

A study of Kazakhstan's diversified and balanced diplomacy from the perspective of geopolitics

Nazhabieke Aiyinu

University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China

Keywords: Geopolitics; Kazakhstan; how far to balance; diplomacy

Abstract: As a potential "geopolitical pivot country" and "quicksand zone of American hegemony" in Eurasia, Kazakhstan is the "heart zone" defined by geopolitical scientist Mackinder. It is also the confrontation area between land power and sea power emphasized by Mahan. Therefore, analyzing Kazakhstan from a geopolitical perspective will recognize its geostrategic significance in Central Asia and even the whole Eurasian continent. Since its independence, Kazakhstan's position on the international stage has gradually risen, its influence has increased day by day, and is developing into a regional important country. The rapid development of Kazakhstan is closely related to its strategic geographical location, abundant energy, huge production and scientific and technological potential, and good development prospects of energy transportation infrastructure. In the future, Kazakhstan's diplomatic strategy is to restore Kazakhstan's important position in world development from Kazakhstan to Eurasia, and then from Eurasia to the world on the basis of giving full play to "diversified and balanced diplomacy".

1. Introduction

The Central Asian plate is located in the central part of Eurasia, and it is almost surrounded by land. After the end of the Cold War, as a relatively independent geopolitical plate, Central Asia became an independent plate of the world's political and geographical map [1]. However, the strong inland nature of Central Asia seriously restricts the communication between Central Asian countries and the outside world, resulting in their geopolitical dependence on coastal countries, which profoundly affects the formulation of national development strategies and the direction of foreign policies of Central Asian countries [2]. Since its independence, Kazakhstan has been pursuing the foreign policy of balancing big powers for more than twenty years. By developing friendly diplomatic relations with Russia, the United States and China, Kazakhstan has introduced technical and financial support for its economic recovery and development, won security guarantees and provided a stable and peaceful international environment [3]. In recent years, as a well-developed country in Central Asia, Kazakhstan's foreign policy has played a helping role in national development. Kazakhstan's strategy of "multi-balanced diplomacy" is unique and worth studying. With the proposal and implementation of "the belt and road initiative", Kazakhstan-China cooperation can release greater potential. Throughout Kazakhstan's relations with China, Russia and the United States, they are all interest-oriented, seeking the maximization of their own interests in the game of great powers [4].

Kazakhstan is a Eurasian country, which eliminates the opposition between the two main directions of its foreign policy. At the same time, it is important to note that Kazakhstan is in the middle of two great powers - Russia and China. There is no entrance to the world transportation line, including the sea, and it also contains many hidden reefs. At the same time, Kazakhstan has obvious resource advantages and is rich in mineral and oil and gas resources. All countries have paid great attention to the development of Kazakhstan, and even more and more countries have launched fierce competition around the issue of Kazakhstan [5]. It is no secret that developing mutual relations with Russia will be the dominant idea of Kazakhstan's foreign policy for a long time. The commonality of economy, history and cultural traditions, as well as spiritual elements, is the key factor in the combination of Kazakhstan and Russia. Firstly, this paper takes Kazakhstan's foreign policy as the research subject, and discusses the flexible embodiment of the balance of power diplomacy theory in the foreign policy of small and medium-sized countries from the perspective of realism [6]. Kazakhstan skillfully uses a balanced foreign policy to skillfully deal with the United States, Russia and China, so as to maximize its own interests. At the same time, this paper will use the analytic hierarchy process to reasonably explain the balanced foreign policy of Kazakhstan [7].

