish script and language was difficult to read, even by those who spoke Turkish. Over time, the new script was adopted, and this increased the Turkish literacy rate. This campaign was a useful way of integrating peoples from different ethnicities into one Turkish identity. The state could neither utilize religion nor race for various reasons, and so speaking the Turkish language became of utmost importance to the regime.



Despite the Muslim majority and the recent expulsion of over one million Christians, Turkey was still populated by people of many different faiths. In an effort to modernize the country, Atatürk did not establish Islam as the national religion. The state maintained an official policy of secularism. Atatürk also initiated a number of other reforms designed to bring Turkey into the modern world, as well as to distance the country from its Ottoman roots.

5. Current Status to Enhance Turkification

5.1. Existing Policies, Strengths and Weaknesses of Current Approaches

The Turkification journey has continued since the establishment of the OTS. Various organs of the OTS are working on enhancing Turkification in their fields. In order to understand the current approaches to our topic my fellow delegates, you have to read the functions of our political cooperation committee and former initiatives. (3.2)

To summarize up, OTS functions as an umbrella for organization like:

- the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA) (administrative capital in Baku)
- the International Organization of Turkic Culture (TURKSOY) (administrative capital in Ankara)
- the Turkic Academy (administrative capital in Astana)
- Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation (administrative capital in Baku)

- Center of Nomadic Civilizations (administrative capital in Bishkek)
- Turkic Business Council (administrative capital in Istanbul)

OTS is an observer at the Economic Cooperation Organization and has also applied for observer status at the UN and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Besides, OTS maintains close cooperative relations with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia.

Since its founding agreement defines comprehensive cooperation among Turkic states as the organization's main objective and *raison d'être*, the Organization of Turkic States is working on a variety of projects. The projects are grouped under six cooperation processes, which are: economy, culture, education, transport, customs, and diaspora. Examples of the projects include establishing the Turkic University Union and writing a common history textbook.

The Organization of Turkic States also works on ways to boost economic development in underdeveloped regions of Member States. The Secretariat brings together Economic Ministers, Education Ministers, Transport Ministers, Heads of Customs Administrations, and other senior officials from different ministries and agencies in order to work on ways to promote cooperation in relevant spheres. Prior to being brought before ministers and heads of administrations, projects and issues of cooperation are elaborated by working groups. One recently launched project is the establishment of a mechanism for closer cooperation among Turkic diasporas all over the world.

In November 2020, Kyrgyz Minister of Foreign Affairs Ruslan Kazakbaev pointed that Organization of Turkic States members have to strengthen their economic relations, they have to establish a joint investment fund and build its center on Kyrgyzstan on his meeting with Turkish Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu. Baghdad Amreyev visited Minister of Treasury and Finance of Turkey Lütfi Elvan and sides talked about establishment of the Joint Investment Fund. In September 2021, at a meeting of Turkic ministers responsible for the economy, sides negotiated about a Turkic Joint Investment Fund feasibility work and agreement to establish the fund.

In September 2022, on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the Language Festival, the Organization of Turkic States decided to establish a "Common Alphabet Commission" within the body of OTS for a unified alphabet of the Turkic world. During the event, scientists from the Turkic states gave information about the alphabets and historical processes used in their own countries, and thus it was emphasized that the transition processes to the common alphabet should be accelerated, and the application should be widespread. The commission, which will hold its first meeting in Kyrgyzstan, will observe the work of the common alphabet and report to the Council of Elders.

On 11 November 2022, in the city of Samarkand, the member countries of the Organization of Turkic States signed an agreement "On the establishment of a simplified customs corridor". Azerbaijan was the first member country to enact the agreement, in May 2023 the Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev signed a law creating the simplified customs corridor.

The Extraordinary Summit of the Turkic Council focused on the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic was conducted through videoconferencing by the initiative of the chairman of the organization Ilham Aliyev on 10 April 2020. The conference titled "Cooperation and solidarity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic" was held with the participation of the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus along with the head of states of the member countries. Participants discussed the measures taken at the national level to fight against the coronavirus epidemic, to improve multilateral cooperation in the field of healthcare, and to undertake the common challenges caused by the outbreak of COVID-19. Exchanging views on the ways of overcoming negative effects of coronavirus on the national and global economies, they touched upon trade relations and continuous transportation, and they entrusted the Ministries of Commerce and Transport of the member States with reviewing the process via videoconferencing and with presenting practical solutions for the free flow of goods among Turkic Council states across the Trans-Caspian Corridor. An 18-point list of mutual priorities of all member nations was outlined in the Baku Declaration.



