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THE STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF AZERBAIJANI, KAZAKH, KYRGYZ, AND TURKMEN NATIONAL CULTURAL CENTERS IN UZBEKISTAN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF TURKIC UNITY

Abstract

This article comprehensively examines the historical background, genesis, and development of the national cultural centers representing the member states of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) within Uzbekistan - specifically focusing on the Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, Azerbaijani, and Turkish communities. The study highlights the pivotal role these centers play in preserving and promoting distinct national traditions, language, and unique cultural heritage. Furthermore, the paper explores how these institutions act as vital bridges of public diplomacy, fostering deeper bilateral and regional cooperation between Uzbekistan and its neighboring countries. Special emphasis is placed on the state’s official recognition of their legal status, illustrating Uzbekistan’s strategic state policy on interethnic harmony, tolerance, and mutual solidarity. By analyzing their educational and scientific initiatives, the research underscores their deep interconnectedness in intellectual spheres. Ultimately, the article evaluates the multifaceted, contemporary contributions of these cultural centers to the advancement of culture, science, education, sports, and literature, demonstrating their collective impact on strengthening the shared identity of the Turkic world.

Keywords: Interethnic tolerance; National cultural centers; “Khaydar Aliyev Cultural Center”; Abay; Navruz and Independence Day; Chingiz Aitmatov; “Masterpieces of Turkic Literature”; Makhtumkuli.

Тәжиев Достонжон

Ўзбекстан Республикасы Ғылым академиясы Ўбу Райхан Ёл-Бируни атындағы Шығыстану институты «Орталық Азия тарихы» бөлімінің кіші ғылыми қызметкері

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ТҮРКІ БІРЛІГІ АЯСЫНДАҒЫ ӨЗБЕКСТАНДАҒЫ ӘЗІРБАЙЖАН, ҚАЗАҚ, ҚЫРҒЫЗ ЖӘНЕ ТҮРІКМЕН ҰЛТТЫҚ МӘДЕНИ ОРТАЛЫҚТАРЫНЫҢ СТРАТЕГИЯЛЫҚ МАҢЫЗЫ

Аңдатпа

Бұл мақалада Өзбекстандағы Түркі мемлекеттері ұйымына (ТМҰ) мүше елдердің ұлттық мәдени орталықтарының, атап айтқанда, қазақ, қырғыз, түрікмен, әзірбайжан және түрік халықтарының өкілдіктерінің тарихи негіздері, қалыптасуы және қызметі жан-жақты әрі терең зерттеледі. Зерттеу жұмысында бұл орталықтардың әрбір этностың өзіндік ұлттық салт-дәстүрлерін, ана тілін және бірегей мәдени мұрасын сақтау, жаңғырту және кеңінен насихаттау ісіндегі маңызды рөліне ерекше назар аударылған. Сонымен қатар, ғылыми еңбекте аталған институттардың халықтық дипломатияның алтын көпірі ретінде қызмет ететіні, Өзбекстан Республикасы мен оған көршілес жатқан аймақ елдері арасындағы жан-жақты екіжақты және өңірлік ынтымақтастықты тереңдетуге қалай ықпал ететіні мұқият талданады. Орталықтардың құқықтық мәртебесін мемлекет тарапынан ресми түрде тану мәселесіне ерекше мән берілген, бұл Өзбекстанның этносаралық татулықты, діни

төзімділікті және өзара ынтымақтастықты қамтамасыз ету бағытындағы стратегиялық мемлекеттік саясатын айқын көрсетеді. Орталықтардың білім беру, академиялық және ғылыми бастамаларын талдау арқылы зерттеу олардың интеллектуалды салалардағы тығыз өзара байланысын айғақтайды. Қорытындылай келе, мақалада бұл мәдени орталықтардың мәдениет, ғылым, білім, спорт және әдебиет салаларын дамытуға қосқан көпқырлы заманауи үлесі жан-жақты бағаланады, сондай-ақ олардың түркі әлемінің ортақ бірегейлігі мен бірлігін нығайтуға тигізетін ұжымдық әсері толық дәлелденеді.

Түйін сөздер: Этносаралық төзімділік; Ұлттық мәдени орталықтар; Гейдар Әлиев атындағы мәдениет орталығы; Абай; Наурыз және Тәуелсіздік күні; Шыңғыс Айтматов; «Түркі әдебиетінің жауһарлары»; Мақтымұлы.

