

## *The Multiple Silk Road Initiatives, Uzbekistan's Approach, Political Consequence*

Mirkomil Sadikov

The 2008/9 global economic crisis has created a new context which is more prone to an Asian purpose of integration. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, Jung Hong-won, on May 30, 2014, said his country hopes for the creation by the Asian countries of “an Asian era of peace and prosperity”. New Silk Road projects are instrumental in laying the foundation for regional cooperation, creating political flexibility, improving economic growth, offering trade diversifications, investing in transportation, mining and energy sectors. All of these represent a historically unprecedented chance for the Central Asian republics to become important players in the world economy. Besides, for many countries located on the path of the ancient Silk Road, particularly the landlocked Central Asian states, international trade is the only option to sustain economic growth and development. The New Silk Road initiatives, large and small scale, bilateral and multilateral, governmental and private—indicate a positive climate for building a new trade and exchange system that could bring prosperity to Eurasian states much like the historic Silk Road. This paper aims to elaborate on various new Silk Road initiatives, their feasibility, their interactions with one other, and place of Uzbekistan on this road, political aspects.

**Dr. Mirkomil Sadikov** got his PhD at the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan in 2010. Since 2006, he has been a Senior Research Fellow at the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. He is also a resident fellow and lecturer at the Department of International and European studies of the Kadir Has University in Istanbul, Turkey. Previously, he was a research fellow at the Institute of Oriental studies at the Stockholm University in Sweden during 2005-7. Lastly, in 2012, he was a research fellow at the National Taiwan University in Taiwan. His research interests are comparative politics, international relations and area studies in the fields of Asian as well as Eurasian studies. Majoring in the modern history of Central Asian nations, he becomes especially interested in the sphere of geopolitics, regionalism in East Asia, democratization, and national movements.

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