Headquarters of the OTS



The organization does not limit itself to member states. It cooperates with neighboring states to ensure regional peace and stability, particularly in transport, customs and tourism. The scope of cooperation within the framework of the OTS has expanded to encompass 30 different areas.

With a population exceeding 160 million and the seventh largest area in the world, the Turkic States are the 14th largest global economy in terms of GDP, which amounted to \$1.5 trillion in 2022. Over the last 10 years, our countries have significantly increased their trade relations. The total trade turnover of the Turkic States with the world in 2023 reached approximately \$1.2 trillion, and the trade turnover between the organization's members increased to \$42.3 billion.

Institutionally, the organization has continued to improve. In 2021, it was renamed as the OTS, a proposal made by Kazakhstan.

The Organization signed several agreements to strengthen our legal basis, including the Agreement on the Establishment of Simplified Customs Corridor and the International Combined Freight Transport Agreement. The organization is also working on introducing Permanent Representatives to the OTS.

The OTS will continue to build on the strong foundation laid by its member states, focusing on deepening cooperation across various strategic areas. One of the key priorities will be enhancing economic integration and trade connectivity through various initiatives to create new opportunities for trade and investment within the region.

The OTS is committed to advancing cultural and educational collaboration. The OTS also continues to promote cultural exchanges, such as festivals, exhibitions and educational programs, especially among young people, to celebrate and preserve our shared heritage. The OTS plans to leverage digital platforms and technology to enhance cooperation in areas like cybersecurity, digital economy, and innovation, ensuring that our nations are well-prepared for the challenges of the 21st century.

The Secretary General of the Organization of Turkic States Kubanychbek Omuraliev said:

“Environmental sustainability and resilience will be at the forefront of our agenda. The upcoming COP29 Summit in Baku presents promising opportunities for our organization to make significant contributions in this area.

By the end of this year, we will organize the 11th meeting of the Council of Heads of State in Bishkek, the 10th meeting of Heads of Customs Administrations of the OTS, and the fourth meeting of Health Ministers of the OTS in Baku. Other significant events include meetings of Interior Ministers, Young Volunteers, Prosecutors General, Energy Ministers, Tourism Ministers, and Economy and Trade Ministers. The first meeting of Mapping Institutions will take place in Türkiye. These gatherings not only foster dialogue and collaboration but also pave the way for new initiatives and projects that strengthen our unity.”

As great power competition and global instability intensify, Central Asia, with its abundant natural resources and strategic position as a bridge between Europe and Asia, is poised to become a key geopolitical battleground for major powers. The OTS has capitalized on this moment, positioning itself as a significant regional player by deepening cooperation across sectors such as energy, trade, and security.

The shifting regional dynamics resulting from great power competition, particularly the war in Ukraine and sanctions on Russia, have created a strategic opportunity for the OTS to strengthen regional cooperation and assert its autonomy.

Despite the OTS’s growing influence, significant challenges remain. Russia continues to wield substantial influence over post-Soviet Turkic states, and the organization’s momentum is closely tied to current geopolitical conditions, particularly the war in Ukraine. Increased Russian influence could undermine the OTS’s strategic appeal. Simultaneously, China’s Belt and Road Initiative has expanded Beijing’s economic presence in Central Asia, further complicating the region’s economic and political dynamics.

To navigate these external pressures, the OTS must preserve its strategic autonomy by avoiding over-reliance on any single great power, focusing instead on deepening internal cohesion and consolidating its political, economic, and military collaboration. Moreover, the organization’s long-term success will depend on continued leadership, particularly from Türkiye, and the ability of member states to align their foreign policies despite domestic challenges such as political instability in some member states.