Тожиёв Достонжон

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СТРАТЕГИЧЕСКОЕ ЗНАЧЕНИЕ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКОГО, КАЗАХСКОГО, КЫРГЫЗСКОГО И ТУРКМЕНСКОГО НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ КУЛЬТУРНЫХ ЦЕНТРОВ В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ В КОНТЕКСТЕ ТЮРКСКОГО ЕДИНСТВА

Аннотация

В данной статье всесторонне и подробно рассматриваются исторические предпосылки, генезис и особенности развития национальных культурных центров государств-членов Организации тюркских государств (ОТГ) в Узбекистане, в частности, представляющих казахский, кыргызский, туркменский, азербайджанский и турецкий народы. В исследовании особое внимание уделяется ключевой роли, которую эти центры играют в сохранении, возрождении и активном продвижении самобытных национальных традиций, родного языка и уникального культурного наследия каждого этноса. Кроме того, в работе глубоко анализируется, как данные институты выступают в качестве важнейших мостов народной дипломатии, способствуя углублению всестороннего двустороннего и регионального сотрудничества между Республикой Узбекистан и соседними государствами региона. Особый акцент сделан на официальном признании государством их правового статуса, что наглядно демонстрирует стратегическую государственную политику Узбекистана в сфере обеспечения межэтнического согласия, религиозной толерантности и взаимной солидарности. Путем анализа образовательных, академических и научных инициатив центров в исследовании подчеркивается их глубокая взаимосвязь в интеллектуальных сферах. В конечном итоге, статья всесторонне оценивает многогранный современный вклад этих культурных центров в развитие сфер культуры, науки, образования, спорта и литературы, демонстрируя их коллективное влияние на укрепление общей идентичности и единства тюркского мира.

Ключевые слова: Межэтническая толерантность; Национальные культурные центры; Азербайджанский культурный центр имени Гейдара Алиева; Абай; Навруз и День независимости; Чингиз Айтматов; «Шедевры тюркской литературы»; Махтумкули.

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TÜRK BİRLİĞİ ÇERÇEVESİNDE ÖZBEKİSTAN'DAKİ AZERBAYCAN, KAZAK, KIRGIZ VE TÜRKMEN MİLLİ KÜLTÜREL MERKEZLERİNİN STRATEJİK ÖNEMİ

Özet

Bu makale, Özbekistan'da faaliyet gösteren Türk Devletleri Teşkilatı (TDT) üye ülkelerinin ulusal kültür merkezlerinin, özellikle de Kazak, Kırgız, Türkmen, Azerbaycan ve Türkiye Türkleri topluluklarını temsil eden kurumların tarihi arka planını, doğuşunu, kuruluşu ile faaliyetlerini kapsamlı ve derinlemesine bir biçimde incelemektedir. Yapılan bilimsel çalışmada, bu merkezlerin her bir etnik grubun kendine özgü ulusal geleneklerini, göreneklerini, anadillerini ve benzersiz kültürel miraslarını koruma, yaşatma geniş kitlelere tanıtma hususunda üstlendikleri kritik ve öncü role özellikle dikkat çekilmektedir. Ayrıca araştırma, söz konusu kurumsal yapıların birer kamu diplomasisi köprüsü vazifesi görerek Özbekistan Cumhuriyeti ile komşu bölge ülkeleri arasındaki çok taraflı ikili ve bölgesel iş birliğinin derinleştirilmesine nasıl katkı sağladığını titizlikle analiz etmektedir. Merkezlerin hukuki statülerinin devlet tarafından resmi olarak tanınması meselesine özel bir vurgu yapılmış olup, bu durum Özbekistan'ın etnik kökenler arası uyum, hoşgörü ve karşılıklı dayanışmayı sağlamaya yönelik stratejik devlet politikasını açıkça ortaya koymaktadır. Kültür merkezlerinin eğitimsel, akademik ve bilimsel girişimlerinin incelenmesi yoluyla araştırma, bu toplulukların entelektüel alanlardaki derin etkileşimini ve bağlarını gözler önüne sermektedir. Sonuç olarak makale, bu ulusal kültür merkezlerinin kültür, bilim, eğitim, spor ve edebiyat alanlarının gelişimine sunduğu çok yönlü modern katkıları bütüncül bir yaklaşımla değerlendirmekte ve Türk dünyasının ortak kimliğinin ve birliğinin güçlendirilmesi üzerindeki kolektif etkisini açıkça kanıtlamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Etnikler arası hoşgörü; Milli kültürel merkezler; Haydar Aliyev Kültür Merkez; Abay; Nevruz ve Bağımsızlık Günü; Cengiz Aytmatov; "Türk Edebiyatının Başyapıtları"; Mahtumkulu.

