

## Shortage and Problem of Drinking Water in Central Asia

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### Abstract

The article examines the content and nature of the acceleration of environmental globalization processes in the world on the eve of the new century, the direction of its impact on the environment, in particular, the reasons for the shortage of fresh water and proposals for its elimination. Also, problems that have a serious impact on the ecological environment of Uzbekistan, factors that change the ecological situation, improving relations and usugublyayushchie problems are also analyzed in detail.

**Keywords:** ecology, globalization, geopolitics, geopolitical interest, humanism, truth.

**Introduction.** The global character of the ecological problem changes the root character of the relationship to nature. In particular, the problem of fresh water supply has gained urgent importance in the world and has a geopolitical tone. The fact that a quarter of the world's population suffers from a lack of fresh water requires a scientific and theoretical study of water distribution in all regions. In Central Asia, the water shortage is increasing day by day. The socio-political relations implemented in the stabilization of water distribution in the region require integration into the world environmental policy. In this respect, the subject being studied is an actual problem of today.

**Analysis of literature on the topic.** Scientific research materials on the theoretical foundations of the globalization of environmental problems, including political overtones of water scarcity in Central Asia [2, 3, 4], many scientific works aimed at preventing problems [4, 5, 6] have been created. For example: B. Omonov, F. Qilichev, A. Koldoshev [4, 6, 8] on the elimination of environmental problems in Central Asia, sources on the problem of water scarcity and ecological globalization B. Omonov, S. Mamashakirov, A. Abdusametov [6, 9, 10] were analyzed in studies.

**Research methodology.** Taking into account the geopolitical nature of the water shortage problem in Central Asia, the historical aspects of the ecological crisis, scientific and theoretical conclusions have been developed on the basis of logic. Alleviation of water shortage in the region is not a process that can be done only by the benevolence of one or two countries, but it has been scientifically proven that a positive result can be achieved based on the unanimous policy of all countries in the region. Solving the problem is the process of improving and integrating the environmental policy of the countries in the region based on the interests of the region. Therefore, logical methods such as analysis, synthesis, generalization, and comparison were used to clarify the essence of the article.

**Analysis and results.** One of the most global problems facing the world community, more than 2 billion people suffer from water shortage. The water problem may intensify interstate conflicts in the near future. 200 of the world's major rivers pass through the territory of two or more countries. The area of snow and glacier resources that provide water to the rivers of the Central Asian region is deteriorating and rapidly shrinking. According to official data, the mountain

glaciers of Central Asia have shrunk by more than a third in the last half century [8; 87-88]. The Central Asian region is mainly fed by the waters of Amudarya and Syrdarya. The annual water resources of the Amudarya basin are more than 78 cubic km per year. The annual water resources of the Syrdarya basin are approximately 38.8 cubic km. Amudarya and Syrdarya are transboundary rivers in Central Asia and cannot fully satisfy the fresh water needs of the countries of the region. Population growth, economic progress and the vagaries of nature in the region have had an impact on the need for fresh water. Therefore, some geopolitical conflicts caused tension in mutual cooperation relations due to the increased demand for fresh water among the countries of the region.

At the end of the 20th century (1996-1999), the appearance of a negative term called "leadership" among the countries of Central Asia led to the geopolitical nature of the water problem. In 2005-2010, this process became more intense. A serious effort to build two hydroelectric cascades on the two Azim rivers of Central Asia has intensified the conflicts. Attempts to influence some countries of the region in exchange for the construction of the Rogun HPP in the lower part of the Amudarya in Tajikistan and the Qambarota HPP in the Upper Norin Cascade of the Kyrgyz Syrdarya have intensified. It is known that Syrdarya is formed by the confluence of Norin and Karadarya, and Amudarya is formed by Panj and Vahsh rivers. The main source of the two rivers corresponds to the territory of two countries of Central Asia, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. If Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan complete the construction of the hydroelectric power plant, it will seriously damage the economic system of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. This is explained in detail in Asliddin Koldoshev's monograph entitled "Democratic and humanistic principles of management of environmental relations in Central Asian countries". According to it, "Uzbekistan has involved US experts in determining and objectively assessing the consequences of the change in water distribution in Central Asia, in particular, the construction of the Roghun HPP." They presented data that, if the Roghun hydroelectric power station is put into operation, Uzbekistan will suffer losses in the amount of 600 million US dollars per year, i.e. estimates that the water shortage in the national economy will reduce agricultural production and lose 2% of the gross domestic product (GDP). At the moment, 300,000 people will be unemployed. According to American scientists, the level of water flow in Amudarya decreases by 18% in summer and increases by 54% in winter, which increases the risk of drought in summer and flooding in winter. In particular, the construction of the Koshtepa canal in Afghanistan is likely to exacerbate the fresh water problem in the region. It is clear from these data that the lives of many people and the socio-political development of countries will be in great danger.