“It is possible to say that even such an organization has some weaknesses. Even after the dissolution of the USSR, the Central Asian and Caucasian Turkic states continued to be exposed to Russian influence due to considerably high percentages of Russian populations in their territories. In particular, Kazakhstan has been vulnerable to Russian influence due to its ethnically Russian minorities. They constitute one-fourth of the population and mainly live in the north of the country. Albeit with less Russian populations, other Turkic countries have also been exposed to the domestic influence of Russian diasporas to varying degrees. Being the successor states of the then USSR, Russian Federation and the Turkic states share a common institutional legacy facilitating political, military and economic ties. The Russian language is common to varying degrees in the Turkic states and has official status in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. A positive public opinion toward Russia as a superpower is still pervasive in Turkic countries.

Russia is home to nearly ten million labour migrants from Central Asian countries. The Turkic states are especially economically reliant on remittances from Russia. Russia is the primary partner for imports and exports for the Turkic states, which makes these states vulnerable to external shocks. Since 2014, trade relations of the Turkic States with Russia have been a source of frustration due to Russia’s antagonistic actions, especially towards Ukraine. Sanctions by the western world also have indirect effects on the Turkic States as the primary trade partners with Russia. Just like the Turkic states in Central Asia, Türkiye and Azerbaijan also have large-scale economic and trade relations with Russia.

Partly due to a common legacy, Russia has remained the primary partner in security with the Turkic states in Central Asia and the Caucasus since the dissolution of the USSR. Russia is known to have provided more than half of the total arms exported to the region since 2015. A considerably high number of military leaders in the Turkic states have studied at the Russian military academies, which are still regarded as prestigious destinations of education for officers in the Turkic states. As CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization) members, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan host large-scale Russian military installations and are entitled to purchase Russian military equipment at reduced costs. Uzbekistan also has firm ties with Russia in terms of security cooperation and is entitled to procure Russian military equipment at reduced costs. Lastly, Azerbaijan is expected to increase defence and security cooperation with Russia through a mutual agreement signed in February 2022. Though the OTS is not a defence and security alliance, the alignment of member states with defence alliances in opposite directions constitutes an institutional weakness through a holistic approach. Türkiye and Hungary are members of NATO, which regard Russia as a primary threat to the rules-based international order. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, on the other hand, are members of CSTO led by Russia. Having left CSTO in 2012, Uzbekistan still enjoys security cooperation with Russia. The Turkic states were also involved in the NATO Partnership for Peace Programme in 1994, due in large part to US influence in NATO.

Border disputes among the Central Asian states constitute a fundamental weakness for the OTS. Following the dissolution of the USSR, the Central Asian region became full of unclear

borders. Though no grave issue arose in the first decade after the independence, incidents of unrest towards the end of the 1990s urged the countries to start negotiations for clear delineation and demarcation. The negotiations followed a checkered pattern during the following two decades, with several border clashes taking place along the border between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and that between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, mainly involving the enclaves close to these borders. Border clashes have been centred around the Fergana Valley, which covers the territories of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan at a juncture where dual borders among the trio cross one another. Inside and in the vicinity of the valley, the trio has their enclaves inside one another's territory separated from their homelands. In Kyrgyzstan, there are four enclaves belonging to Uzbekistan and two others belonging to Tajikistan, while a Kyrgyz village and a separate enclave belonging to Tajikistan remain inside the Uzbek territories. All these border disputes among the OTS member states as well as with Tajikistan constitute a significant weakness, as they are sources of instability and can easily be exploited by adversaries. The internal vulnerability to China's increasing soft power in Central Asian Turkic states is also another point of contention in the form of weakness. China has several economic initiatives in the region, much to the chagrin of several factions in these states. Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan are members of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation), a China-led intergovernmental organization focusing on security and economic cooperation in Eurasia. Turkmenistan has also participated at SCO summits but as a guest. China has also constructed a forum of multilateral engagements with the Central Asian countries through the C+C5 initiative (A summit that was signed by Central Asia countries). China accounts for more than one-tenth of all arms transfers to the region.”

As the Academic team of this committee we highly encourage our delegates to read this article for further information: <https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/2379443>

Kazakhization Efforts:

- The ethnonym ‘Kazakh’ is first mentioned in written documents of the 14th century. Until 1925, Kazakhs were misnamed as Kirgiz and Kirgiz-Kaisak to differentiate them from Russian Kazakhs.
- Akhmet Baitursunov (1873–1937) was one of the leaders of the Kazakh nationalist movement. He wrote Kazakh language textbooks and edited the famous newspapers Kazakh and Ak Zhol. He was a member of the national-democratic party Alash, and later joined the Soviets and worked at the People's Committee of Education (Narkompros). He also became a member of the Central and Kazakhstan Executive Committees. He was executed during Stalinist purges in 1937. The alphabet he reformed is still used by Kazakhs in China.
- The 1926 Census registered 3,628,000 Kazakhs; in 1931 the number was 5,114,000; the 1937 Census registered only 2,182,000 Kazakhs.