Introduction

In the contemporary era of globalization, the geopolitical and cultural landscape of Central Asia is undergoing a profound transformation, characterized by a renewed emphasis on regional integration and the rediscovery of shared civilizational roots. At the core of this paradigm shift stands the concept of Turkic unity – a strategic alignment that transcends mere economic and political partnerships to encompass deep-seated historical, linguistic, and cultural bonds. Within this framework, the Republic of Uzbekistan, situated at the historical crossroads of the Great Silk Road, plays a pivotal and geostrategic role. Uzbekistan's foreign policy, particularly since the mid-2010s, has shifted toward fostering a consolidated, peaceful, and interconnected Central Asian region, while simultaneously deepening its institutional engagement with the Organization of Turkic States (OTS).

However, the structural architecture of Turkic unity cannot be sustained solely through high-level diplomatic summits or macroeconomic treaties; it requires a robust socio-cultural foundation built on "people-to-people diplomacy". In Uzbekistan, this foundational role is uniquely performed by diaspora-based institutions, specifically the national cultural centers. Among these, the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and Turkmen national cultural centers occupy a position of paramount strategic significance. Far from being merely nostalgic or folkloric associations, these centers operate as vital socio-political and cultural conduits that bridge the domestic policy of interethnic harmony in Uzbekistan with the broader international agenda of pan-Turkic solidarity.

The domestic context of Uzbekistan provides a fertile ground for these institutions. Home to over 138 nationalities and ethnic groups, the state has long institutionalized interethnic tolerance as a cornerstone of its national identity and security doctrine. The legal and constitutional recognition of these national cultural centers grants them the structural autonomy to preserve, cultivate, and propagate their respective ethnic traditions, languages, and literatures. When viewed through the prism of the Organization of Turkic States, these centers transform into dynamic instruments of soft power and cultural diplomacy. For instance, the activities of the Kazakh and Kyrgyz centers

facilitate a seamless cultural exchange with direct neighbors, mitigating historical border sensitivities through shared heritage. Simultaneously, the Azerbaijani and Turkmen centers enrich the internal cultural diversity of Uzbekistan while reinforcing the historical continuity of the broader Oghuz and Kipchak linguistic and literary traditions.

Moreover, these cultural centers serve as critical nodes of connectivity in the fields of science, education, and youth policy. By organizing international symposia, promoting the translation of literary masterpieces – such as the works of Abay, Chingiz Aitmatov, and Makhtumkuli – and celebrating pan-Turkic heritage like Navruz, these institutions systematically construct a collective memory among the younger generation. They actively counter the fragmenting pressures of external cultural globalization by offering a cohesive, value-driven alternative rooted in mutual respect and shared historical destiny.

Therefore, analyzing the strategic significance of the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and Turkmen national cultural centers in Uzbekistan is not merely an academic exercise in ethnography. It is a necessary inquiry into the mechanisms of modern cultural diplomacy. This study aims to investigate how these centers assist in transforming the conceptual framework of Turkic unity into a living, operational reality. By examining their historical genesis, legal status, and multifaceted activities in science, literature, and education, this paper highlights their indispensable contribution to building a resilient, unified, and integrated Turkic world from the grassroots up.

Methodology.

International tolerance committees are established to promote peace and cooperation among national, ethnic, religious, and cultural groups. They help strengthen mutual respect among various groups in society, facilitate reconciliation, and assist in resolving disputes. The main goal is to create a sustainable society among different nations and cultures.

The Committee on International Relations and Friendship with Foreign Countries under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan primarily aims to develop international harmony and tolerance, maintain peace among representatives of various nations, and strengthen friendly relations between Uzbekistan and foreign countries. The Committee on International Relations and Friendship with Foreign Countries was established on May 19, 2017, by the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan [1]. This committee operates in cooperation with national cultural centers and contributes to strengthening sustainability in society through various events.

