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CHINA-KAZAKHSTAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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Abstract. In our age of deepening globalization, when the international economic system is at the forefront of globalization, transformation is especially important. In the 21st century, both China and Kazakhstan are countries with rapid economic development and huge potential for economic growth. In this article, the bilateral relations between China and Kazakhstan are examined from the point of view of geopolitics. It is worth noting that bilateral relations have grown from cross-border trade relations in Xinjiang of China, to the strategic partnership "One Belt, One Road", which has benefited both China and Kazakhstan. In the economic sphere, Kazakhstan, located in Central Asia, is becoming increasingly important for China. Maintaining regional security is very important for the economic development of both sides. For Kazakhstan, the obvious advantage of cooperation with China is that Kazakhstan can serve as a communication center between China and the Western world, as well as establish transport and logistics links with the world as the main artery of international trade.

Keywords: Kazakhstan, China, Partnership, Economy, Trade, Security.

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ҚЫТАЙ-ҚАЗАҚСТАН СТРАТЕГИЯЛЫҚ СЕРІКТЕСТІГІ ЖӘНЕ ЕКІЖАҚТЫ ЭКОНОМИКАЛЫҚ ЫНТЫМАҚТАСТЫҚ

Әділбек Ермекбаев, Мейрам Сарыбаев, Чэнь Сужигуга

Терең жаһандану дәуірінде, халықаралық экономикалық жүйе жаһанданудың алдыңғы шебінде тұрған кезде, трансформация әсіресе маңызды. 21 ғасырда Қытай да, Қазақстан да жедел экономикалық дамуы және экономикалық өсудің орасан зор әлеуеті бар елдер. Бұл мақалада Қытай мен Қазақстан арасындағы қарым-қатынастар геосаясат тұрғысынан зерттелуде. керек, екіжақты қарым-қатынастар Қытайдың Шыңжаңдағы шекаралық сауда қатынастарынан Қытайға да, Қазақстанға да пайда әкелген «Бір белдеу, бір жол» стратегиялық әріптестігіне дейін өсті. Экономикалық салада Орталық Азияда орналасқан Қазақстан Қытай үшін маңызды бола түсуде. Аймақтық қауіпсіздікті сақтау екі тараптың да экономикалық дамуы үшін өте маңызды. Қазақстан үшін Қытаймен ынтымақтастықтың айқын артықшылығы – Қазақстан Қытай мен Батыс әлемі арасындағы байланыс орталығы бола алады, сондай-ақ халықаралық сауданың басты артериясы ретінде әлеммен көлік-логистикалық байланыс орната алады.

Түйін сөздер: Қазақстан, Қытай, әріптестік, экономика, сауда, қауіпсіздік.

КИТАЙСКО-КАЗАХСТАНСКОЕ СТРАТЕГИЧЕСКОЕ ПАРТНЕРСТВО И ДВУСТОРОННЕЕ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОЕ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО

Адильбек Ермекбаев, Мейрам Сарыбаев, Чэнь Сужигуга

Аннотация. В наш век углубляющейся глобализации, когда международная экономическая система находится на переднем крае глобализации, трансформация особенно важна. В 21 веке и Китай, и Казахстан - страны с быстрым экономическим развитием и огромным потенциалом экономического роста. В этой статье двусторонние отношения между Китаем и Казахстаном исследуются с точки зрения геополитики. Стоит отметить, что двусторонние отношения выросли от приграничных торговых отношений в Синьцзяне Китая, до стратегического партнерства «Один пояс, один путь», которое принесло пользу как Китаю, так и Казахстану. В экономической сфере Казахстан, расположенный в ЦА, становится все более важным для Китая. Поддержание региональной безопасности очень важно для экономического развития обеих сторон. Для Казахстана очевидным преимуществом сотрудничества с Китаем является то, что Казахстан может служить центром связи между Китаем и западным миром, а также устанавливать транспортно-логистические связи с миром в качестве главной артерии международной торговли.

Ключевые слова: Казахстан, Китай, партнерство, экономика, торговля, безопасность.



