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PROSPECTS AND TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (Chinese approach and China's role in this organization)

In the context of the constantly changing global geopolitical situation, special attention should be paid to the analysis of the activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), namely, the study of strategic approaches and the role of China within this multilateral platform.

The purpose of this study is a comprehensive analysis of the prospects and trends in the SCO's activities, with special emphasis on identifying strategic priorities and the impact of Chinese policy on multilateral cooperation in the organization.

The scientific significance of the work lies in an integrated approach to assessing China's foreign policy strategy, its economic diplomacy and technological impact on the development of regional cooperation. The practical significance is due to the development of recommendations that can optimize and strengthen the role of the SCO in the international arena.

The research uses methods of analytical review, comparative analysis, case study, as well as SWOT analysis and scenario planning. Such a multidimensional approach made it possible to objectively assess the dynamics and vectors of development of multilateral cooperation within the SCO.

The main results of the study indicate the strengthening of Chinese influence in the SCO, which is manifested through deepening economic ties and infrastructure development. The identified problems and challenges include the heterogeneity of the interests of the SCO members and external geopolitical pressures, to overcome which China offers a number of strategic initiatives.

The study makes a significant contribution to understanding the mechanisms of international relations in the Eurasian region, enriching academic literature with an analysis of current trends in the SCO activities. The practical significance of the work lies in the formulation of strategic recommendations for the SCO members, which can contribute to improving the effectiveness of multilateral cooperation and further integration in various areas of the organization's activities.

Key words: cooperation, politics, states, international relations, territory, strategy, investment.

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Шанхай Ынтымақтастық Ұйымының болашағы мен даму тенденциялары (қытайлық тәсіл және Қытайдың осы ұйымдағы рөлі)

Үнемі өзгеріп отыратын әлемдік геосаяси жағдайда Шанхай Ынтымақтастық Ұйымының (ШЫҰ) қызметін талдау, атап айтқанда, осы көпжақты платформа шеңберіндегі Қытайдың стратегиялық тәсілдері мен рөлін зерделеу ерекше назар аударуға лайық.

Бұл зерттеудің мақсаты Қытай саясатының ұйымдағы көпжақты ынтымақтастыққа стратегиялық басымдықтары мен ықпалын анықтауға ерекше назар аударып, ШЫҰ қызметінің перспективалары мен үрдістерін жан-жақты талдау болып табылады.

Жұмыстың ғылыми маңыздылығы Қытайдың сыртқы саяси стратегиясын, оның экономикалық дипломатиясын және аймақтық ынтымақтастықты дамытуға технологиялық әсерін бағалаудың кешенді тәсілінде жатыр. Практикалық маңыздылығы ШЫҰ-ның халықаралық аренадағы рөлін оңтайландыруға және күшейтуге қабілетті ұсыныстарды әзірлеуге байланысты.

Зерттеу барысында аналитикалық шолу, компаративті талдау, кейс-стади әдістері, сондай-ақ SWOT талдау және сценарийді жоспарлау әдістері қолданылды. Мұндай көп аспектілі тәсіл ШЫҰ аясындағы көпжақты ынтымақтастықтың даму динамикасы мен векторларын объективті бағалауға мүмкіндік берді.

Зерттеудің негізгі нәтижелері экономикалық байланыстарды тереңдету және инфрақұрылымды дамыту арқылы көрінетін ШЫҰ-ға қытайлық ықпалдың күшеюін көрсетеді.

Анықталған проблемалар мен сын-қатерлерге ШЫҰ мүшелерінің мүдделерінің гетерогенділігі және сыртқы геосаяси қысымдар жатады, оларды жеңу үшін Қытай бірқатар стратегиялық ба-
стамаларды ұсынады.

Зерттеу Еуразия аймағындағы халықаралық қатынастардың тетіктерін түсінуге айтарлықтай үлес қосады, академиялық әдебиеттерді ШЫҰ қызметіндегі заманауи үрдістерді талдаумен байытады. Жұмыстың практикалық маңыздылығы ШЫҰ қатысушылары үшін стратегиялық ұсыныстарды тұжырымдау болып табылады, бұл көпжақты ынтымақтастықтың тиімділігін арттыруға және ұйым қызметінің әртүрлі салаларында одан әрі интеграциялауға ықпал етуі мүмкін.