As of today, the Committee on International Relations and Friendship with Foreign Countries under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan has 38 friendship societies functioning with different countries. In addition, the committee maintains close friendly relations with 18 countries. Furthermore, positive relations have also been established with 38 Uzbek emigrant and diaspora communities located in 19 countries [2].

As of 2024, there are 147 national cultural centers (NCC) operating under the committee. Out of these, 14 hold the status of Republic National Cultural Centers. Within the scope of this article, we will discuss the cultural centers of the peoples contributing to the Turkic States Union, specifically the Azerbaijani, Turkish, Kyrgyz, Kazakh, and Turkmen national cultural centers in Uzbekistan. Additionally, there are cultural centers representing other nationalities as well. In Tashkent city, there are 23 centers, in Karakalpakstan there are 6, and another 95 national cultural centers are currently operating in other regions. Due to the international environment created in Uzbekistan, 7 new national cultural centers and 2 friendship societies were established in 2020 by representatives of the Tajik, Turkish, and Kazakh populations [2]. In the following article, we aim to discuss the activities of the national cultural centers established by the peoples that form the foundation of the Turkic States Organization located in Uzbekistan.

Main content.

The Azerbaijan National Cultural Center in Uzbekistan was initially established in 1989 in Tashkent as the “Gardashlik” Azerbaijani National Cultural Center. Subsequently, Azerbaijani national cultural centers also began operations in Samarkand and Bukhara, and by 2003, the Republic Azerbaijan National Cultural Center was officially established [3]. Currently, in addition to coordinating the activities of the departments operating in the regions, the center also contributes

to the preservation and development of the national culture, traditions, and customs of Azerbaijanis in Uzbekistan. The center is led by Mamedov Mobil Yakub oglu. Its services in strengthening cultural relations between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan are invaluable.

The Azerbaijan National Cultural Center in Uzbekistan places significant emphasis on the development and preservation of the culture of the Azerbaijani people. The center's activities focus on introducing the history, culture, and traditions of the Azerbaijani people to the population of Uzbekistan, as well as strengthening the fraternal and friendly relations between the two countries. This national cultural center serves as an important cultural and educational bridge between the two fraternal countries, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. Currently, numerous documents related to mutual relations among Turkic states have been adopted, forming the real foundation for connections in all fields, from politics to economy, culture, science, and education [4].

Interest in Azerbaijani literature has recently reached a good level among Uzbek readers. High-quality translations from Azerbaijani can be found in Uzbek publishing houses. The high visibility of literary publications can be observed, as emphasized, in the 16 volumes of the "Treasures of Turkic Literature", published in 2022, which includes sections dedicated to examples of Azerbaijani literature from volumes 56 to 71.

The Uzbekistan Turk National Cultural Center, the first Turk national cultural center, was opened in Bukhara region in 1991 and in Tashkent in 1992. The cultural centers have been officially operating as the "Axisxa" Turk national cultural center since March 26, 1997. The center is headed by Umar Ibragimovich Salmanov. Its services in strengthening cultural relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey are significant.

The center and its branches in the regions celebrate Independence Day, Navruz, Ramadan, and Eid al-Adha widely, and regularly hold Uzbek-Turk friendship evenings and Turkish Cinema Weeks. Creative meetings, exhibitions of national dishes, and traditional clothing are organized regularly by the center [5]. Center staff participate in various new projects alongside other national cultural centers. Interest in Turkish literature has also reached a significant peak in recent years. One out of every five books published in Uzbekistan is a translated work from Turkish. Over the past three years, Uzbek publishers have regularly participated in the "International Publishers Program" in Istanbul. Regarding literary publications, the 17 volumes of "Treasures of Turkic Literature", published in 2022, which includes volumes 39 to 55 dedicated to outstanding examples of Turkish literature, are a result of practical efforts in the field.

The Kazakhstan National Cultural Center in Uzbekistan has been officially operational since its establishment in 1992. The center works to preserve and develop the customs, traditions, and language of Kazakh citizens residing in Uzbekistan. It organizes various cultural events, literary evenings, and international forums each year. Teaching the Kazakh language and literature, promoting Kazakh customs, and conveying Kazakh culture to younger generations are considered the center's primary responsibilities. The center is headed by Usenov Serikbay Nazarovich. Its contribution to strengthening cultural relations between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan is substantial.

