

Doctrinal, Conceptual, Institutional and Political Problems of the Region-Building in Central Asia

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Our understanding or misunderstanding of the driving forces, nature and character of the very complicated Central Asian transformation processes depend to a great extent on the school of thought, methodological base of our analysis and research. This region has its own uniqueness and at the same time similarity with other regions of the world. Application of international relations theory, school of geopolitics, regionalism concepts, and democratization theory to the Central Asian studies reveals quite interesting peculiarities, nuances, paradoxes, dilemmas, achievements and crises of the overall regional developments.

After 20 years of independence Central Asian regional integration process that was proclaimed right after the dissolution of the former Soviet state is faced with four sets of problems; they are doctrinal, conceptual, institutional and political problems.

Doctrinal problems include the issue of defining the region; recognition of historical joint co-existence of peoples of the region; rejection of destructive geopolitics and acceptance of new democratic geopolitics, commitment to a region-building project, and so on.

The conceptualization issue means working out new conceptual solutions concerning the model, scope and level of the regional integration.

The institutional problem indicates irrelevance or failure of existing institutions and necessity of establishing new ones which are deemed to provide for the real integration process.

Finally, political problems reflect a deficit of political will in countries of the region with respect to the regional unification perspective, including the mythic issue of competition between countries of Central Asia for the regional leadership.

Meanwhile, the region has three alternatives in its political development: 1) integration within larger structure with great power dominating in it; 2) integration within its own geographical region; 3) fragmentation. Therefore, it is really challenging to renovate Central Asian scholarship.