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# The State and Development Trends of The Conflict Between Ukraine and The Russian Federation

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the current state of the conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, as well as its impact on the geopolitical landscape and regional security in Central Asia. Special attention is given to the role of Uzbekistan in promoting stability and consolidating regional states amid contemporary geopolitical transformations.

**Keywords:** Ukraine–Russia Conflict, Central Asia, Regional Security, Uzbekistan, Geopolitical Transformation, Multivector Diplomacy

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## Introduction

The armed conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, which entered an active phase in February 2022, has had far-reaching consequences extending beyond Eastern Europe.

Central Asia—comprising Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—has gained particular importance under the new conditions due to its strategic location, natural resources, and demographic characteristics. The conflict has intensified international interest in the region, highlighted existing challenges, and opened up new opportunities for development.

## Methodology

The origins of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia are complex and multifaceted. Divergent interpretations of its causes indicate an ongoing information war. Some link the start of the conflict to Russia's accession of Crimea in 2014; others to the events of the Euromaidan, which resulted in a change of government in Ukraine. In any case, the historical context plays a critical role in shaping the foreign policy positions of both parties.

Key factors contributing to the escalation include NATO's eastward expansion, internal political tensions in Ukraine, and territorial disputes with Russia. In February 2022,

the declaration of a "special military operation" by Russia marked the transition of the conflict into an open war.

The conflict's impact on Central Asia is evident in political, economic, and social dimensions. Western sanctions imposed on Russia placed the region's countries in a challenging position. Disruptions in logistics chains and reduced trade with Russia triggered inflation and raised fears of shortages in essential goods.

The financial sectors of several Central Asian states are closely tied to Russia. In Kazakhstan, operations of Russian subsidiary banks were curtailed, while Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic faced difficulties with money transfers and banking services.

Labor migration has also been affected. Russia has traditionally been a primary destination for labor migrants from Central Asia, and remittances from Russia form a significant portion of GDP in some countries. Concerns about secondary sanctions have prompted regional governments to reconsider external economic strategies, including re-export control mechanisms.

Central Asian countries are actively diversifying foreign relations. Ties with the EU, Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan, India, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE are rapidly expanding. The "Middle Corridor" (Trans-Caspian International Transport Route) is gaining importance as a supplement to traditional trade routes.

Under its "Global Gateway" strategy, the EU has shown interest in investing in the corridor. Kazakhstan is already sending export goods through the Caspian Sea to Azerbaijan, while Uzbekistan is exploring transit opportunities via Afghanistan and Pakistan. However, development of the Middle Corridor involves geopolitical risks linked to Russia's actions, China's cautious stance, and Iran's role.

## Result and Discussion

Central Asian states seek to maintain neutrality regarding the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have declared support for Ukraine's territorial integrity, provided humanitarian aid, and abstained from voting on UN resolutions condemning Russia.

The regional response also includes rethinking cultural and linguistic policies: in Kazakhstan, interest in the Kazakh language has grown, including among ethnic Russians. The region has seen an influx of highly qualified Russian migrants, which, while offering economic potential, also strains infrastructure.

The role of external actors in the region is increasing. China has stepped up its security initiatives, including the 2022 "Global Security Initiative." The United States also views the region as strategically important amid Russia's waning influence.

In this context, Uzbekistan occupies a key position. Its foreign policy strategy is based on pragmatism, multi-vector diplomacy, and constructive engagement. Uzbekistan's doctrine prioritizes national development, strengthens cooperation within international organizations (UN, SCO, CIS, WTO, etc.), and advances the global agenda.

Special emphasis is placed on regional collaboration. Consultative meetings of Central Asian heads of state, initiated by Uzbekistan, have become a vital mechanism for

building trust and aligning regional interests. Cross-border trade-industrial zones are being developed, and major infrastructure projects—such as the China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan railway—are being implemented.

Within the Organization of Turkic States, Uzbekistan has launched initiatives to expand trade and security cooperation. Proposed platforms such as “New Economic Opportunities Space” and “TURK-Trade” aim to enhance integration. Uzbekistan is also advocating joint measures to combat cyber threats, extremism, and transnational crime. In doing so, the country demonstrates its capacity to act as a regional leader, shaping a resilient and independent development strategy.

## Conclusion

The Ukraine-Russia conflict, deeply rooted in historical and geopolitical factors, continues to exert a significant impact on global and regional dynamics. In Central Asia, the conflict has manifested both in the form of challenges and new opportunities. The intensification of economic and social problems has accelerated efforts to diversify foreign policy and trade relations.

The Middle Corridor is emerging as a strategically important alternative, and Central Asia as an arena of international competition. Under these conditions, Uzbekistan plays a leading role in ensuring regional resilience. Its balanced, proactive, and pragmatic foreign policy contributes to regional cohesion and sustainable development.

In the long term, the stability of Central Asia will depend on the ability of its countries—especially Uzbekistan, as a regional actor and international stakeholder—to balance the interests of global powers while reinforcing internal stability and building multilateral partnerships to ensure security and progress amid an evolving world order.

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