The center believes its main goal is to preserve and develop the national values of Kazakh citizens in Uzbekistan, further strengthen the friendship and cooperation between the fraternal Uzbek and Kazakh peoples, and significantly contribute to the flourishing of literary, cultural, and educational ties.

In 2019, a resolution was adopted by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan regarding "The extensive study and promotion of the creative heritage of the great Kazakh poet and thinker Abay Kunanbayev" [6]. Additionally, in 1995, a government resolution was signed regarding events dedicated to the 150th anniversary of Abay's birth [7]. According to the new resolution, a collection of Abay's selected works in Kazakh, a collection of articles titled "Uzbek and Kazakh Literary Relations", and a scientific research work titled "Abay's Literature" have been published in Uzbek. Additionally, a permanent exhibition named "Abay and Uzbek Literature" has been established [8], additionally, a film titled "Abay – the Shining Star of the Kazakh and Uzbek Peoples" was produced [9, 63]. In addition, many renowned works by both Kazakh and Uzbek writers have been translated into both languages. Notably, it is enough to mention the "Treasures of

Turkic Literature” collection, consisting of 100 volumes published in 2022. Ten volumes from this golden collection, specifically volumes 72 to 81, are dedicated to Kazakh literature. There is also a tradition of the President of Uzbekistan visiting the National Cultural Centers in the regions [10].

Currently, there are 358 schools in Uzbekistan that provide education in the Kazakh language. Among them, 137 schools conduct lessons exclusively in Kazakh, while 221 schools offer mixed-language instruction [11]. These schools are primarily located in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Tashkent region, and other areas with dense Kazakh populations.

The Kyrgyz National Cultural Center in Uzbekistan was first established as a cultural center in 1992 in the Jizzakh region as an inter-regional center, and the Uzbekistan Kyrgyz Cultural Center was founded in 1995. Since 2019, it has been called the Kyrgyz National Cultural Center of Uzbekistan. This cultural center in Uzbekistan was created to preserve and develop the culture, language, and traditions of the Kyrgyz people. The center focuses on strengthening cultural ties between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, organizing national holidays, cultural events, and exhibitions. Additionally, the center runs educational programs for learning and developing the Kyrgyz language and participates in various international projects. The center is headed by Djabbarov Rakhmatulla Mamatovich. Its role in strengthening cultural relations between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan is significant.

According to the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoev, on April 2, 2018, the 90th anniversary of the great writer and public figure Chingiz Aitmatov was widely celebrated in Uzbekistan in 2018 [12]. One of the central streets in Tashkent has been named after the writer, and a relief has been installed [13], a memorial book titled “Chingiz Aitmatov and Uzbekistan” has been published [14], a bust of Chingiz Aitmatov was installed at the 33rd General Secondary Education School in the Parkent district of Tashkent region, and a permanent exhibition titled “Chingiz Aitmatov and Uzbekistan” was launched at the National University of Uzbekistan [15]. In Uzbekistan, many books have been published about Chingiz Aytmatov’s activities, and several documentary films have been made. Currently, books and textbooks in the Kyrgyz language are being published for students. Another aspect is that out of the 100-volume collection “Treasures of Turkic Literature” published in 2022, 9 volumes, specifically volumes 82 to 90, are dedicated to the finest examples of Kyrgyz literature.

At present, there are 47 schools in Uzbekistan that provide education in the Kyrgyz language. Among these, 21 schools conduct lessons exclusively in Kyrgyz, while 26 schools offer mixed-language instruction [16]. In recent years, representatives of the National Cultural Center have also been participating in the meetings of the heads of state of the two fraternal countries. National and religious holidays such as Navruz and Hayit are held in the center in an interesting and uplifting spirit. The Independence Days of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan are rightfully celebrated as a bright demonstration of Uzbek-Kyrgyz friendship.