Түйін сөздер: ынтымақтастық, саясат, мемлекеттер, халықаралық қатынастар, аумақ, стратегия, инвестиция.

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Перспективы и тенденции развития деятельности Шанхайской Организации Сотрудничества (китайский подход и роль Китая в этой организации)

В условиях постоянно меняющейся мировой геополитической ситуации особое внимание заслуживает анализ деятельности Шанхайской организации сотрудничества (ШОС), а именно изучение стратегических подходов и роли Китая в рамках этой многосторонней платформы.

Целью данного исследования является всесторонний анализ перспектив и тенденций в деятельности ШОС, с особым упором на выявление стратегических приоритетов и влияния китайской политики на многостороннее сотрудничество в организации.

Научная значимость работы заключается в комплексном подходе к оценке внешнеполитической стратегии Китая, его экономической дипломатии и технологического воздействия на развитие регионального сотрудничества. Практическая значимость обусловлена выработкой рекомендаций, способных оптимизировать и усилить роль ШОС на международной арене.

В рамках исследования использованы методы аналитического обзора, компаративного анализа, кейс-стади, а также SWOT-анализ и сценарное планирование. Такой многоаспектный подход позволил объективно оценить динамику и векторы развития многостороннего сотрудничества в рамках ШОС.

Основные результаты исследования указывают на усиление китайского влияния в ШОС, что проявляется через углубление экономических связей и развитие инфраструктуры. Выявленные проблемы и вызовы включают разнородность интересов членов ШОС и внешние геополитические давления, для преодоления которых Китай предлагает ряд стратегических инициатив.

Исследование вносит значительный вклад в понимание механизмов международных отношений в Евразийском регионе, обогащая академическую литературу анализом современных тенденций в деятельности ШОС. Практическое значение работы заключается в формулировании стратегических рекомендаций для участников ШОС, что может способствовать повышению эффективности многостороннего сотрудничества и дальнейшей интеграции в различных сферах деятельности организации.

Ключевые слова: сотрудничество, политика, государства, международные отношения, территория, стратегия, инвестиция.

Introduction

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), founded in 2001, is an international multilateral alliance that includes China, Russia and several other Asian countries. Over the past two decades, the SCO has played a significant role in promoting regional security and economic development of its members. China, one of the founders and key SCO countries, defines and forms a significant part of the

organization's policies and initiatives, emphasizing the importance of cooperation.

Relevance. In the context of an ever-changing world order, where new economic and political blocs are playing an ever-increasing role, the relevance of studying multilateral regional organizations, such as the SCO, is significantly increasing. The SCO is a unique example of trans-regional cooperation, especially given China's growing influence in international relations. The analysis of the Chinese

approach to the development of the SCO's activities makes it possible to identify not only trends in China's own policy, but also changes in the structure of international security and economic cooperation in Asia.

While there are studies covering various aspects of the SCO's activities, there is no comprehensive analysis of the Chinese contribution to its development, which underlines the relevance of this topic. This is justified by the fact that China, as one of the leading members of the SCO, plays a key role in determining the strategy and dynamics of the development of this organization.

The object of the study is the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the context of international relations, and the subject is the activities of the SCO with an emphasis on the Chinese approach and the influence of China.

The problem of the study is related to the fact that the dynamic development of international relations and China's foreign policy priorities lead to the emergence of new challenges and opportunities for the SCO. Difficulties arise due to differences in the interests and goals of the organization's members, as well as due to external pressures, including geopolitical tensions and economic sanctions, which requires a deep understanding of China's role as the dominant player in shaping the response to these challenges. In addition, there is a lack of comprehensive studies capable of assessing the long-term consequences of Chinese policy for the future of the SCO, which this work seeks to correct.

Novelty. The study will focus on the analysis of the Chinese approach to the development of the SCO, taking into account the latest trends in China's foreign policy, including in the context of the «One Belt, One Road» initiative. Considering China's role in the dynamics of the SCO through the prism of new economic projects and initiatives is a new scientific task that will deepen understanding of the principles of China's foreign policy and the strategy of its interaction with the SCO member states.