- In 1926 only about a fourth of the Kazakhs led a sedentary mode of life, others were dependent on the livestock economy and seasonal agricultural farming.
- INTAS is the International Association for the promotion of cooperation with scientists from the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union (NIS); it was established in 1993 and discontinued in 2007.

Uzbekization Efforts:

Uzbekization refers to the efforts of ideologization for the benefit of Uzbek language, culture, and national identity, first and foremost in Uzbekistan. Under Soviet rule, the substance of Uzbekization corresponded to the policy of korenizatsiya—the ideologization of local identity together with a continuing loyalty to the Soviet Union—although it was very often counterweighted by Russification, which made this identity dual in nature. Since its independence in 1991, Uzbekistan has followed the more active policy of Uzbekization, directed at the consolidation of national unity and weakening of Russian influence. Uzbek was instituted as the only state language, replacing Russian in government, education, and public life, while cultural policies promoted Uzbekistan's historical heritage, national heroes, and Islamic traditions. While these efforts solidified national pride and cultural cohesion, they also created challenges for ethnic minorities such as Russians, Tajiks, and Kazakhs, who suffered from linguistic and social marginalization. Despite these tensions, Uzbekization remains central to Uzbekistan's nation-building strategy.

Azerbaijanization Efforts:

The recent war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno Karabakh region highlighted the strong national pride among Azerbaijanis, sparking interest in the research of Azerbaijani identity and its history. Questions arise about the origin of Azerbaijani nationalism and how their identity developed. There are two main theories about the ethnic roots of the Azerbaijani people: one claims they are descendants of Oghuz Turks who mixed with local populations, while the other suggests they come from Turkified local groups. Historically, before 1918, the people identified as Tatars, and a formal Azerbaijani identity emerged during the 1905 Revolution. The early Azerbaijani intelligentsia adopted Turkism and aimed to unify the population around a national identity.

The Mūsavat Party became the leading Nationalist group, advocating for the independence of Muslim nations. In 1918, they declared the Republic of Azerbaijan, seeking to connect with Persian Azerbaijan, even though the residents there did not support this vision. Over time, the ruling elites' ideology shifted from pan-Islamism to Turkism to a distinct Azerbaijani nationalism, but the general population largely retained a local Muslim identity. The establishment of the Azerbaijani identity faced challenges, especially after the Soviet occupation in 1920, with people primarily identifying as Muslims, as family and tribal ties remained significant.

In the Soviet era, attempts were made to build an Azerbaijani identity partly to prevent Turkish influence. The evolution of Azerbaijani identity was complex, influenced by various political forces and the changing written language. Azerbaijan gained independence in 1991, and President Heydar Aliyev initiated a nation-building effort centered around "Azerbaijanism," focusing on territorial nationalism rather than ethnicity. The loss of Nagorno Karabakh in the early 1990s significantly shaped national identity, fostering a strong sense of territorial unity among the population.

Ethnic minorities faced difficulties assimilating into this new identity framework. Although the regime promoted territorial nationalism to avoid separatism, Pan-Turkism emerged again in the 1990s, complicating the national identity landscape. Regional and clan identities also played an important role, often prioritizing local ties over ethnic divisions. Despite a secular government, religion remains influential, with a Muslim majority shaping societal identity. The Aliyev regime's identity-building efforts have successfully established a stronger Azerbaijani identity over time, though challenges persist from opposing nationalist movements.

Turkmenization Efforts:

Turkmenization is the set of domestic policies the Niyazov administration used in Turkmenistan from 1991 to December 2006 to force ethnic minorities to adopt Turkmen culture. Those who resisted the state-sponsored cultural transformation were often deported.

Antoine Blua of Radio Free Europe defined Turkmenization as the "policy of the Turkmen government targeting the education, employment, and religion of all of the country's non-Turkmen ethnic groups."

