



THE EVOLUTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES (1991–2025)

Zoitova Nailya Rashidovna

History, Master's Degree, TUAF

Abstract

This article analyzes the formation, stages of development, and transformation processes of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United States of America over the period from 1991 to 2025. The study highlights the main stages of political dialogue between the two states, regional security issues, international law, and the influence of foreign policy priorities. In addition, new formats and prospects of cooperation with the United States within the framework of the foreign policy of the “New Uzbekistan” are examined. Based on an analytical and systematic approach, the current state of Uzbekistan–U.S. relations and future development trends are identified.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, USA, diplomatic relations, foreign policy, strategic partnership, international law.

Introduction

After gaining independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan has consistently pursued its own foreign policy strategy aimed at developing equal and mutually beneficial relations with leading states of the world. In this context, diplomatic relations with the United States of America, as one of the key actors in the international system, have acquired particular significance. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties in the early 1990s, Uzbek–American relations have undergone a complex and неоднозначный path of development, reflecting both internal transformations in Uzbekistan and changes in the global and regional political environment.

During the period 1991–2025, interaction between Uzbekistan and the United States was shaped under the influence of various factors, including regional security issues, international law, the fight against transnational threats, as well as economic and humanitarian cooperation. At the same time, certain stages were characterized both by the intensification of political dialogue and by a certain decline in the intensity of bilateral contacts. Significant changes in the dynamics of relations have been observed in recent years within the framework of the foreign policy course of the “New Uzbekistan,” focused on openness, pragmatism, and the expansion of international partnership.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the evolution of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and the United States, to identify their main stages, characteristics, and prospects for further development at the present stage.



Main Part

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United States of America were officially established in 1992 and became an important element of the process of international legitimization of the independent Uzbek state. At the initial stage, interaction was institutional and formative in nature and was focused on creating a legal and contractual framework, developing political dialogue, and integrating Uzbekistan into the system of international relations. The United States, in turn, viewed Uzbekistan as one of the key actors in Central Asia, possessing significant geopolitical potential and influence on regional stability.

Throughout the 1990s, bilateral relations developed under conditions of transformation of Uzbekistan's foreign policy priorities and the search for an optimal model of interaction with leading world powers. Cooperation covered issues of political dialogue, economic reforms, humanitarian programs, and support for state-building processes. At the same time, already at this stage, differences emerged in the approaches of the parties to the interpretation of certain norms of international law and principles of state sovereignty, which subsequently influenced the dynamics of relations.

A new impulse to Uzbek-American interaction was given in the early 2000s in the context of changes in the international security system. The events of September 11, 2001, and the subsequent intensification of the global anti-terrorism policy of the United States significantly increased the strategic importance of Central Asia. Uzbekistan became an important partner of the United States in matters of regional security, which was expressed in the expansion of political and military-political dialogue. During this period, cooperation was predominantly pragmatic in nature and was determined by the convergence of the interests of the parties in ensuring stability in the region, primarily in connection with the situation in Afghanistan.

However, along with the intensification of interaction, contradictions also increased, associated with differences in political and legal approaches and assessments of Uzbekistan's internal development. In the mid-2000s, these discrepancies led to a decline in the intensity of bilateral contacts and a revision of cooperation formats. This stage is characterized by a reduction in political dialogue and a shift in emphasis toward multilateral mechanisms of international interaction. Nevertheless, diplomatic relations were not severed, which indicates the preservation of mutual interest and potential for further development.

Significant changes in Uzbek-American relations have been observed since 2017, when Uzbekistan proclaimed a course toward large-scale foreign policy and domestic reforms within the framework of the "New Uzbekistan" concept. Openness, pragmatism, and the activation of international cooperation became key principles of the country's foreign policy, which contributed to the restoration of trust and the expansion of dialogue with the United States. During this period, the intensity of political contacts increased significantly, economic and investment cooperation strengthened, and interaction in the humanitarian and educational spheres intensified.

The current stage of Uzbek-American relations is characterized by the desire of the parties to form a stable and long-term partnership based on mutual interests and respect for sovereignty. Regular consultations, strategic dialogue, and support for reforms in Uzbekistan indicate the transition of



bilateral relations to a qualitatively new level. At the same time, the need remains for further coordination of approaches on a number of international legal and political issues, which determines promising directions for the development of cooperation.

Overall, the evolution of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and the United States during the period 1991–2025 reflects the complex and ambiguous dynamics of international processes, demonstrating a transition from the stage of formation to the development of a more mature and institutionally stable model of interaction.

Conclusion

The analysis of the evolution of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and the United States during the period 1991–2025 shows that these relations developed under the influence of both internal transformations in Uzbekistan and changes in the international political environment. Over this period, bilateral interaction went through stages of formation, intensification, a certain decline, and subsequent renewal. The current stage is characterized by a pragmatic approach, the expansion of political dialogue, and the strengthening of cooperation in the economic and humanitarian spheres. Overall, Uzbek–American relations demonstrate a tendency toward the formation of a stable partnership based on mutual interests and the principles of international law.

References

1. Karimov I. A. *Uzbekistan on the Threshold of the 21st Century: Security Threats, Conditions, and Guarantees of Progress*. — Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 1997.
2. Mirziyoyev Sh. M. *New Uzbekistan: Strategy of Reforms and Foreign Policy*. — Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 2021.
3. Allison R., Jonson L. *Central Asian Security: The New International Context*. — London: Royal Institute of International Affairs, 2001.
4. Starr F. S. *Uzbekistan at Twenty-Five: Reform and Challenges*. — Washington, DC: CSIS, 2016.
5. U.S. Department of State. *U.S.–Uzbekistan Relations*. — Washington, DC, 2024.