

An Opinion Piece on
**With Reference to Brother Islamic Country,
“Republic of Kazakhstan”;
A Special Analysis**
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Nature has blessed the soil and the people of different regions with different qualities. Some of the regions abound in beauty while others are characterized with severity. At some places, the attitude is based on leniency and contrary to that, in certain other areas, chivalry and audacity are the policies in vogue. Some of the landscape offers a bounty of natural beauty with high rise mountains and lush green fields. And

there are the places where the soil of the desert and fields becomes a center of mutual love for people. Some of the areas are entirely deprived of natural resources and at certain other places, the natural resources equal the total sources of the whole world. All these are the miracles of the nature and nature manifests its miracles at different points. But if we carry out a closer observation, central Asian region is enriched with an abundant variety of traits. The landscape and the faces of people there, reflect beauty as well as sturdiness and vigor. From here, the great masterpieces of Islamic values and morality were created and also the Sufist movement envisioned in anti-extremity touched the apex of glory, throughout the world. This was the region from where, the Islamic world found undaunted warriors for which Allama Muhammad Iqbal has also made a repeated remembrance in his poetry as "Shikwa e Tarkamani". The mountains of this region bear a witness to the determination and resolve of the inhabitants and the fields replicate the open heartedness of the people. Central Asia is the region where the soil is scented with the aroma of love. It is this region which has been blessed with a superiority of natural resources over the whole world. Central Asia has a great share in the Islamic history of knowledge and research, exploration and creation, preaching and teaching and communication and reformation. An important country of this region is Kazakhstan.



The republic of Kazakhstan enjoys a unique place in the central Asian States because it has the largest area. This is the world's largest country, captured in aridness, liberated on 16 December, 1990 as a consequence of disintegration of Soviet Union. It is extended over 27, 24,900 Sq/Km. Its population is around 17736800 and 70% of this population is Muslim. Its capital is ASTANA. The literacy rate in Kazakhstan is 99.7%. The people of Kazakhstan are known as educated people in the world.

Every year three thousand students from Kazakhstan get education from the internationally reputed educational institutes of the world and are reckoned as experts.

Islam came to Kazakhstan in 8th Century when Arab Muslims came to this region. During the reign of Samaand rulers, Islam spread rapidly. Almost thirty thousand families embraced Islam during this era. Samaand rulers belonged to Samand family which was a Persian Family and whose head was Samand Khan. Samaand rulers had helped Abbasids in the wars of Khurasaan and Transoxania. Consequently, the Abbasid Caliph Almomin designated the four grandsons of Samand Khan the governors of four provinces. During thirteenth century, Kazakhstan fell at the hands of Genghis Khan. After the death of Genghis Khan different nations indulged in confrontation to take hold of Kazakhstan. However, none of them got significant success. Ultimately, Amir Timor occupied Kazakhstan in 14th century.

The soil of Kazakhstan enjoyed the services of Turk Sufi poet Khawaja Ahmad Basawai. He was born in 1039 and died in 1167 at the age of 74. He inspired the people towards Islam with his poetry. He is generally known as the father of Turks. His grave is the symbol of Turk unity. This can be gathered from the fact that each currency note has the image of his tomb on it. The mosques in Kazakhstan are a testimony to the architectural skill of the Muslims there. Famous mosques amongst these are Noor Astana and Hazrat Sultan Mosque which is deemed as the biggest mosque of Kazakhstan and one of the biggest mosques in central Asia.



After the Communist Revolution in 1917, the Russian government took hold of the state by force and confiscated the lands of the farmers. Like other regions, the people of Kazakhstan also faced atrocities. In 1930, one and a half million people died because of the famine caused by these cruelties and these dead ones were the 40 % of the total population. The scholars were killed by the Russian government and those who survived sought refuge in China. Ultimately Kazakhstan was freed at the disintegration of Soviet Union. Since then Kazakhstan is considered amongst one of the important countries of the region



as it enjoys the privilege of being the pioneer country of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization). There is no doubt about it that on economic, commercial and diplomatic level, SCO has established its worth and the way it has wielded its influence is really commendable and exemplary. Then there is another important factor that Russia and China are also the member countries of SCO and because of their trade and economic policies, the whole region began to dream of the “Asian Century”.(In this dream of Asian Century Japan, Turkey and Malaysia have also dynamic role). Both these powers, China and Russia concede to the fact that

without enthusiastic participation and cooperation of these central Asian states. Here it won't be out of place to mention that the thinker of Islam Allama Iqbal had delivered this message to Russia ninety years ago.

Instead of following the materialistic standards of West that promote tyranny, Russia would have to live in cooperation with other nations with mutual peace and in the region and utilize its sources for the welfare of the masses. Iqbal asserted that Russia's survival lies in it.

It seems as if after its disintegration, now, Russia has heeded to Iqbal's advice and started using its resources for the well being and development of the region and this is an encouraging factor. From the platform of SCO, Kazakhstan and the central Asian states are making a full use of the opportunities (provided by SCO) for their progress and prosperity and it will leave good effects on the region.

If we take a bird's eye view of the economic condition of Kazakhstan, the GDP rate of Kazakhstan, until 2011, was 7 % that accelerated the pace of progress of Kazakhstan. But due to a fluctuation of prices on international level, now this rate is 5% .With better policies this growth rate is being improved. The exports of Kazakhstan are worth almost 90 billion dollars while imports 48%. In the big markets of Russia and

China its products have an access. Kazakhstan owns a great variety of natural sources including petrol, gas coal, bronze, lead, gold and uranium. Kazakhstan is in the possession of 30 billion barrels of oil reserves and with the help of these reserves it will be included in the list of top ten oil producing countries. Kazakhstan has three trillion cubic of gas reserves. The natural resources of Kazakhstan are almost worth \$ 46 trillion. Kazakhstan has the sixth largest reserves of gold in the world. For the reserves of Iron, it's on eight number in the world. With regards to its Uranium resources, after Australia it is the second largest country while one quarter of the whole Uranium of the world is found in Kazakhstan.

The foundations for Pakistan's relationship with the Islamic states of central Asia were laid from the time when great thinker of Islam Allama Muhammad Iqbal foresaw the significance of these states in the on-coming time and suggested to spread a railway track from Kabul to Constantinople (Istanbul) which passes through all the Central Asian states and promote trade and communication amongst the Muslim world. The thought presented by him hundred years ago, is still a beacon of light for us. Besides that, this suggestion also reminds us that if we had executed this plan



quite a long time ago, and that railway track would have been laid, extended from Kabul to warm waters, the states besieged in aridness could get an easy access to Indian Ocean. It would have also expedited the process of growth and development in the whole region. Enormous resources of oil and gas are found in Central Asian states. In South Asia the human resources are more than the resources of energy. Under such circumstances, there is a vast scope of cooperation trade and bi-lateral relations. The bi lateral relationship between Pakistan and Kazakhstan formally began in 24th February, 1992 and the Kazakhstan embassy was established in the capital city of Pakistan Islamabad on 27 November, 1994. Presently the efforts are being made to enhance trade between both the countries. What is needed right now is that , accomplishing, the dream of great thinker of Islam, Allama Iqbal, trade routes should be laid from Pakistan to central Asia, so that the needs of the future should be met and Muslim should benefit from its resources in a befitting manner.