2. Kazakhstan from a geographical perspective

2.1. The character of Kazakhstan in the new geopolitical conditions

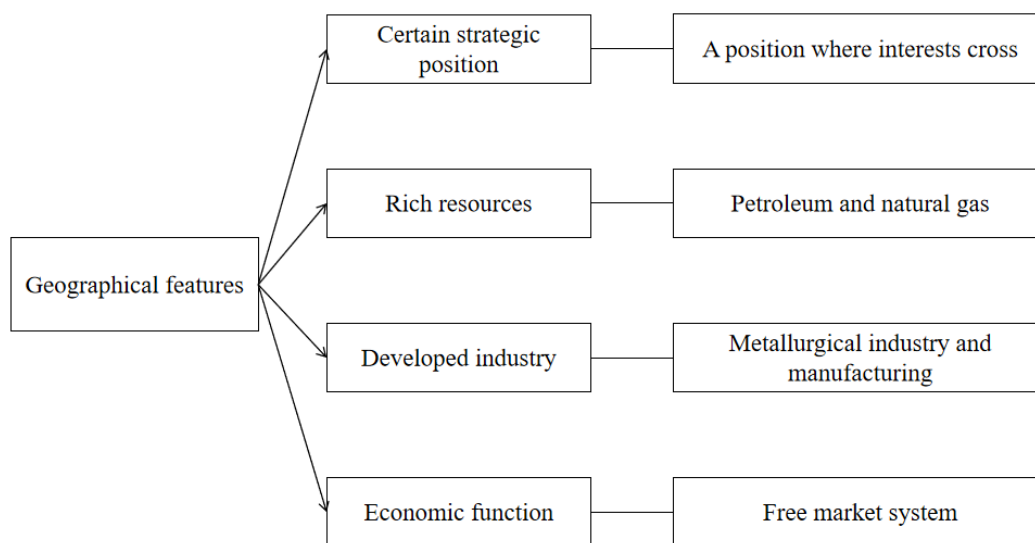


Figure 1 The geopolitical characteristics of Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan has a certain strategic position and rich resources in Eurasia. From the perspective of geographical characteristics and economic infrastructure, Kazakhstan's free market production system mainly includes oil and gas industry, metallurgical industry, heavy machinery manufacturing industry, thermal industry, mineral fertilizer production, transportation and so on. Therefore, the geographical and economic functions play an important role in building its foreign policy. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the newly established countries need to redefine the characteristics of their national culture. Russia is a historical and strategic ally of Kazakhstan. There are not only relations in history, vast borders and people's mentality between modern Kazakhstan and Russia, but also various economic, financial, military, cultural and scientific links and problems of both sides. From the perspective of new geopolitics, the present situation of Kazakhstan-Russia relations shows the balance and great potential of bilateral cooperation [8]. At

the same time, the historical commonality and cultural proximity of Central Asian countries, as well as their universal threats to regional security, determine their political and national defense integration. Therefore, its relations with other countries in Central Asia are closely related to Kazakhstan's increasingly obvious economic recovery situation and national security guarantee. In terms of policy, presidential governance was chosen as the political model of the Republic. Kazakhstan's foreign policy has two main lines: on the one hand, it is located between two nuclear powers, and Kazakhstan can only protect the Republic by relying almost entirely on the former suzerain; On the other hand, Kazakhstan needs to create a good international image to attract foreign investment. These tasks form the basis of Kazakhstan's foreign policy concept. Figure 1 shows the geopolitical characteristics of Kazakhstan.

2.2. Geo-strategic significance of Kazakhstan

Among the Central Asian countries, Kazakhstan's geopolitical environment is the most characteristic. Kazakhstan is located in a region where the interests of developed countries and the world are intertwined. This fact is of great significance to its geopolitical status. After independence, Kazakh women became the heart of Eurasia, a potential geographical pivot country in Eurasia chess game and a quicksand area of American hegemony due to their special geographical location and unique history and culture [9]. Kazakhstan, as a marginal country, not only provides opportunities for its development, but also challenges its survival. From the perspective of geopolitics, the reality of the marginal zone is conducive to Kazakhstan's development of multi edge diplomatic relations with neighboring countries and the protection of the country's own independence and expansion of influence on the basis of the implementation of diversified and balanced diplomacy. However, Kazakhstan must avoid the risk of making a country's influence bigger by itself and becoming a political prisoner. In international politics, the relatively weak halo asked by two or more powerful forces is often called the buffer zone between big powers. As a regional power and a buffer state, Kazakhstan shows outstanding political sensitivity to the theory, situation and opportunities of the buffer state, and has the ability to understand Kazakhstan's national interests in the strategic territory. From a geographical perspective, Kazakhstan has chosen the route of constructive cooperation with all relevant countries. At the same time, its foreign policy objectives are to enable Kazakhstan to enter the international community, ensure national security, promote economic development, protect the interests of its citizens abroad, and develop relations with all countries interested in developing mutually beneficial relations with China. Five years after Kazakhstan's independence, all major countries and international organizations have opened representative offices in Kazakhstan. At the same time, Kazakhstan ranks third among the CIS countries after Russia and Ukraine.

3. Kazakhstan's multilateral diplomacy

3.1. Overview of Kazakhstan's 'diverse and balanced diplomacy'

"Pluralistic balanced diplomacy" consists of two dimensions, namely "Pluralistic diplomacy" and "Balanced diplomacy". These two diplomatic strategies complement each other and together constitute Kazakhstan's "Pluralistic balanced diplomacy" strategy. "Pluralistic diplomacy" aims at maximizing national interests, diversifying diplomatic objects, ways and platforms, seeking more diplomatic possibilities in relatively open diplomacy, not relying on specific diplomatic partners, and not taking any single development direction as an ideal state. "Balanced diplomacy" refers to a state in which the interests of all parties are relatively balanced by diplomatic means on the premise of pursuing the maximization of the country's own interests in a complex diplomatic environment.

This kind of balance is not forced by the comprehensive national strength of our country, but through diplomatic efforts, we try our best to coordinate competition or avoid conflicts caused by friction in choice, and its fundamental purpose is to protect our own national security. Kazakhstan's strategic research on "multi-balanced diplomacy" can be based on multilateralism, regionalism, Eurasian theory and other theoretical basis [10]. Based on geopolitical and humanistic historical factors, Kazakhstan must help the country develop through diplomacy, and the multilateralism development concept formed by the "multi-balanced diplomacy" strategy can enable Kazakhstan to obtain a relatively safe weekly and international environment. In the economic field, multilateralism is conducive to Kazakhstan's economic cooperation with other countries and international organizations to achieve mutual benefit and win-win results. In the political field, multilateralism is conducive to Kazakhstan's better exertion, enhancement of international influence and establishment of a good national image. Kazakhstan's participation in regional international organizations is not only focused on the immediate benefits, but also on the multi-dimensional balance of power. Only through "multi-balance", a diplomatic tactic, can Kazakhstan realize its national interests to the greatest extent. Figure 2 shows an overview of Kazakhstan's pluralistic and balanced diplomacy.