Shukrat Babajanov and Khurmat Babadjanov of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Uzbek Service say that since Turkmenistan gained independence, the Niyazov administration has fired most non-ethnic Turkmen civil servants. Officials must prove they have three generations of Turkmen heritage before they are hired. All Russian language schools were closed except for one which catered to elites, and the government began to squeeze Russian from public discourse, including roadside advertisements, while mandating spoken the National language -Turkmen. Informal social control is used to ensure citizens speak Turkmen and wear traditional Turkmen clothing. Uzbek women who try to marry Turkmen men are exiled to Uzbekistan with their children. Babajanov and Babadjanov say these policies have led to the emigration of Russians, Kazakhs, and Uzbeks.

Krgyz National Revival:

The 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union was a significant historical event for the five newly independent states of Central Asia, particularly for Kyrgyzstan. In August, four years after gaining independence, Kyrgyz citizens celebrated their national identity through an

international festival called "Manas 1000. " This event honored the semi-legendary founder-hero Manas, who is central to Kyrgyz literature and culture, as featured in The Epic of Manas.

Kyrgyzstan, with its population of 4.5 million, is located in the Tien Shan mountains and has evaded much of the ecological damage experienced by other Soviet territories. However, it faces economic challenges due to the separation from the Russian economy. Despite these issues, Kyrgyzstan maintains its cultural spirit and is working to establish a democratic and multiethnic state, as depicted in The Epic of Manas.

During the Soviet era, nationalism was suppressed, and the Kyrgyz people's traditions, including The Epic of Manas, faced censorship in education. Although the epic was largely omitted from school programs, it remained alive in the hearts of the Kyrgyz, who continued to tell its stories informally. After independence, Kyrgyz citizens felt free to celebrate their culture.

Throughout Soviet times, many Kyrgyz felt it was their duty to pass on the stories of Manas. At the festival, individuals like construction worker Mamatkari demonstrated their knowledge of the epic, embodying a sense of pride in their heritage. However, organizing a festival for \$5 million in a struggling nation was challenging; the government chose to fund the festival over paying employee wages, which caused some dissent within the ethnic Russian community in Kyrgyzstan.

Despite differing views on Manas's significance, many recognize that celebrations like Manas 1000 are vital for national unity. The Epic of Manas is not widely known outside of academic circles, despite being longer than other famous epics like The Iliad and The Mahabharata. The Kyrgyz epic has survived through oral tradition for over a thousand years before significant written fragments emerged in the 19th century.

For Kyrgyzstanis and Turkic peoples, The Epic of Manas is a symbol of resilience and unity amidst adversity. The Kyrgyz president described the epic as a crucial aspect of the national heritage and a source of pride and hope. The epic also reflects societal ideals, connecting the Kyrgyz people's identity to their faith, gender roles, and a sense of belonging.

Tajikization Efforts:

Tajikization is the national policy for developing a consolidated Tajik nation through emphasis on linguistic, cultural, and historical ties of the country. Since independence in 1991, the administration has made efforts in promoting the usage of the Tajik language within education, government, and public spheres, while placing restrictions on the usage of Russian along with other minority languages. It also encompasses cultural revival policies such as the celebration of the Persian heritage of the Samanid Empire, reverting to traditional Tajik names, and pre-Islamic symbols and narratives. Other policies, such as banning Islamic dress like hijabs and insisting on traditional attire, indicate the tendency toward adjustment of

national identity to the norms of Tajik culture in opposition to both Soviet influence and modern Islamic trends. While these actions have enhanced a sense of national pride, they also attract criticism due to their role in marginalizing ethnic minorities, constraining personal freedoms, and repressing cultural pluralism in the country.

6. Strategic Frameworks to Promote Turkification

6.1. The Unifying Role of Turk Culture, Language and Identity

Turkish culture has always been very unifying between countries throughout history, even going as far as determining shared values, languages, and identities among Turkic peoples. This unification has laid the foundation for connections that transcend national borders, fostering collaboration and cultural exchange among modern Turkish states and territories with historical or ethnic ties to Turkic heritage.

This shared culture, language, and identity of Turkic peoples also have historically served as powerful tools for unity, enabling Turkic states to build strong connections and expand their influence across vast territories. From the Seljuk victory at the Battle of Manzikert (1071), which initiated the Turkification of Anatolia (that we mentioned in article 4.1), to the rise of the Ottoman Empire, Turkic identity has been pivotal in uniting diverse populations under a common banner. During the Mongol invasions, Turkic leaders preserved their cultural heritage and established states like the Golden Horde and Timurid Empire, showcasing the resilience of Turkic traditions.