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Introduction

China Kazakhstan and maintain "comprehensive partnership" strategic relationship. The so-called "comprehensive strategy" shows Chinese-Kazakh that cooperation covers various fields, such as politics, economics, security, humanities and international relations. Politically, the two countries maintain close contacts at all levels, respect each other's fundamental interests, support each other's cooperation initiatives and jointly maintain political stability. In economic terms, the two countries are actively implementing a docking strategy, striving to improve the structure of trade, expand investment and financial cooperation and tap transit potential. As for security, the joint mechanisms of cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the security of the two countries have been constantly improved, the "three forces" and transnational crimes have been severely suppressed, they have jointly responded to cyber threats and restrained the spread of extremist ideas, as well as supported regional military balance and nuclear security mechanisms. As for the humanities, cooperation between the two countries in the fields of education, science and technology, culture, tourism, environmental protection and other areas is gradually improving. Mutual understanding between people is deepening, their goodwill is strengthening, becoming more consolidated. In international affairs, the two countries support the international institutional system, which is based on the UN, and share their positions on many regional and global issues.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics of Kazakhstan, as of the end of 2016, China invested a total of 42.8 billion US dollars and 12.6 billion US dollars in loans in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is China's largest trading partner in Central Asia and the largest investment country in Eurasia. China is the sixth country of Kazakhstan in terms of direct investment,

the second largest trading partner, the second largest importer and the largest export market. There are more than 1300 Chinese companies in Kazakhstan.

Research methods

The methodology of the research is based on the general scientific principles of cognition of reality, the fundamental provisions of the school of political neorealism in the theory of international relations. The methodological basis of this study is based on the principles of scientific objectivity. The topic under consideration is analyzed using a systematic approach, which makes it possible to solve the problem on the basis of scientific analysis. The empirical basis of the study is information taken from Chinese and Kazakhstani sources.

Many researchers have devoted their work to the economic and political relations between China and Kazakhstan. It should be noted that Zhang Ning, Gao Xin, Xi Yaoyi, Wang Ning, K. Gohar [2-4] - conducted research on economic relations between China and Kazakhstan.

Among the Kazakh researchers are the following scientific works on the relations between Kazakhstan and China, N. Aldabek, K. Sultanov, K. Syroezhkin, K. Khafizova and others [5-8].

China-Kazakhstan comprehensive strategic partnership enters a new stage

Relations between China and Kazakhstan can be called truly strategic, despite the growth of anti-Chinese sentiment in society in the light of recent events related to the XUAR. "Trough BRI, China is and will certainly remain the largest investor in Central Asia. It is the only country that can mobilize huge investments for the region, far above what Western countries and Russia can ofer" [9].

Currently, China and Kazakhstan are at a "new stage" of the "comprehensive strategic partnership" relationship. The so-called "new stage" means that since President Xi Jinping put

forward the Silk Road Economic Belt initiative in Kazakhstan, the integration of the construction of the Belt and Road with the new economic policy of the Bright Path has become the norm, consisting of cooperation between the two countries. Both sides are looking for areas of cooperation and cooperation projects of mutual interest from their respective national development strategies and development plans to achieve mutual benefit and mutually beneficial results.

China and Kazakhstan have always put cooperation within the framework of the overall coordinated development of the region. For example, from the point of view of expanding trans-Eurasian cooperation between China and Europe to increase Kazakhstan's transit potential, from the point of view of developing markets throughout the central Eurasian continent, such as the CIS, Central Asia, West Asia, and South Asia, to invest in the Kazakhstan project, from the point of view of preventing the spread of extremist forces from the Middle East to the outside world, to build a "firewall" with Kazakhstan. In particular, after India and Pakistan became full members of the SCO, Kazakhstan became a geographical "link" connecting the CIS in the north, China in the east and the Indian Ocean in the south. They have become more prominent in China's international relations. By deepening cooperation with Kazakhstan, the Silk Road Economic Belt can be further developed to link with the Eurasian Economic Union, promote the construction of the China-Central Asia-West Asia economic Corridor and the Second Eurasian Land Bridge, as well as explore cooperation in the fight against terrorism and countering extremism. A new experience of strengthening the security and development of China's western periphery.

