# THE GREAT SILK ROAD – THE ROAD OF INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

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***Abstract.*** *This article discusses the role of the Great Silk Road in the development of world civilization, its importance in the development of cultural, economic, scientific and spiritual ties between the East and the West. The Great Silk Road is analyzed not only as a route along which trade caravans moved, but also as a vast cultural space where different peoples, religions, languages, customs and scientific achievements interacted. The work also scientifically substantiates the fact that along with material wealth, ideas, religious views, craft traditions, architectural styles, writing culture and scientific knowledge spread along the Great Silk Road.*

***Keywords:*** *Great Silk Road, intercultural communication, civilization, trade routes, cultural heritage, historical cities, caravan routes, international relations, spiritual exchange, science, crafts.*

***Аннотация.*** *В данной статье рассматривается роль Великого Шелкового пути в развитии мировой цивилизации, его значение в развитии культурных, экономических, научных и духовных связей между Востоком и Западом. Великий Шелковый путь анализируется не только как маршрут, по которому двигались торговые караваны, но и как обширное культурное пространство, где взаимодействовали различные народы, религии, языки, обычаи и научные достижения. В работе также научно обосновывается тот факт, что наряду с материальным богатством по Великому Шелковому пути распространялись идеи, религиозные взгляды, ремесленные традиции, архитектурные стили, письменная культура и научные знания.*

***Ключевые слова:*** *Великий Шелковый путь, межкультурная коммуникация, цивилизация, торговые пути, культурное наследие, исторические города, караванные пути, международные отношения, духовный обмен, наука, ремесла.*

***Annotatsiya.*** *Ushbu maqolada Buyuk Ipak yo‘lining jahon tsivilizatsiyasi rivojidagi roli, Sharq va G‘arb o‘rtasidagi madaniy, iqtisodiy, ilmiy va ma’naviy aloqalarni rivojlantirishdagi ahamiyati muhokama qilinadi. Buyuk Ipak yo‘li nafaqat savdo karvonlari harakatlanadigan yo‘l, balki turli xalqlar, dinlar, tillar, urf-odatlar va ilmiy yutuqlar o‘zaro ta’sir qiladigan keng madaniy makon sifatida ham tahlil qilinadi. Asarda shuningdek, moddiy boyliklar bilan bir qatorda Buyuk Ipak yo‘li*

*bo‘ylab g‘oyalar, diniy qarashlar, hunarmandchilik an’analari, me’moriy uslublar, yozuv madaniyati va ilmiy bilimlar ham tarqalganligi ilmiy jihatdan asoslanadi.*

***Kalit so‘zlar:*** *Buyuk Ipak yo‘li, madaniyatlararo muloqot, tsivilizatsiya, savdo yo‘llari, madaniy meros, tarixiy shaharlar, karvon yo‘llari, xalqaro munosabatlar, ma’naviy almashinuv, fan, hunarmandchilik.*

## Introduction

The Great Silk Road in the history of humanity is considered one of the most important cultural, economic and civilizational communication systems. It, beginning from ancient times, connected the countries of the East and West with each other, served the exchange of trade, cultural dialogue, scientific knowledge and spiritual values between peoples. Through this road, Chinese silk, Indian spices, handicraft products of Iran and Central Asia, goods of Rome and Byzantium were spread to various regions. However, evaluating the Great Silk Road only as a trade road does not fully reveal its historical significance. Because this road, first of all, was a field of dialogue between peoples, cultures and civilizations.

Central Asia occupies a special place as one of the most important regions of the Great Silk Road. This region, geographically, performed the function of a natural bridge between East and West, North and South. Especially, cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Termez, Qarshi, Shahrisabz, Tashkent in the territory of Uzbekistan were formed since ancient times as centers of trade, science, handicrafts, religion and culture. Representatives of different peoples lived in these cities, caravanserais, markets, madrasas, mosques, temples, workshops and places of science operated.