The Ottoman Empire further exemplified this unifying power, using shared cultural and linguistic ties to consolidate vast territories, as seen in events such as the Conquest of Constantinople (1453) and the Battle of Chaldiran (1514). Even in modern conflicts, such as the Turkish War of Independence (1919–1923), Turkish identity served as a rallying force, enabling Mustafa Kemal Atatürk to unite Anatolia and establish the Republic of Turkey.

In contemporary times, Turkic states are leveraging this historical legacy to foster deeper connections. Organizations like us, Organization of Turkic States (OTS) aim to revive and strengthen cultural ties through language standardization, cultural exchange programs, and economic integration. These efforts are particularly relevant in regions with historical Turkic ties or significant Turkic populations, where promoting Turkic identity can motivate unity and cooperation.

This unifying role is central to our Agenda Item, offering a pathway for Turkish states to reinforce their cultural influence while respecting regional diversity and international norms. You must consider how to balance these efforts with geopolitical challenges, ethnic sensitivities, and the need for inclusive policies that strengthen, rather than fracture, regional cohesion.

6.2. Promoting Policies in areas of Language, Education and Cultural Exchange

The promotion of language, education, and cultural exchange is integral to advancing Turkification in potential territories within the borders of Turkish states. Language serves as a cornerstone of cultural identity, and initiatives such as standardizing Turkic alphabets, establishing Turkish language schools, and offering linguistic training programs can foster deeper ties among Turkic populations. Education further reinforces these connections, with scholarships and academic collaborations enabling students from Turkic regions to study in Turkish states, immersing them in shared traditions and modern Turkic perspectives. Cultural exchange programs, such as festivals, art exhibitions, and joint media productions, can highlight the common heritage of Turkic peoples while celebrating regional diversity. These policies not only strengthen cultural bonds but also enhance mutual understanding and cooperation, laying a foundation for unity and integration across the Turkic world. In the context of our committee the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), such initiatives are vital for creating sustainable, inclusive pathways to cultural and linguistic alignment in regions with historical Turkic ties, so what we advise you delegates to do is take examples whenever you see information like this that seems relevant, in order to enhance your solution ideas.

6.3. Taking Advantage of Media, Technology and Diplomacy

Media, technology, and diplomacy are powerful tools for advancing Turkification in potential territories within the borders of Turkish states. Using media, including television networks, digital platforms, and social media, we can spread Turkish cultural content and promote Turkic heritage to a wide audience. Collaborations in film, music, and literature featuring Turkic traditions can further reinforce a shared identity. Technology plays a critical role in bridging distances between Turkic regions; initiatives such as e-learning platforms, virtual cultural exchanges, and online language courses enable greater accessibility to Turkish culture and language. Diplomacy complements these efforts by promising goodwill and cooperation. Cultural diplomacy (through embassy programs, bilateral agreements, and events showcasing Turkic culture) strengthens ties with target regions while reinforcing the unity of Turkic states. By integrating these tools strategically, our committee, the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) can effectively build cultural cohesion, enhance regional influence, and foster lasting connections across the Turkic world.

Artificial intelligence (AI) adds a modern dimension to these efforts by offering creative and efficient solutions. AI can analyze social media trends to better understand the interests of target audiences and tailor cultural content to their preferences, ensuring that Turkish heritage appeals to a wider range of people. AI-powered translation tools can simplify communication across Turkic languages, making linguistic barriers less significant and encouraging more people to learn Turkish. AI-driven educational platforms can create interactive and personalized learning experiences for students interested in Turkic languages and history. In diplomacy, AI can assist in mapping potential areas for stronger cultural engagement by

identifying communities with historical Turkic ties or shared values. By adopting AI, the OTS can make Turkification initiatives more effective, helping to reach new audiences and strengthen the cultural bonds among Turkic states and their extended regions.