China-Kazakhstan Political Relations

China and Kazakhstan officially established diplomatic relations in January 1992, upgraded their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership in July 2005, established a comprehensive strategic partnership in June 2011, and signed a "Combination to further deepen the Comprehensive Strategic partnership" in September 2013. The Declaration was signed in August 2015 "Joint Declaration on a new stage of the China-Kazakhstan comprehensive strategic partnership". In September 2019, China-Kazakhstan relations were transformed into a permanent comprehensive strategic partnership.

In March 2019, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Kazakhstan Smailov visited China and, together with Vice Premier Han Zheng, chaired the ninth meeting of the China-Kazakhstan Cooperation Committee. In April, the first President of Kazakhstan Nazarbayev came to China to participate in the second Summit of international cooperation "One Belt, One Road", and President Xi Jinping awarded him the "Medal of Friendship of the People's Republic of China". In May, Han Zheng, a member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the CPC Central Committee and Vice Premier of the State Council, visited Kazakhstan and took part in the 12th Astana Economic Forum and the 2nd China-Kazakhstan Forum of Local Cooperation, and also met with the President of Kazakhstan Tokayev. In June, during the SCO summit in Bishkek, President Xi Jinping held a meeting with President Tokayev. In September, President of Kazakhstan Tokayev paid a state visit to China, with which President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and Chairman Li Zhanshu respectively met. In September, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Li Zhangshu visited Kazakhstan. In May 2019, China and Kazakhstan held the second Forum of Chinese-Kazakh Local Cooperation in Almaty. Currently, there are 19 pairs of twin provinces, states and cities between the two countries.

Geopolitical interests of China and Kazakhstan

The unique geopolitical situation in Central Asia, from the point of view of historical

geography or modern politics, reflects the characteristics of a multifaceted and complex nature. On the one hand, it is an important hub of the Eurasian continent, on the other hand, it is a dead end in geography - there is no exit to the World Ocean. Since it dominates between Asia and Europe, Kazakhstan has long been influenced by the dual culture of East and West. Western culture mostly penetrated directly through the former Soviet Union and Russia, while Eastern culture was mainly influenced by the Xinjiang region bordering China. Kazakhstan is located in the center of the CIS, so it has unique geopolitical advantages and is an important bridge connecting Asia and Europe. Through Kazakhstan, it is possible to connect and connect the air, rail and road transit lines of Europe, Southeast Asia and China. This is the first stop of China's Silk Road Economic Belt to go abroad. In this sense, the main railway line through Europe and Asia (passing through Kazakhstan, connecting northern Europe and the port of Lianyungang on the Yellow Sea coast of China) It has further increased the geopolitical and geo-economic importance of Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries.

It is precisely because of the enormous importance of Kazakhstan's geopolitics and geo-economics that Chinese leaders decided to officially propose a strategic concept of the Silk Road Economic Belt in Kazakhstan and "point beyond the territory, from line to part, in order to gradually form regional cooperation, that is, the Five Links initiative.

Kazakhstan is rich in resources, not only has a huge territory, but is also rich in minerals and energy carriers. The international community recognizes Kazakhstan as one of the main sources of energy in the 21st century. Kazakhstan occupies one of the first places in the world in terms of reserves of oil, natural gas, coal and uranium ore. In addition, Kazakhstan has unique and diverse natural and climatic conditions, it is an accumulation of various natural resources, including mountains, forests, lakes, meadows

and deserts. The excellent natural environment allows Kazakhstan to produce enough grain for export. When determining the main direction of diplomatic activity, national leaders will first try to think about how to realize their national interests on the basis of these geo-economic advantages.

China's interests in Central Asia and Kazakhstan are also obvious, including: Kazakhstan is an important passage for China to all CIS countries, Kazakhstan is the gateway of the Chinese Silk Road and the main transport corridor connecting Europe, China has a large market demand for Kazakhstan's mineral deposits, especially the extraction of minerals such as oil and natural gas.