The *main purpose* of the study is to analyze the prospects and trends in the development of SCO activities with an emphasis on the Chinese approach and China's role in this organization. To achieve this goal, the following *tasks* were defined:

- Identify China's strategic interests and priorities within the SCO;
- To consider the impact of Chinese economic policy on the development of projects within the SCO;

- Analyze trends in the development of multilateral cooperation in the SCO under the influence of China;

- To identify the problems and challenges faced by the SCO and the possibilities of overcoming them, taking into account the Chinese approach;

- To make predictions about the future of the SCO, taking into account global geopolitical changes and China's position as a leading power in the organization.

The significance of the work lies in an attempt to systematize and analyze the activities of one of the key regional international organizations through the prism of the influence of the dominant state on it. The results obtained in the course of the study can be used to develop recommendations for the state policy of the SCO member states, as well as to determine the strategic directions of the development of the organization itself. The practical value of the study is expressed in the possibility of applying its findings in the decision-making process at the international level, as well as in the ability to provide analytical tools for further study of regional integration processes and multilateral relations.

Literary review. Studies conducted in recent years have focused on how China uses the SCO as a platform to promote its strategic interests in the region, especially in the context of the New Silk Road and the integration of Eurasian economies.

The work of Lezheng Ch says that the SCO is the main platform of China's influence in Central Asia. The peculiarity of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is that it is not another Western organization that China needs to knock on the door to apply for membership; it is, in fact, an organization created by Beijing to promote regional interests, therefore it occupies a special position in Asian international relations and China's foreign policy. Precisely because the organization represents a new non-Western concept in international relations, it has played an important role in the development of cooperation between China and the countries of Central Asia and the promotion of China's main security goals in the region. For example, China's main concern in Central Asia is the territorial integrity and deterrence of attempts to split East Turkestan in Xinjiang. The SCO has not only stabilized China's borders with the countries of Central Asia, but also provided China with the cooperation in the field of regional security necessary to maintain its territorial integrity (Ljeczshjen, 2021: 5).

In his collection, S.K. Kushkumbayev noted that in the current century, many experts position China as a new world economic and, accordingly, political

center. Despite the unprecedented economic growth noted by almost all experts, China, nevertheless, tries not to demonstrate its increased capabilities. This is what arouses interest, attracts or alarms the near neighbors, Asian countries, the EU and the USA (Kushkumbaev, 2022: 95).

A. Amrebayev noted in his article that China and Russia have also promoted and proposed many new initiatives to organize regional security, including the CICA summit initiated by Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is a de facto participant in almost all such “non-Western initiatives”, including the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Economic Union and a number of economic institutions, including the Chinese-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Belt and Road Initiative (Amrebaev, 2022: 1).

According to G.A. Kalandarshoev, “the SCO is not a military bloc, but an organization that operates in all important social, political and economic areas” (Kalandarshoev, 2020: 108).

Ho D. believes that China’s landmarks in the East, such as Taiwan, relations with North Korea, Japan and a number of neighbors in Southeast Asia are also of particular interest to the country. This is due to the Chinese strategy of ensuring the security of its western provinces, which is based on the internal foundations of economic development and ethnic assimilation. The fruits of this expansion have begun to manifest themselves in recent years, when China has become a major player in the energy sector of Central Asia. Among the measures taken is the construction of an oil pipeline from Kazakhstan to Xinjiang. China also signed an agreement on the construction of a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan and acquired a stake in the Caspian oil fields (Ho, 2022: 88).

Larin considers the SCO as a multilateral platform within which China invests in existing regional institutions, strengthens cooperation between them and creates new institutions. The SCO is an effective tool for implementing China’s economic development in the Eurasian region. This also includes China’s continued investment in research and capacity building on topics relevant to the SCO. An example is the Chinese National Institute of School International Exchange and Judicial Cooperation, which was established under President Xi Jinping (Larin, 2016: 69).

K.P. Kurylev noted that as part of the promotion of the concept of “Greater Eurasia”, Russia has begun to strive for closer cooperation with other Asian states, while expanding cooperation with China remains a priority. The SCO is seen as a

negotiating platform for a Large Eurasian Partnership, provided that it turns from a purely regional organization into a discussion forum. China and Russia’s continued commitment to the SCO also seems likely against the background of their common partnership: Russia is not only a reliable partner in the SCO, but also in other international and regional organizations and initiatives led by China, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (Kurylev, 2020: 627).

