

Fields and trade economic cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan after independence from the Soviet Union to the present

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Abstract

Trade between countries today plays an important role in international relations and is one of the indicators for measuring the level of development of countries. Some countries have even re-exported in order to have a good position in the world rankings. Iran's economic relations with Tajikistan have had ups and downs, and over the years many Iranian companies have been involved in development projects - dams - roads - tunnelsTajikistan. This article examines trade relations between the two countries after Tajikistan gained independence

Keyword : Trade - Geopolitics - Borders - Regional Policy - Iran

Introduction

Today, the economic relations of countries are an important element in international relations, and perhaps many countries that do not have good political relations with each other, but have an acceptable trade balance. The new Iranian government also emphasizes economic diplomacy, so our trade with our neighbors has become particularly important. Tajikistan, with its many ethnic and historical language commonalities, is important to us in the Central Asian region and can act as our launching pad in that region (China, Russia, India). On the other hand, Iran can have access to free waters. Compensate for Tajikistan's geographical closure This article examines trade relations between the two countries in recent years.

Initiation and development of collaborations

After Tajikistan's independence from the former Soviet Union, it entered a civil war and delayed the country's development. Many of these specialists returned to Russia because they were Soviet nationals, and its dependence on the Russian economy caused problems for Tajikistan. Russia was looking for other economic partners to make up for the vacancy, including Iran. Iran plays key role in Tajikistan's post-Tajik civil war, with free Iranian economic aid flowing into Tajikistan.

And during the visits of the presidents of the two countries, the formation of a joint commission for economic and trade cooperation was constantly emphasized.

Research Methods

In this article, the library method has been used to collect information and we have tried to draw conclusions with this information during the last 25 years. The basic foundation of this work is based on the theory of David Mitrani, who believes that technical and economic cooperation in one field will gradually spread to other matters. And this way we can better achieve our national interests. While the result of this research can be used by officials - experts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Ministry of Economy - university researchers ...

Examples of economic relations

Tajikistan has many hydrocarbon and hydroelectric reserves, as well as agriculture, coal and aluminum, which can be connected by connecting Iran's transportation network with Central Asia, as well as a good

market for sale in that region. Iranian products, while our common border with Turkmenistan and then the next countries can make our work easier, an advantage that, for example, Saudi Arabia and Turkey do not have in this region.

After 1997, Tajikistan was recognized as one of the most attractive countries for Iranian trade, so that in 2014, about 200 Iranian companies were active in various fields (energy, transportation, agriculture, roads, bridges, etc.) Considering that the share of Iran's imports in 2014 was more than about \$ 300 million, the reason for this imbalance is the different economic levels of the two countries. Tajikistan's customs and tax laws Poor communication infrastructure.... can be called

Construction of the Anzab Tunnel began in 2003 by the Iranian company Sabir. The total required capital was \$ 40 million, of which \$ 8 million was paid from Tajikistan and the rest from the Iranian side. During Ahmadinejad's visit to Tajikistan in September 2011, an additional \$ 6 million was allocated for the completion of the tunnel, which is 2,800 meters above sea level and 5,200 meters long, which reduces the distance between Dushanbe and Khudzhand by 60 kilometers. At the end of 2006, with the change in the dollar exchange rate and the increase in the price of cement, there was an interruption in this work, Defects in its lighting system and flooding of the tunnel floor were other problems of the tunnel. Construction of Daneshmandii power plant on Zarafshan river with 170 MW and a small hydroelectric power plant in Alexandria which is 22 MW. And the construction of a cement factory in Khatlon and Iran's desire to build an oil refinery should be added to the above.

Another case of cooperation between the two sides was the launch of the first phase of Sang-e-Tudeh 2 power plant, in which Amali Rahman and Ahmadinejad participated. This power plant was built by Iranian companies and Amali Rahman considered it a clear example of beneficial cooperation between the two countries. This power plant is located in the Vakhsh River, which is done by the Iranian side as a loan with a 10-year maturity. Iran's investment is \$ 180 million and the Tajik side is \$ 40 million . The 220-megawatt plant is capable of generating more than 1 billion kilowatt hours of electricity

. In this power plant, at first, a competition took place between Russia, China and the United States, which eventually went to Iranian companies. In fact, it should be considered a gift from Iran to Tajikistan.