Kazakhstan's oil and other energy resources are of vital importance for China's consumer market with a population of more than one billion people. Since the 21st century, China has become a huge consumer of energy (including oil and natural gas), and over the past 15-20 years this demand has doubled. As a country bordering Kazakhstan, China's rapid development can open up many opportunities for Kazakhstan, especially for the implementation of the great Silk Road strategy, so Kazakhstan should confront these opportunities and challenges and step up its efforts to link with China's development. Kazakhstan plays a crucial role as the first point of connection with the Eurasian Economic Union. Since the Chinese leaders first took the initiative to create the Silk Road Economic Belt in Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan has fully realized that this is a historic opportunity, formulated the Bright Avenue plan in a timely manner and actively joined the great Silk Road strategy, a driving force for promoting domestic economic development.

Projects and main objectives of China-Kazakhstan economic cooperation

On May 8, 2015, when President Xi Jinping met with the President Nursultan Nazarbayev in Astana, he said: "On the basis of equality

and mutual benefit, we are ready to contribute to the construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the new "Bright Road" of Kazakhstan. In order to achieve common development and prosperity, the two sides should continue to work well on large-scale cooperation projects to unify infrastructure, promote energy and financial cooperation, deepen humanitarian cooperation and continue to strengthen security cooperation." Nazarbayev said that Kazakhstan supports China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative and is ready to become an important partner in the construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt, to do a good job of linking the construction of the Silk Road Road Economic Belt with the Bright Path economic development strategy, as well as strengthening economic and trade, production potential, cooperation in the field of energy, science and technology."

On September 29, 2015, Nazarbayev put forward the Greater Eurasia Cooperation initiative at the UN Summit on Sustainable Development, which is a combination of the EU-Eurasian Economic Union-Silk Road Economic Belt. The cooperation framework is designed to give the role of the Eurasian Economic Union and the creation of a mechanism for regional cooperation and a large regional market from Europe through the interior of Eurasia to the Pacific Ocean. This shows that the leaders of China and Kazakhstan are very concerned about the strategic alignment of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Light Road, which gives a new impetus to the further development of the two countries. The complementarity of the Bright Way and the Silk Road Economic Belt is manifested in at least three aspects. Firstly, the complementarity of infrastructure projects, such as the transport corridor connecting Europe and Asia, oil and gas pipelines and water resources. Environmental infrastructure, transnational importance. The second is the development of urban agglomerations along the economic corridor, the formation of a point of growth of the network economy and the stimulation of economic and social development along the route. The third is to achieve macroeconomic stability and complementarity with economic structural transformations. Stimulate domestic demand by investing heavily in fixed assets to achieve sustainable growth goals and, at the same time, by improving industrial planning to achieve economic transformation and prosperity.

Cooperation with production facilities is developing smoothly. As of the end of 2016, the list of "early harvest" projects for cooperation in the field of capacities includes 51 projects with a total investment of 26.8 billion US dollars. Companies are invited to participate in traditional profitable industries such as textiles, food, construction machinery and automobiles. as well as a new generation of biotechnology, new energy and new materials, and other emerging industries. As of the beginning of 2016, projects for the assembly of cars and polypropylene from both sides have been launched, and more than ten projects have been launched in the areas of light rail transport in Astana, steel, smelting and cement.

Infrastructure construction is going steadily. The key transport project of the Western Europe-Western China Highway (Shuangxi Highway) in Kazakhstan has been largely completed, and the entire branch will be opened to traffic in 2017. The construction of the Russian section will begin in early 2017 and will be completed by 2020. In addition, the construction of logistics bases was officially opened, such as the China-Kazakhstan (Lianyungang) logistics base, the SCO Lianyungang International Logistics Park, the Khorgos-Eastern Gate Special Economic Zone and the Khorgos railway port began work.

Financial support is relatively strong, and joint projects have strong financial capabilities and financial support. As of the end of 2016, the development financing mechanisms created by the two countries that can support the "One Belt, One Road" and Chinese-Kazakh cooperation mainly include:

-Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank with a capital size of 100 billion US dollars and an initial capital of 50 billion US dollars.

-The Silk Road Fund with a capital of 40 billion US dollars.