The topic of regional trade and economic cooperation in the SCO is being promoted by China within the framework of the Action Plan for 2023-2027 on the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty on Long-term Good—Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation of the SCO member states. China proposes to implement joint projects in the field of trade, investment, infrastructure construction, supply chain support, scientific innovation, artificial intelligence, intensify work on linking the Belt and Road initiative with national development strategies, expand multilateral and sub-regional cooperation, and create additional growth points (Kulincev, 2023: 328).

Research Methodology

An integrated approach combining qualitative and quantitative research methods is used to analyze the prospects and trends in the development of SCO activities with an emphasis on the role of China. The methodological base is based on the following methods:

1. Analytical review of the literature:
 - Study of official documents of the SCO, including communiqués, declarations and summit reports;
 - Analyze scientific publications, articles and monographs devoted to Chinese foreign policy and SCO activities;
 - Use of statistical data and economic reports to assess the impact of China on economic projects within the organization.
2. Comparative analysis:
 - Comparison of China’s strategies and priorities with the goals of other key SCO member states to identify similarities and differences;
 - Comparison of the dynamics of the SCO development before and after a significant increase in China’s participation in the organization’s projects;
3. Case study (analysis of specific cases):
 - In-depth study of individual SCO projects and initiatives to which China makes the greatest contribution;
 - Analysis of precedents of effective response

to challenges and problems within the organization with the involvement of Chinese experience.

4. SWOT analysis:

- Assessment of strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the SCO in the context of China's participation.

5. Scenario analysis:

Development of several scenarios for the development of events within the SCO, taking into account various vectors of Chinese policy.

The methodology also involves the use of quantitative methods, such as statistical analysis, to assess China's economic contribution to SCO projects, and qualitative methods, in particular, content analysis of diplomatic rhetoric and political declarations to understand China's changing role in the organization. This comprehensive approach will allow to achieve maximum objectivity and reliability in the conclusions of the study.

Results and discussion

1. Analysis of China's strategic interests and priorities within the SCO. To begin with, it is important to understand the historical context in which China contributed to the creation of the SCO. This will allow us to catch the initial strategic plans of China. The SCO emerged at the turn of the century as a platform aimed at strengthening trust and cooperation between the countries of Eurasia after the collapse of the Soviet Union. For China, the SCO has become a tool for ensuring stability on the western borders and a platform for promoting its economic interests. In the economic sphere, China considers the SCO as an important channel for the implementation of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aimed at creating transport corridors that increase trade turnover and investment in the region (Chao, 2022: 293). China seeks to use the SCO to expand its economic influence in Central Asia and strengthen its status as a global economic power. In the political and security fields, China, through the SCO, is trying to counteract three "evils" — terrorism, separatism and extremism. These problems directly concern China, especially in the context of the situation in Xinjiang. China uses the SCO as a platform for cooperation in the field of security, strengthening borders and stabilizing the region. At the socio-cultural level, China is interested in spreading its soft power through cultural influence and educational exchanges within the SCO (Muratovich, 2021: 653). The support of Confucian institutes and educational programs in the SCO member states serves this purpose. From a geopolitical point of view, the SCO

is a mechanism for China to strengthen regional leadership and counterbalance the influence of other powers, including Russia and the United States. It also allows China to demonstrate a new model of international relations that advocate multipolarity and rejection of the dominance of one superpower. China supports the development of environmentally sustainable approaches within the SCO, increasing cooperation in the field of environmental safety and energy efficiency. Initiatives such as green energy projects not only contribute to improving the environmental situation in the region, but also open up new opportunities for Chinese leadership in the field of environmentally friendly technologies. Technological leadership is also among China's priorities within the SCO (Popović, 2018: 73). The development of cooperation in the field of high technologies, including the digital economy, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, corresponds to China's desire to form a new world order in which technological standards and regulations will be established taking into account China's interests.

Over time, China's domestic political goals may also change its approach to the SCO. For example, strengthening internal political stability and national unity may require strengthening regional security and combating cross-border crime through the SCO mechanisms.

In the context of the SCO governance, China promotes the principles of non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual respect for the sovereignty of the participating countries. This allows China to form the image of a responsible power interested in maintaining stability and peace in the region. Finally, China uses the SCO as an adaptive tool for assessing and responding to global changes, including economic crises, political shifts and new security threats. At the same time, China seeks to lead in the process of adapting the organization to new challenges, strengthening its international influence (Rab, 2019: 166).