The joint venture of the two countries for the production and assembly of tractors in Dushanbe, 51% of which belonged to Iran, according to the initial contract, 2000 units were to be produced. And some of it was exported to neighboring countries such as Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, but in the first year only 500 units were produced, although the price was cheaper than similar cases, which completely shut down the factory.

Attempts were made in 1992 to connect Tajikistan with Iran via Afghanistan, but Tajikistan's civil war and Afghan instability eventually prevented this.

On the other hand, because this project was without Russia's participation, it caused Russia to worry that it might have a two-way transportation cycle in the region (Dushanbe Mazar-e-Sharif-Herat-Mashhad trans-regional highway).

Meanwhile, former Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Maleki said The construction of an important and acceptable road between Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia and China should be put on the agenda immediately so that the region becomes an economic unit, followed by the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway and its connection to Turkmenistan. On the other hand, this railway connected Bafgh to Bandar Abbas, meaning that all railway lines in the region had access to Iran's free ports to move goods, although in the following years, this infrastructure was not used much.

Other joint measures taken by the two countries include the connection between the Aras Free Zone and the Khatlan region, according to which Tajik specialists in Iran were to be trained and Iranian companies would be operating in the Tajik Free Zone. This was emphasized in the 2008 meeting of the Iranian ambassador (Mr. Shardoust) with the Tajik side, and emphasized the important role of the private sector in the development of economic cooperation between the two countries and the holding of exhibitions between the two countries.

In general, it should be said that in recent years, there have been many ups and downs in trade between the two countries, but in Iran, vegetable oil - tea - construction materials - dried fruit - medicine - detergents -

machinery to Tajikistan Has been exported and has been made of aluminum - fibers - hemp - sesame - metal scrap ...

And interestingly, all of these factors have been influenced by political issues so that it is almost impossible to separate economics from politics. The two countries interact in ECO - Organization of the Islamic Conference - Shanghai Organization - United Nations.

For example, at the 31st session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (2005), at the initiative of Iran, Resolution 31.27 was adopted to help the Tajik economy. Or we can mention Iran's support for Tajikistan's initiative to declare the Decade of Action (Water for Life) (2005-2015). Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was supported by Tajikistan, which emphasized Iran's right to acquire nuclear energy at the United Nations.

The volume of trade between the two countries in 2013 was about \$ 300 million, which had decreased to \$ 60 million in 2020, but in 2022 it almost quadrupled again after seven years.

In February 1400, during a meeting between the Iranian ambassador and the Tajik Minister of Economy and Trade, it was emphasized that the border should reach \$ 500 million, which promises a bright horizon for the two countries.

Conclusion

Given the need for economic diplomacy and the pursuit of national interests through the economy, it is necessary for Iran to have extensive contacts with its neighbors, especially Tajikistan, which have common linguistic, ethnic, and religious ties. And any negligence of ours will be replaced by Iran's regional rivals such as Turkey - Saudi Arabia - India - Pakistan ...

Therefore, it is necessary for an expert group to identify the Tajik market. And after recognizing Iran's comparative advantage in some goods and services, it should be exported to Tajikistan.

On the other hand, due to the high water level of Tajikistan and high water consumption in Iran and droughts and lack of heavy rainfall in Iran, it is possible to transfer water from Tajikistan to Iran. Iran's need for the Tajik market and their reciprocal need for Iran's free ports is unavoidable, so it is necessary for the two countries to come closer to each other and increase their trade balance to more than \$ 500 million without foreign political considerations and pressure from the superpowers. Unfortunately, evidence in recent years suggests that Iran is losing its market in Tajikistan, and that the level of relations between the two countries is declining.

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