Through the Great Silk Road, not only goods, but also ideas, religious beliefs, philosophical views, medical knowledge, mathematical and astronomical concepts, architectural styles spread. Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, Islam and other religions also acquired important significance in spreading to various regions through this road. At the same time, as a result of cultural exchange between different peoples, new examples of art, architectural forms, writing styles and handicraft schools appeared.

Today, studying the Great Silk Road is relevant not only from the point of view of historical significance, but also from the point of view of modern international cooperation, tourism, preservation of cultural heritage and development of interregional economic relations. Therefore, researching the Great Silk Road as a road of intercultural communication provides an opportunity to understand more deeply mutual respect, cooperation and dialogue of civilizations between peoples.

**Main Part**

Ancient Central Asia, with its beautiful climate, possession of natural resources, huge market potential, possession of transit road opportunities connecting East and West, has always caused the increase of interest of foreigners in this region [1].

Also, since ancient times, it was a geopolitically and geostrategically favorable region where the interests of the major states of the world intersected, and especially, special attention was paid to the territories of Uzbekistan in this regard, and attempts were made to establish mutual cooperation relations.

The historical roots of cultural cooperation between the peoples of East and West go back to the 6th–5th centuries BC [2]. Historical sources confirm that these relations continued in the Ancient period as well and rose to the level of political diplomatic relations. Especially, during the Kushan Empire period, there was great growth in political-diplomatic relations. This can also be seen in the fact that Kushan ambassadors went to the Roman Empire [3]. In addition, the development of economic and cultural relations between the two regions is also confirmed by the fact that during the period of the Roman Emperor Hadrian (2nd century AD), court women wore clothes made from Maroqand silk brought through the Great Silk Road [4].

Thus, the mutual cultural relations formed approximately two and a half thousand years ago are developing in broad formats even in the 21st century. Especially, relations with the states of the European Union are distinguished by their broad coverage. In fact, historical sources confirm that trade-cultural relations between the two regions also rose to their stage of development during the period of Amir Temur and the Timurids [5].

In the relations between East and West formed and developed within the framework of the Great Silk Road, the place and importance of cultural relations were greater. Because in these relations peoples become spiritually closer, opportunities to become acquainted with each other's literary heritage and to expand worldviews are created. In turn, these relations were an important factor in the development of political and economic relations between states.

In recent years, interest in Uzbek literature is increasing among European peoples. Navoiy's works are being translated into many European languages. In particular, on the eve of the 575th anniversary of the birth of Alisher Navoiy, it is joyful that his works were translated into another four languages of the world [6].

In Germany, which is one of the powerful states of Europe, Eastern literature is also viewed with great interest. We can also see this in the fact that an international scientific conference dedicated to the 575th anniversary of the birth of Alisher Navoiy was held in the city of Berlin, Germany. Representatives of the delegation of

Uzbekistan who participated in it presented a collection of the scholar's works in 10 volumes as a gift to the Berlin State Library. This, of course, is one of the decisive factors in bilateral relations.

At the same time, in the work of studying the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan throughout the world, it is necessary to especially emphasize the place of international relations. Because, currently, in many countries of the world, many artifacts belonging to the history and culture of Uzbekistan are preserved. Identifying and studying them is considered one of the urgent issues of the present day.

As a presentation of such scientific research, on January 15, 2019, in the city of Berlin, the capital of Germany, an international scientific-cultural forum was organized on the topic "The Heritage of the Great Silk Road – a Bridge between Uzbekistan and Germany." Within the framework of the forum, an exhibition of the book-albums of the project "Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan in World Collections" was opened at the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Berlin. Within the event, leading German scientists, experts, and art specialists spoke about the rich collections related to Uzbek art preserved in the museums of the cities of Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig and Stuttgart.

Among them there is the collection of the Emirate of Bukhara preserved in the Berlin Museum of Ethnology, the objects of the mausoleum of Bayonqulikhan in the Museum of Decorative and Applied Arts in Hamburg, the manuscripts of the works of Alisher Navoiy preserved in the Berlin Library, samples of the cultural-historical heritage of Uzbekistan included in the Bumiller collection, as well as a rare collection preserved in the Eastern Department of the Linden Museum in Stuttgart [7].