Taken together, China's strategic interests and priorities in the SCO can be described as multifaceted and dynamically developing. China seeks to use the SCO as a platform for deepening regional integration in the economic, political, security and cultural spheres.

2. The impact of Chinese economic policy on the development of projects within the SCO. The main project through which China influences economic development within the SCO is the One Belt, One Road initiative. This large-scale multilateral developing program involves the creation of

new trade corridors and infrastructure facilities connecting China with other Eurasian countries. BRI projects include the construction of roads, railways, ports and power plants that promise to contribute to economic growth in the region. China is the largest source of investment within the SCO. The country uses its significant foreign exchange reserves and financial institutions, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Silk Road Fund, to provide loans and investments in infrastructure and industrial projects in the SCO member states (Fredholm, 2013: 38).

China is actively working to improve trade relations within the SCO, promoting the idea of creating free trade zones and simplifying trade procedures. This strengthens trade ties and opens up new markets for Chinese goods and services. The infrastructure projects initiated by China within the framework of the SCO not only serve to improve connectivity between the member countries, but also open doors for Chinese construction companies and suppliers of materials, contributing to the expansion of foreign trade and deepening economic ties (Yuan, 2010: 855). China's energy strategy within the SCO also includes cooperation in the field of renewable energy sources and cross-border energy transmission projects. The creation of joint ventures and agreements on the exploitation of energy resources, such as large oil and gas projects in Central Asia, ensures energy security for China and contributes to its geopolitical and economic interests in the region.

China is actively promoting the development of the digital economy within the SCO, in particular through initiatives such as the Digital Silk Road. This involves cooperation in the field of digital infrastructure, e-commerce, and strengthening cybersecurity. Foreign direct investment (FDI) from China to the SCO countries is increasing, which contributes to the development of local economies and the strengthening of ties between China and the member countries. This allows China not only to gain economic benefits, but also to strengthen its strategic position in the region. Chinese economic policy has a significant impact on the development of projects within the SCO. China uses its economic resources to promote its strategic interests and integrate the regions of Central and South Asia. Financing, investment, infrastructure construction, energy security and the development of the digital economy are key areas (Dadabaev, 2014: 102).

3. Analysis of trends in the development of multilateral cooperation in the SCO under the influence of China. Under the influence of China in

the SCO, there is a strengthening of economic ties between the member countries. China offers large-scale infrastructure projects that link the economies of the participating countries, and creates new platforms for economic dialogue and integration, for example, through forums for discussing trade, investment and financing issues. One of the key trends is the development of transport infrastructure, which provides communication between the SCO member states. China is actively investing in the construction of roads, railways and ports, which makes it possible to increase trade volumes and simplify logistics. China is actively involved in the creation and expansion of energy networks in the region, which allows participating countries to diversify energy sources and improve energy security.

This includes projects for the construction of oil and gas pipelines, as well as joint initiatives in the field of renewable energy sources.

Under the influence of China, the SCO pays great attention to security issues, including the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism. The organization implements multilateral exercises and operations aimed at increasing readiness to respond to security threats. China encourages the exchange of cultural and educational initiatives, which contributes to the strengthening of soft power and mutual understanding between the peoples of the participating countries. This includes cultural festivals, educational exchanges and language courses. In recent years, China's efforts in the field of humanitarian cooperation and medical assistance have become more visible, including through the provision of assistance in the fight against cross-border diseases and in cases of natural disasters.

China initiates and supports joint research projects, innovative partnerships and technology exchange within the SCO. Special attention is paid to digitalization, development and implementation of new information technologies, creation of common standards and protocols in the field of cybersecurity. China supports the strengthening of the SCO's institutional mechanisms for more effective management and coordination of multilateral initiatives. This means developing legal frameworks and procedures that allow the organization to respond effectively to challenges and implement common projects. China's contribution to the SCO is also reflected in the promotion of the ideas of social responsibility and sustainable development. The need to ensure social stability and environmental sustainability in the process of economic growth is emphasized, which corresponds

to both global trends and China's domestic policy.