The Republican Turkmen Cultural Center was established in 2001. From time immemorial, the Uzbek and Turkmen peoples have been united by cultural affinity and centuries-old friendly ties. About 200 thousand people of the Turkmen nationality live in Uzbekistan, and the center greatly supports the preservation and development of their language, culture, traditions and customs. The center holds Turkmen national holidays, cultural events, exhibitions, various festivals and conferences. It also organizes Turkmen language courses, literary evenings and programs on traditional arts. The head of this center is Guldana Khaldurdiyevna Avezdurdyeva. Today, the Center plays an important role in further strengthening cultural cooperation between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

In 2024, under the auspices of UNESCO, events dedicated to the 300th anniversary of the great Turkmen poet and thinker Makhtumkuli are being held in both countries [17]. A resolution of the President of Uzbekistan was also adopted in this regard. According to the resolution, it is envisaged to publish Makhtumkuli’s “Selected Works”, stage a play, create a feature film, hold a literary evening and international conferences [18]. As noted, the great son of the Turkmen people, Makhtumkuli Firugi, is an outstanding poet and thinker who has a special place not only in the history of Turkic peoples, but also in the history of world literature and culture. 9 volumes of

“Masterpieces of Turkic Literature”, namely, volumes 91 - 99, are enriched with examples of Turkmen literary works.

Currently, there are 41 schools in Uzbekistan that teach in the Turkmen language, of which 21 are schools where classes are conducted exclusively in the Turkmen language, and 20 are schools where classes are conducted in mixed languages [19]. Every year, the government provides Turkmen-language schools with textbooks, teaching aids, and media resources.

Conclusion

In general, the National Cultural Centers are playing an increasingly important role in the development of many cooperative relations. Based on their activities, confidence in the mutual development of countries and the unity of their peoples is growing day by day. In the midst of these and other issues, Central Asia and the Turkic world are striving to increase the number of partners around them, and together with them to enhance scientific and cultural cooperation in a globalized world.

The comprehensive analysis of the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and Turkmen national cultural centers in Uzbekistan reveals that these institutions are not merely preservationists of ethnic folklore, but are vital, strategic actors in the contemporary architecture of Turkic unity. In an era where regional integration is often measured solely through economic indicators and geopolitical treaties, these centers provide the essential socio-cultural infrastructure – the “human dimension” – that transforms political discourse into a resilient, grassroots reality. They serve as a powerful testament to how domestic policies of interethnic harmony can seamlessly align with and bolster international foreign policy objectives within the framework of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS).

The research underscores several critical dimensions regarding the functioning and impact of these centers:

Socio-Political Synergy: The legal and constitutional framework provided by the Republic of Uzbekistan has elevated these centers from isolated diaspora associations to recognized entities of public diplomacy. By granting them structural autonomy and state support, Uzbekistan has successfully fostered a model of multiculturalism where ethnic identity reinforces, rather than contradicts, national cohesion.

Instruments of Soft Power: In the context of Turkic solidarity, the Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, and Azerbaijani cultural centers operate as dynamic conduits of soft power. They bridge geographic borders and mitigate historical sensitivities by continuously highlighting shared linguistic, historical, and spiritual roots. The institutional cross-connectivity observed in the celebration of Navruz and Independence Day serves as a cyclical reinforcement of a shared cultural destiny.

Academic and Literary Integration: The systematic promotion of pan-Turkic literary giants – such as Abay, Chingiz Aitmatov, and Makhtumkuli – alongside large-scale projects like the “Masterpieces of Turkic Literature”, demonstrates that these centers are critical hubs for intellectual and educational exchange. They actively counter the homogenizing pressures of globalized mass culture by offering the younger generation an alternative, value-driven identity rooted in mutual respect and intellectual heritage.

Ultimately, the strategic significance of these national cultural centers lies in their ability to operationalize the abstract concept of Turkic unity into daily cultural, educational, and scientific practices. They act as the social glue that binds the member states of the Turkic world from the bottom up.

Looking forward, as the Organization of Turkic States deepens its institutional integration, the role of these cultural centers will become increasingly paramount. To maximize their strategic potential, it is imperative to transition from periodic cultural events to sustained, collaborative scientific and youth-centric programs. This study concludes that the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and Turkmen national cultural centers in Uzbekistan are indispensable pillars of regional stability and integration, proving that the future of a unified Turkic world relies heavily on the strength, recognition, and vitality of its shared cultural spaces.

In conclusion, the issues of strengthening cultural understanding and friendship between the countries of Central Asia are also of historical importance. Throughout history, as a result of the exchange of traditions, customs, and culture, more cohesive societies have been formed between these peoples. This process continues today, contributing to the special place of ties between them in world culture.

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