Wonderful collections of Uzbek art are preserved in the museums of Berlin, Dresden and Leipzig. For example, in Germany's most visited Peram Museum there are priceless masterpieces such as the world-famous ceramic objects of the ancient city settlement – Afrosiyob, located in the center of the Great Silk Road. In the National Library of Germany, rare manuscript books belonging to the pen of our great ancestors who made a huge contribution to world civilization are preserved. For this reason, by combining opportunities with Uzbek and German specialists, this book was created that gives a new impetus to the study of our cultural heritage both in Uzbekistan and in Europe.

Another important piece of information is that the astronomical tables of Mirzo Ulugbek, which have been preserved since the 19$^{th}$ century, are kept in the Eastern Department of the Berlin State Library. In them, information about 1018 stars belonging to 38 constellations, as well as the length of the star year, is given. From these pieces of information it is understood that Germans pay special attention to the

history, literature and culture of the ancient East, including Uzbekistan. At the same time, their services in researching them are also becoming great.

In one word, the relations that the ancestors of the Uzbek-German peoples laid the foundation for during the periods of the Great Silk Road are being developed by generations and raised to a new stage.

Based on the above thoughts and considerations, the following results can be obtained:

**Firstly**, the cooperation relations of Ancient Uzbekistan with European states have been developing for approximately two and a half thousand years. In this, the service of the Great Silk Road, which connected East and West, is great. These relations, especially developing in ancient times, are distinguished by the fact that mutual cooperation networks expanded. At the same time, in relations with the Roman Empire during the Kushan period, the fact that ambassadors played a decisive role can be called a great achievement in diplomacy. Archival sources confirm that mutual relations developed not only in political matters, but also in cultural fields.

**Secondly**, the rapid development of mutual cultural relations corresponds to the period of Amir Temur and the Timurids. Because European kings looked at the empire of Amir Temur, which united 27 states, with great interest and hope. Because only through his power was it possible to preserve peace in the territories of Eurasia. In addition, cultural relations also rose, and rose to their stage of improvement. European ambassadors, after returning to their countries, wrote many memoirs and published books. One of such people, Johannes Schiltberger, a representative of the German people, also left many interesting pieces of information related to his period in the state of Amir Temur and the Timurids. These pieces of information continue to serve until our present day for the two ancient peoples to understand each other well.

**Thirdly**, diplomatic relations founded in ancient times are distinguished by their development during the Timurid period. These relations became alive again during the period of independence and rose to a new qualitative stage. Especially, this is clearly visible in Uzbekistan-Germany relations. Cultural relations between the two states are developing in various forms. Among these are translation of literary works, organization of cultural days, holding of various festivals, and relations in the field of scientific research.

In one word, the bonds of friendship founded by ancient ancestors, still giving their positive results, continue to encourage toward the new horizons of cooperation in the future.

## Conclusion

The Great Silk Road in world history appears not only as a trade route, but as a huge civilizational space that connected peoples and cultures with each other. Through it, together with material products, achievements of science, religious views, traditions of art, architectural experiences and spiritual values spread widely between East and West. This process became the reason for mutual influence, cultural enrichment and the emergence of new civilizational forms among different peoples.

Central Asia, particularly the territory of Uzbekistan, acquired important significance as the central link of the Great Silk Road. Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Termez and other historical cities served to strengthen relations between the peoples of the world as centers of trade, science, culture and craftsmanship. The cultural environment formed in these cities had a great influence not only on local development, but also on the development of the civilization of all humanity.

Studying the Great Silk Road as a route of intercultural communication has important significance even in today's conditions of globalization. Because it helps to deeply understand the ideas of peace, cooperation, tolerance and mutual respect between peoples. From this point of view, preserving the heritage of the Great Silk Road, conducting scientific research and widely promoting it in the field of tourism is considered an important factor in further raising the historical-cultural potential of Uzbekistan.

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