-The Special Fund for China-Kazakhstan Cooperation in the Field of Capacity Building was established by the Silk Road Foundation in 2015 with an investment of 2 billion US dollars with an emphasis on supporting China-Kazakhstan cooperation in the field of capacity building and investment in projects in related fields. Investment projects are recommended jointly by both parties, and Kazakhstan is responsible for implementing the appropriate preferential policy in its country and coordinating all relevant parties to solve problems arising from cooperation to ensure the implementation of projects.

China-Eurasian Economic Cooperation Foundation. It was jointly initiated and established by the Export-Import Bank of China and the Bank of China in September 2014 with a total volume of 500 million US dollars. Target industries include agricultural development, logistics, infrastructure, new generation information technology and manufacturing.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Commerce of China, from January to June 2020, the contract value of the Chinese project with Kazakhstan amounted to 360 million US dollars, and the completed turnover was 670 million US dollars. As of the end of June 2020, the total contract value of China's construction projects in Kazakhstan was 37.71 billion US dollars, and the total completed turnover was approximately 29.66 billion US dollars. Significant progress has been made in many projects in the field of chemistry, building materials, new energy sources, construction and reconstruction of infrastructure carried out by Chinese companies.

From the point of view of Kazakhstani exports, the first place has been steadily, since 2006, occupied by China. Mainly oil, gas,

copper and other industrial metals are imported there from Kazakhstan. In the pandemic year of 2020, Kazakhstani exports to China amounted to \$9 billion, which is 12.5% more than in 2019. For the ten months of 2021 (the latest data from Kazakhstani statistics), goods worth \$8.1 billion were sold to China.

In terms of specific products, Kazakhstani suppliers most of all export copper cathodes to China (\$1.84 billion in 2020 and already \$1.85 billion in January-October 2021). If we add to this the supply of copper ores and concentrates (\$1.17 billion in 2020 and the same amount in the ten months of last year), then "copper" exports to China will be even higher. China is the largest consumer of refined copper, purchasing more than half of all copper produced in the world. In particular, according to S&P Global Platts, copper cathodes from Kazakhstan provide 8% of all Chinese imports of this product. Protests and riots in Kazakhstan have not affected copper supplies to China [10].

If in 2019 the main item of Kazakhstani exports to China was natural gas (supplied via the Kazakhstan-China gas pipeline), then in 2020 it was relegated to second place (\$1.4 billion, or 7.37 billion cubic meters), and in January-October 2021 - for the fourth (less than \$1 billion for 5.6 billion cubic meters). The average price of export deliveries of Kazakh gas to China for the reporting period of 2021 dropped to about \$164 per 1,000 cubic meters. m-compared to \$191 in 2020 and \$211 in 2019.

A major commodity export of Kazakhstan is natural uranium - more than \$1.7 billion in total in 2020. It is mainly shipped to China (\$0.77 billion).

The financial role of China in Kazakhstan is much higher than can be judged by official data on foreign direct investment: this is indicated, for example, by the AidData database of the research center, from which it follows that Kazakhstan is one of the top five recipients of "official funding" from Chinese state-owned banks and state-owned companies - \$ 39 billion

in 2000-2017. But official financing is mostly loans and export credits, not equity [10].

An analysis of trade relations between Kazakhstan and China for 2020 showed a decrease in the growth dynamics of bilateral trade.

According to the State Revenue Committee of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in 2020 the volume of bilateral trade amounted to 15.8 billion dollars (+6.8%), of which the export of the Republic of Kazakhstan - 9.4 billion (+17.7%), the import of the Republic of Kazakhstan - \$6.4 billion (-6%).

In turn, according to the Main Custom Administration of China (MCA PRC), in 2020 the volume of bilateral trade amounted to 21.4 billion dollars (-2.5%), of which the export of the Republic of Kazakhstan - 9.7 billion (+5%), imports of the Republic of Kazakhstan -11.7 billion dollars (-8%) [11].

In January-September 2021, according to the State Revenue Committee of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the volume of bilateral trade amounted to 13.5 billion dollars (+12.5%), including exports of the Republic of Kazakhstan - 7.3 billion dollars (-1.3%) and imports - 6.2 billion dollars (+34.7%).