According to some political commentators, the conflict over water in Central Asia will intensify in the coming years, which will certainly cause negative consequences and the possibility of armed conflict [11; 80, 81, 82].

Galim Faskhutdinov's article entitled "Possibility of war over water in Central Asia" states: "According to UN data, disputes over water in 40 places on our planet can turn into military conflicts. One such region is Central Asia," he said. Ketron Ashton, the Chief Commissioner of the European Union, also responded to this opinion and emphasized the existence of serious conflicts and conflict potential between Central Asian countries in relation to water resources. Kazakh political scientist Marat Shibutov called it an ultimatum to Bishkek and Dushanbe and said that war is inevitable in the next two to three years. A similar prediction was made by L. Abror, an expert of the International Crisis Group, at the end of 2011. Yu.Yakusheva, Deputy General Director of the Information and Analytical Center for the Study of the Former USSR Territory of Russia, says that "the third world war will be a war for water resources", and we can see that the global nature of this event is strongly emphasized [11; 110-111]. In an interview with "Nezavisimaya Gazeta", researcher of the Russian Institute of Strategic Studies, Ajdar Kuratov stated the opinion that "a conflict is already occurring between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan" [11;83].

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called on the countries of the world to "not start a war for water" in the joint use of water resources at the meeting held at the UN headquarters with the participation of high-level representatives of 50 countries of the world on the topic "Water resources: peace and security".

Islam Karimov, the First President of Uzbekistan, touched upon the issue of cooperative use of water resources in the early years of our independence: "There are two rivers in Central Asia. Amudarya and Syrdarya, their waters are divided. Tajikistan is on the one hand, and Kyrgyzstan on the other. We must agree on these issues, of course. Uzbekistan has the opportunity to develop ten million more lands. From this point of view, we should use water wisely in our country [6;104-139]" - he said. Also, on April 28, 2009, at the meeting of the leaders of the founding countries of the International Fund for Saving the Island in Almaty: "I think that it is natural that there are different views that arose during the disputes between the countries located on the upper reaches of the two most important rivers in our region - Amudarya and Syrdarya - Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan. . Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are looking after their own interests first. However, here we are talking about the interests of each individual state. I would like to emphasize that these are not only the interests of today, but also the interests of the future. ...I think that today we need to find common points of approach without escalating these disputes and giving them a political tone. Otherwise, the interests of our countries and peoples will be left aside, and issues related to the strategic and geopolitical interests and goals of third powers, regional management may come to the fore" [7; 87-88], he said. These ideas are very close to the truth, and the fact that some countries and certain political forces in the world are trying to intensify the problems of the use of transboundary natural resources in different regions by different methods and means are causing objections of the world community. An example of this is the "Central Eurasia" ("Tsentralnaya Eurasia") project's roundtable discussions on the topics "Eastern Time" ("Vremya Vostoka"), "US policy in Central Asia and Afghanistan". In these roundtable discussions, Uzbek doctors of political sciences Sh.Yovkochov, N.Kasimova, Russian professor V.Tretyakov and other participants of the discussion expressed a unanimous opinion on this issue without exception. In particular, Mars Sariev from Kyrgyzstan: "The US prediction of the inevitability of a water war in Central Asia shows its sympathy and is aimed at it. It is extremely important for the leaders of the Central Asian countries to understand that such a situation projected by "external players" is disastrous for the countries of the region and that countries' cooperation (solving work based on joint division of labor) is necessary to solve the problem. According to Shuhrat Yovkachov, representative of Uzbekistan, who participated in this conference, "denying the escalation of inter-ethnic conflicts and disputes over the use of transboundary water resources may cause a military conflict in the future. It is necessary to activate the participation and mediation of the UN and other international organizations in resolving the growing crisis."

Vitaly Tretyakov, dean of Moscow State University, believes that the water problem in Central Asia has existed for a long time and that the USA will definitely play an important role in its escalation, but he did not comment on Russia's position on this issue. In fact, the "existence of the water problem" in Uzbekistan is a historical fact. But it is also a fact that the voluntarist, totalitarian policy of the authoritarian regime played a decisive role in the aggravation of this problem, and not everyone recognizes it.