6.4. Economical and Social Aspect of Turkification Efforts

The economic and social dimensions of Turkification play a crucial role in strengthening connections and fostering unity among Turkic states and potential territories within their borders. Economically, Turkification can drive regional development through collaborative trade agreements between some turkic states, with shared infrastructure projects, and investments in key industries such as energy, agriculture, and technology. We will also provide you with a couple advice filled articles. Here they are:

– Cross-Border Trade Corridors

Turkic states should prioritize the establishment of cross-border trade corridors to enhance regional connectivity. These corridors facilitate the movement of goods and services, boosting economic growth and creating interdependence between regions. Investments in infrastructure, such as highways, railroads, and logistics hubs, can serve as key enablers of these trade corridors, benefiting host regions and surrounding areas economically and culturally.

– Joint Economic Zones and Entrepreneurship

The creation of joint economic zones presents an opportunity to foster economic integration and development. These zones can host industries and businesses aligned with Turkic traditions and values, promoting entrepreneurship and empowering local communities. Economic incentives, such as tax breaks and funding for startups, can encourage greater participation in these initiatives, making Turkification efforts more appealing and sustainable.

– Celebrating Shared Heritage through Festivals and Culture

Social cohesion can be achieved by bridging cultural gaps through initiatives that celebrate shared Turkic heritage. Programs focused on Turkic festivals, traditional cuisine, and historical commemorations can instill a sense of belonging among diverse populations. Such cultural exchanges also allow people to connect on a personal level, fostering unity and pride in a shared identity.

– Language Education and Economic Opportunities

Language education is a cornerstone of Turkification efforts, as it creates pathways for economic and social mobility. By promoting Turkish and other Turkic languages in schools and through community programs, people gain access to better job opportunities and a stronger connection to the Turkic world. Language learning can also facilitate interpersonal communication and cultural understanding, fostering long-term relationships.

– Public Health and Welfare Programs

Public health and welfare initiatives are vital to building trust and strengthening social bonds between Turkic states and target territories. By providing healthcare services, education on wellness, and welfare programs tailored to local needs, Turkic states can demonstrate the tangible benefits of closer ties. These efforts not only improve quality of life but also build goodwill and foster loyalty toward Turkic integration.

– Integrating Economic Development with Cultural Outreach

The success of Turkification efforts lies in the integration of economic initiatives with cultural and social programs. Combining infrastructure development and trade with cultural celebrations and social welfare ensures a holistic approach to building sustainable relationships. This balanced strategy fosters stability, collaboration, and a sense of shared destiny within the Turkic world and its broader sphere of influence.

These were the articles which you are expected to use as idea bases.

6.5. Reducing External Pressures and Dependencies

Reducing external pressures and dependencies is a crucial element in advancing Turkification efforts within potential territories, as it ensures the autonomy and resilience of Turkic states and communities. This involves minimizing reliance on non-Turkic nations for economic, political, and cultural support by fostering self-sufficiency and strengthening turkic-cooperation between all involved states. Economically, diversifying trade partnerships within the Turkic world and investing in local industries can reduce dependence on external markets. Joint ventures in energy production, such as renewable energy projects and the development of natural resources, can ensure energy security while reinforcing economic ties among Turkic states. Politically, creating unified stances on international platforms through our committee, the Organization of Turkic States (OTS). We can mitigate external pressures, presenting a cohesive bloc that advocates for the interests of Turkic regions. Strengthening defense capabilities and regional security partnerships can further protect against external influences and promote stability. Culturally, prioritizing Turkic media, language, and education systems can counteract the dominance of external cultural influences, ensuring that local traditions and identities are preserved and promoted. By reducing dependency on external powers, Turkic states can build a stronger and more unified foundation for Turkification efforts, fostering a sense of independence and collective strength that enhances the cohesion and prosperity of the Turkic world.

Thank you for reading this whole (or some parts) of this study guide, we are ending this with the hopes of having an amazing committee. See you all there!

7. Questions to be Addressed

- How can reducing external dependency be achieved through Turkification?
- What challenges might arise in implementing Turkification across various territories? And how would the OTS respond to those challenges?
- How can the economic benefits be maximized through the Turkification of potential territories?
- How can the shared Turkish culture, language, and identity serve as a unifying force to strengthen connections among Turkic states and territories?
- What strategies can Turkic states adopt to preserve and promote Turkish culture as a central element of their identity?
- How can Turkic culture unifying diverse regions in history be leveraged to foster stronger connections and cultural integration within and beyond the borders of Turkic states today?

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