The trends in the development of multilateral cooperation in the SCO under the strong influence of China show the country's deep commitment to deepening cooperation in various fields, which reflects its desire to create a balanced and stable Eurasian security and economic architecture. China acts as a catalyst for multilateral initiatives, contributing to the formation of a single economic space and strengthening regional integration, which makes the SCO one of the key platforms in its foreign policy and geopolitical strategy.

4. Problems and challenges faced by the SCO, and the possibilities of overcoming them, taking into account the Chinese approach.

- One of the main challenges for the SCO is the heterogeneity of its members, who differ in economic indicators, political regimes, cultures and interests. This leads to difficulties in reaching consensus and deepening integration. The Chinese approach: Promoting the principle of "non-binding consensus", which allows countries to choose the level of their participation in specific projects. China is also actively using bilateral mechanisms to deepen relations with individual countries within the SCO.

- The influence of various geopolitical players, especially Russia and the United States, creates tension within the organization and makes it difficult to make unified decisions. The Chinese approach: Support for multilateralism and collective leadership in the SCO to neutralize unilateral actions of individual states and strengthen the independence of the organization.

- Terrorism, extremism and separatism pose significant challenges for the SCO countries, requiring coordinated efforts to ensure regional stability. The Chinese approach: Initiation and support of multilateral anti-terrorist exercises, strengthening of intelligence cooperation and exchange of information on security issues.

- Different levels of economic development and inconsistencies in the economic policies of the SCO members may hinder integration and mutual economic growth. The Chinese approach: Creation of funds to finance regional projects and provision of loans on preferred terms to stimulate the development of less developed member countries.

- Territorial disputes and conflicts on the borders between some SCO member states threaten internal solidarity and trust within the organization. The Chinese approach: Offering the role of mediator and participating in negotiation processes to resolve disputes, as well as promoting initiatives aimed at economic integration, which can help mitigate

territorial contradictions.

- The SCO is perceived primarily as a regional organization, which limits its ability to influence broader global processes and international politics. The Chinese approach: Expanding the SCO's dialogue with other international and regional structures, including the UN, ASEAN and others, as well as initiating large-scale multilateral projects that can attract attention in the international arena.

- Some SCO member states face external pressures, including economic sanctions, which may complicate cooperation and interaction within the organization. The Chinese approach: Promoting the principles of non-interference and sovereign equality, as well as using its economic resources to support countries that have been sanctioned through bilateral agreements and assistance in circumventing sanctions.

China, taking advantage of its economic influence and strategic vision, can contribute to overcoming a number of problems and challenges faced by the SCO. Key areas include strengthening integration processes, supporting multilateral security standards, expanding economic and cultural cooperation, as well as improving the global status of the organization. By upholding the principles of respect for sovereignty and equality, China contributes to stabilization.

Based on this information, we will conduct a SWOT analysis: Assessment of strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the SCO in the context of China's participation (Table 1).

China plays a key role in the SCO, both in terms of resources and capabilities, and in the context of challenges and risks. China's positive contribution is to stimulate economic growth and strengthen security. At the same time, the organization should pay attention to the management of risks associated with political and economic challenges, as well as strive for a balance of interests between all member countries for the sustainable development of regional cooperation.

5. Forecasts of the future of the SCO, taking into account global geopolitical changes and China's position as a leading power in the organization.

It is predicted that China will continue to support economic initiatives within the SCO, which will lead to closer economic integration between the member countries. The SCO economic corridor may become an addition to the global BRI project, which will strengthen China's economic influence in Eurasia. Given China's emphasis on security within the SCO, it can be assumed that efforts to combat terrorism, extremism and separatism will be

strengthened. A more effective multilateral security system, including cybersecurity, can be created. The SCO is likely to look for ways to expand its influence

beyond Eurasia, possibly through interaction with other international organizations.