The representative of Uzbekistan, Nazokat Kasimova, said that in the future there may be interstate conflicts within the framework of water resources. The solution to the problem can be solved only by coordinating the activities of improving the methods, mechanisms, technology of using transboundary water resources of the countries of the region [11; 78-79].

Interstate disputes over the distribution of transboundary water resources in the Central Asian region are fueled not only by the United States, but also by other countries near and far abroad. An example of this is the agreement signed by the President of Russia with the Kyrgyz state in September 2012 on the financing of the construction of the Qambarota hydroelectric power station and the equal sharing of the profits. (The contract was canceled in January 2016).

First of all, it is necessary to clarify the role and place of the countries in the region in these processes. Otherwise, there will be a need for the "arbitration" role of a third country that organizes, directs and controls these processes. In many articles covering the water-related problems of the Central Asian countries, for example, in the article of A. Kasimov, "Russia sets itself the task of becoming the "chief arbiter" in Central Asia", the discussions on the Syr Darya water issue between the Central Asian countries of Russia, that is, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, are discussed by the former President of Russia D. Medvedev. During Medvedev's official visit to Uzbekistan in January 2009, it was said that it should be resolved based on the rules of bilateral friendship and good neighborliness, but in practice, it was shown that he stood against this policy.

It is a political fraud not to notice that the countries claiming the "chief arbitration" will inevitably have their own interests and try to strengthen their dominance in the region [8; 33-34].

If we cannot find balance and compromise, we will not be able to solve this problem and its solution will take many years. In addition, it is still unclear who will be able to achieve their goals - we, that is, the peoples living in this region, or, ultimately, the interests of others will be realized? In this regard, if the principle of "Divide and rule" - the old known trade seems to be implemented, we can become a small child in someone's hands [7;220]. Before these problems escalate, it is necessary to work out the main tasks of developing a system of mutual cooperation and achieving socio-economic and political agreement between the countries of the region in the new millennium.

In general, the water problem in the Central Asian region has taken on a political dimension. The prevention of this problem and the elimination of the solution depend on the unity of the countries of the region towards the same goal. Otherwise, the most dangerous environmental problem in Central Asia will further complicate the Aral Sea crisis. As a result, this process poses a great threat to the world's ecological system.

This shows that it is necessary to improve the principle of mutual solidarity between the countries of Central Asia. Therefore, the President of our country, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, paid special attention to the development of good-neighborly, friendly and cooperative relations with all the countries of the world, especially neighboring countries [3;384], and to resolve the conflicts between the countries of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan due to water shortage. managed to establish a moderate policy. The formation of the concept of raising the close neighborhood relations to a new level, implemented by the countries of the region, prepares the ground for the solution of the water shortage problems. "Today, we are looking for a reasonable compromise to solve acute regional issues such as border, water use, transport and trade, realizing the common priorities of our development" [4; 265-266].

In this regard, the opinion of the President of the Council of the Heads of the founding countries of the International Fund for Saving the Island held in the city of Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan, that it is necessary to sharply increase the levels of regional cooperation in the issues of water conservation, management of transboundary water resources and their rational use, was approved by the members of the Council. The adoption of the regional program on the rational use of water resources in Central Asia is being observed as a new stage aimed at solving problems in the region. It was confirmed by the leaders of the regional states that the main goal is to turn Central Asia into a stable, economically developed and highly developed region [4;265] through common efforts.

**Conclusions and suggestions.** Based on the above, the following conclusions can be drawn:

**Firstly**, to systematize environmental, water and water use policies of Central Asian countries based on regional characteristics and improve advanced environmental innovative technologies;

**Secondly**, formation of an institutional system of organization, control and management of processes aimed at preventing environmental problems related to water scarcity in cooperation with the countries of the region;

**Thirdly**, systematization of drainage and underground water transformation by accelerating the greening of the Aral Sea region and building economical irrigation facilities;

**Fourthly**, introduction of plant varieties that don't require much water and produce more in the region, and development of a new program specially neutralized in the chemical elementation of agricultural lands;

**Fifth**, it requires the development of a five-, ten-year and multi-year "road map" of the environmental policy of the region, based on the experience of developed countries, and, based on this program, integration into the international environmental policy.

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