According to the MCA of the PRC, the trade turnover for the same period amounted to 18.9 billion dollars (+20.5%), incl. export - 8.6 billion (+11.1%), import - 10.3 billion dollars (+30.5%).

According to the State Revenue Committee of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan, China has become one of the largest foreign trade partners of Kazakhstan, whose share in the total trade turnover of Kazakhstan in January-September 2021 is 24.8% [12].

In turn, according to the MCA of the PRC, the share of Kazakhstan in the total trade turnover of China in 2020 amounted to 0.4%, in January-September 2021 - 0.46%.

Export of the main goods of the Republic

of Kazakhstan to the PRC - mineral products, metals and products of the chemical industry. Imports of the main goods of the PRC to the Republic of Kazakhstan are machinery, equipment, vehicles, instruments and apparatus, products of the chemical and related industries, metals and products from them.

According to the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as of July 1, 2021, China ranks 5th (\$20.4 billion) in terms of foreign investment attracted to the Republic of Kazakhstan after the Netherlands, the United States, Switzerland and Russia.

Conclusion

Kazakhstan will continue to play an important role in the economic strategy of the People's Republic of China, the region is strategic and against the background of increasing pressure on Russia from the West, Kazakhstan has no maneuvers to diversify the economy, and in this regard, the influence of the Chinese factor will grow. "China will remain an important - and as Western states and companies may become more hesitant to engage with Nur-Sultan even an inevitable - collaborate for the Kazakhstani government. Accordingly, even Kazakhstan will remain adamant about not being overly dependent on its neighbor to the east, China's importance may only grow" [13].

The possible threats and challenges that the Chinese initiative may create for Kazakhstan, or the positive effects that will help Kazakhstan realize its national interests should not be overlooked, either [14]. The establishment of a permanent comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Kazakhstan has historical significance and opens a new chapter of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries. Looking into the future, we can see that the problems of development and opportunities of these relations between China and Kazakhstan will coexist.

The development of a permanent comprehensive strategic partnership between

China and Kazakhstan will face huge challenges. Firstly, the Kazakh people still do not believe in Chinese-Kazakh cooperation. To a certain extent, there are concerns about the "Chinese threat theory", voices and actions against Sino-Kazakh cooperation appear from time to time, secondly, the situation in Central Asia is not optimistic, and China and Kazakhstan are still facing "three forces" and other real threats, thirdly, the "color revolutions" according to some, carried out by Western countries on the periphery, and the intervention of other anti-Chinese forces will also have a certain negative impact on the stable development of Sino-Kazakh relations.

At the same time, the development of a permanent comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Kazakhstan still has obvious advantages. Firstly, from a geographical point of view, China and Kazakhstan are geographically adjacent, with a huge territory and different resources. These factors provide inherent geographical advantages for the development of relations between the two countries. The convenience of exchanges, the vastness of the market and the complementarity of resources will contribute to the deepening of cooperation between the two countries in various fields. Secondly, from the point of view of the stage of development, Kazakhstan is still at an early stage of development, and the construction of various spheres of society is imperfect, and large amounts of investments and resources are urgently needed to support construction, while China is at the historical junction of "exit" and

"involvement", and the level of development in many areas determines the world, and different stages of development provide a rare historical opportunity for rapprochement and integration of relations between the two countries. Finally, from the point of view of national will, the decision makers in the Governments of China and Kazakhstan are strategic and predictable. Based on the development of long-term development plans, they both consider each other as strategic partners and have a firm willingness to cooperate, thereby contributing to the development of relations between the two countries. The preliminary development offers such an opportunity, as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan said when discussing Sino-Kazakh relations, the proximity of the geographical location, the synchronous momentum of development and the common fate of time determine the mutual cooperation between China and Kazakhstan. China-Kazakhstan relations as good neighbors and partners are important and have strategic importance.

In general, the permanent comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Kazakhstan has given rise to new hopes for the further development of good-neighborly and friendly relations between the two countries. Based on effective coordination of internal relations and proper consideration of external factors, China - A permanent comprehensive strategic partnership with Kazakhstan will release more vitality.

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