Table 1 – SWOT analysis for the SCO in the context of

China's participation

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - China has significant financial resources that can be used to support various projects and initiatives within the SCO. - China is actively promoting infrastructure construction projects, which strengthens connectivity between member countries and contributes to the economic growth of the region. - China's involvement increases the SCO's international status and its weight in international affairs. - The SCO, thanks to China, is able to develop trans-regional ties, especially taking into account the «One Belt, One Road» initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internal political differences between member countries can lead to conflicts and difficulties in decision-making. - The SCO can be perceived as an instrument of Chinese foreign policy, which reduces its attractiveness for non-Chinese members. - China's dominance can lead to uneven development within the organization, where some countries may feel a lack of attention to their interests.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With China's help, the SCO can stimulate regional economic integration and development by attracting investment and technology. - The SCO has the potential to become a platform for promoting international initiatives such as combating climate change and sustainable development. - Joint efforts in the field of security can lead to the creation of effective mechanisms to counter terrorism and extremism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The SCO member states, especially China, may face pressure from other major powers, which may complicate cooperation. - Differences in the strategic goals of China and other member countries can lead to tension in relations within the organization and in its foreign policy. - Unresolved territorial disputes and disagreements between the SCO member states may worsen in the event of increased pressure from China, which could potentially lead to division within the organization. - The association of the SCO with the Chinese initiative «One Belt, One Road» may cause criticism due to accusations of creating «debt traps» for weaker economies, which could undermine the reputation of both China and the SCO as a whole.

The development of scenarios for the future of the SCO in the context of Chinese politics makes it possible to foresee various trajectories of the organization's development.

Scenario 1: Consolidation and deepening of cooperation

Background:

- Continuation of China's economic growth policy.

- Stable internal political situation in China.

- Successful implementation of the «One Belt, One Road» initiative.

Developments:

- China is actively investing in SCO projects, strengthening infrastructure connectivity and economic cooperation.

- China is strengthening its position as a mediator in resolving regional conflicts.

- The SCO gets more opportunities to influence world politics due to the coordination of the positions of its members.

Result:

The SCO is becoming a more integrated and influential bloc, able to compete with other regional organizations and even exert influence at the global level.

Scenario 2: Internal tensions and disagreements

Background:

- The slowdown in China's economic growth.

- The emergence of territorial disputes between the SCO member states.

- The growing international isolation of China due to conflicts with the West.

Developments:

- China restricts its investments in the SCO due to internal economic problems.

- There are conflicts of interest in the SCO, aggravated by the lack of clear leadership of China.

- Lack of coordination leads to a decrease in the effectiveness of joint projects.

Result:

The SCO is facing problems in realizing its goals, its global influence is decreasing, and internal fragmentation is growing.

Scenario 3: Adaptation and flexibility

Background:

- Instability of the world economy and politics.
- The growth of nationalism in the SCO member states.

- Intensification of competition with other powers, such as India, Russia and Western countries.

Developments:

- China is adopting a more flexible strategy, allowing the SCO member states more autonomy in the implementation of projects.

- The SCO is reforming its structure to better reflect the interests of all members, not just China.

- China and the SCO are actively looking for new international partners for cooperation.

Result:

The SCO is becoming more flexible and adaptive to changing global conditions, which increases its stability and ability to external and internal cooperation. The Organization promotes a multipolar world order and strengthens its role as an important international player.

These scenarios are conditional models of the development of events and are based on current trends and available information. The actual future of the SCO will depend on many variables, including political decisions, economic factors and socio-cultural dynamics both within the member states and in the international arena.

Conclusion

In the course of our research, a comprehensive analysis of the activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was carried out, special attention was paid to the role and strategic interests of China within this multilateral structure. We have assessed how Chinese economic policy and the desire for regional leadership shape the current projects and initiatives of the SCO. The analysis also revealed the main trends in the development of the organization, which are inextricably linked with Chinese geopolitical ambitions and economic strategy.

The study highlighted the complexities and challenges the SCO is currently facing, including internal disagreements and external challenges. At the same time, possible ways of overcoming them were identified, where the Chinese approach can play a key role, in particular through strengthening investment activity, infrastructure development and strengthening international diplomacy.

Based on scenario analysis, we have proposed several possible directions for the development of the SCO, taking into account various vectors of Chinese policy. From deepening economic integration to adapting to global changes, each scenario reflects the potential trajectories that an organization can move along.

Finally, the future of the SCO looks promising, but at the same time it is unpredictable and requires flexibility, strategic planning and balanced consideration of multiple interests. China, which occupies a central place in the organization, will continue to influence its development. Nevertheless, only multilateral efforts and joint work of all SCO members will be able to guarantee the realization of its potential as an effective mechanism for regional and international cooperation.

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