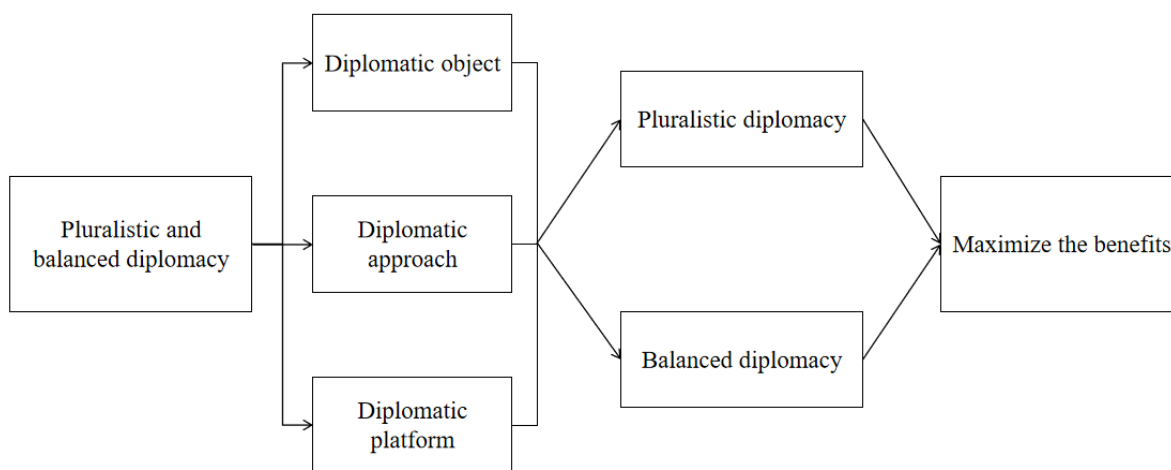


Figure 2 Overview of Kazakhstan's diverse and balanced diplomacy

3.2. The successes and limitations of kazakhstan's "diverse and balanced diplomacy"

The strategy of "diversified and balanced diplomacy" has helped Kazakhstan seek a place in the international competition with a large number of big countries and made important contributions to the promotion of its international status. In today's era of globalization, peace and development are the themes of the times. On the basis of conforming to the Charter of the United Nations and international laws, Kazakhstan advocates equal treatment of all countries, mutual trust and mutual benefit, non-interference, smart governance and opening up to the world. Taking the maximization of national interests as the fundamental goal and adopting a distinctive pragmatic foreign policy, we have grasped the successful way of seeking advantages and avoiding disadvantages. Kazakhstan's ability to achieve certain international influence lies not only in its active participation in the international community, but also in its ability to guide the development of some fields of the international community in its foreign exchanges, give play to its geographical advantages and actively expand its diplomatic platform. This clear positioning and flexible diplomatic means not only overcome Kazakhstan's own shortcomings, but also give full play to the advantages of other countries, so that it can be at ease on the international stage. However, although Kazakhstan's balanced foreign policy of great powers has won a stable surrounding and international environment

for Kazakhstan's development and promoted Kazakhstan's economic take-off, this balance is not an absolute balance and will bring potential instability to Kazakhstan's relations with China, the United States and Russia. A characteristic of the balanced foreign policy of great powers is pragmatism and the supremacy of national interests. Under the influence of the line of interests, Kazakhstan timely chooses which side to approach or alienate. However, this is a risky game. Any crisis factors hidden in bilateral relations, stimulated by improper diplomatic behavior, may lead to cracks in bilateral relations and affect the overall pattern of balanced diplomacy of major powers. Although the policy has many criticisms, its shortcomings do not hide its shortcomings. Since the implementation of Kazakhstan's balanced foreign policy, the country's development has been obvious to all. Kazakhstan's balanced foreign policy of great powers will continue to lead Kazakhstan forward steadily for a long time.

4. Conclusions

Kazakhstan has broad prospects for geopolitical development and unlimited economic potential. Make full use of rich natural resources, good economic, technological and talent potential, and professional labor resources to become a powerful country in Central Asia. From the level of global system, the international pattern of "one superpower and many powers" determines that Kazakhstan should not only take into account Russia, which has a common history, nationality and culture, but also handle good relations with the powerful United States, and make use of the United States to open a bridge of communication with the international community. At the same time, with China's rapid rise to become an important "strong power", Kazakhstan also pays more and more attention to developing friendly relations with China. All in all, the future development of Kazakhstan's diplomacy is based on "multi-balanced diplomacy", from Kazakhstan out of Central Asia to the world, and to restore Kazakhstan's important position in world development. At the same time, take the initiative to shoulder Kazakhstan's responsibility for regional development and world development, and inject new vitality into regional development and world development.

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