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Some Examples from the History of the Formation of Eurasian Integration

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Abstract: The article presents historical information about the development and formation of Eurasian integration as a regional process in the post-Soviet space. The experience of the transformation of independent states in Eurasia shows that the speed of awareness of the new reality and the adaptation of actors to its requirements in different post-Soviet societies was different from each other. This situation contributes to the idea of the processes of social change taking place in the post-Soviet space as a kind of world laboratory, where different economic, socio-political, cultural and civilizational models are tested, taking into account not only domestic conditions, but also the international context. The problems faced by the states and societies of the Eurasian space are closely intertwined with the fundamental global changes taking place in the world today. The year 2019 marked the 25th anniversary of an important phenomenon in the socio-economic and political life of Eurasian content countries, namely the regional integration process dubbed "Eurasian integration". Eurasian integration is based on the classical integration theory. Integration processes in the post-Soviet space continue to evolve depending on statistical economic indicators. Against this background, the academic community notes the crucial role of science and education in the subsequent evolution of the regional integration process, so the establishment of the Eurasian Science Forum, which takes place in St. Petersburg and contributes to the regional integration process in the post-Soviet space, is a prime example of this.

Keywords: Eurasian integration, post-Soviet space, multi-speed integration, regional integration, Eurasian Scientific Forum.

Introduction. After the collapse of the Soviet Union there was a bifurcation point of social, economic, political structures of society in the countries that were formerly part of the USSR. During this period, new socio-structural characteristics began to form, which are primarily associated with the transformation of the economy, namely, with a change in the structural form of the economy. In particular, the system of ownership of the means of production underwent a change. However, over time, the economy in the countries of the former Soviet Union began to come to a stable form of capitalist structure. Because of this, it is already safe to say that society in the post-Soviet countries is beginning to acquire an equilibrium form of social structure (Tikhonova, 2011). Perestroika led to the emergence of new political processes. These processes include: the restoration of the system of private property and the privatization by a narrow circle of individuals of what constituted the national wealth, the change of the planned system to a market economy, the destruction of Soviet institutions of power, the rejection of socialist

ideology, etc. Post-Soviet society followed the path of capitalism by changing property relations and destroying former socialist social institutions and replacing them with new ones (Gonashvili, 2021). Despite the radicality of these changes, the countries of the former Soviet Union realized the need to maintain the ties established in the historical phase of the existence of the USSR.

Against this background, a new integration association began to form. The beginning of the formation of integration association in the post-Soviet space is associated with the emergence of a new international organization on the world stage - the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The year 2021 was the 30th anniversary of the CIS. During this period, the historically established interaction and cooperation of the nations of the once single state continued in order to preserve economic, political, and cultural forms of communication between the peoples (Maryshev, Urazalie, 2021). The emergence of the CIS allowed for fragmentation at the regional level in the context of global international processes, thanks to which the states of the former Soviet Union were able to occupy their niche in the world.

Materials and basic methods. One of the significant events of the CIS activity was the signing of the Free Trade Zone Treaty at the meeting of the Council of Heads of Governments on October 18, 2011 in St. Petersburg (Free Trade Zone Treaty..., 2011). Such stage of regional economic integration in CIS had a positive influence on integration processes in the post-Soviet space in general. According to the theory of international politics, it is customary to distinguish the stages of regional economic integration, which include a customs union, a common market, an economic union, and a political union (Belykh, Inshakova, 2005). The next stage in regional economic integration among the states of the former Soviet Union was realized by five CIS states, namely Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia. These states now form the Eurasian Economic Union. These kinds of unions in the expanse of post-Soviet states, emphasize multi-speed integration, the idea of which is that the most developed states unite at a higher level of integration, while maintaining mechanisms that allow the remaining states to join them (Batura, 2010). Thus, the CIS countries follow the path of integration at a pace that suits their capabilities and domestic interests. Preservation of national identity and the right to an independent foreign policy remain one of the most important tasks facing the states in the integration process (Iskakov, Lanina, Spirina, 2018). A key component in solving these tasks is strengthening cooperation, where a reasonable continuation of multi-speed integration can be the concept of "center" in the theoretical approach of R. Prebisch (1992), which implies the association of states being the locomotive of the regional integration process as a center of attraction. The peculiarity of regional economic integration in the post-Soviet space is the openness of the "center" which forms the basis of integration for other countries to join it. The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is such a basis at the moment. Due to the further development of the integration process of interaction in the post-Soviet space, the need for interaction of multi-level integration processes in the CIS and the EAEU as part of the formation of the Greater Eurasian Partnership (Iskakov, Lanina, Spirina, 2018) was promoted.

Results. The year 2019 marked the 25th anniversary of an important phenomenon in the socio-economic and political life of Eurasian content countries, namely the regional integration process called "Eurasian integration" (25 years of Eurasian integration <...>, 2021). Eurasian integration is built on the classical integration theory. Within the framework of Eurasian integration, the concept of the Greater Eurasian Partnership has aroused great interest among the academic community; according to G. Diesen, the creation of viable partnerships with Eurasian powers is critical to the project of a balanced and functional Greater Eurasia (Diesen, 2017). For the adequate development of the named processes, their scientific substantiation, expansion of scientific research and introduction of their results into a wide scientific and practical use is necessary (Iskakov, Lanina, Spirina, 2018). For the states of the former Soviet Union and, more broadly, for the Eurasian states, one of the topical directions of science development is the formation of close scientific cooperation between all participants in integration processes (Spirina, Toropygin, 2011). According to Sergey Glazyev, the activities related to the development of the Eurasian integration process undoubtedly require fundamental scientific

expertise and research work (Glazyev, 2021). A striking example of a comprehensive study of Eurasian integration issues in the post-Soviet space is the Eurasian Science Forum (ESF), which was established by the St. Petersburg Scientific Center of the RAS represented by Nobel laureate J. Alferov and the Interregional Institute of Economics and Law (now - the University associated with IA EAEC) represented by rector I. Iskakov. The purpose of the creation of the ENF is to restore scientific communication in the Eurasian space and strengthen the role of science in economic and educational transformations in the Eurasian space (Iskakov, Lanina, Spirina, 2018). The forum is held annually in St. Petersburg, as its holding serves the implementation of the city's scientific and technological policy, as well as the effective use of the city's scientific and educational potential in the implementation of interregional and international scientific and educational and scientific-technical cooperation. Since 2010, the basis for the ENF became the Interregional Institute of Economics and Law, whose mission is determined by the tasks of integration of educational, scientific and socio-economic activities. Later the ENF became a business card of the University associated with IA EAEC, because since its formation the university began to focus on the restoration of cooperation between representatives of science and education of the new state formations of Eurasia.

Discussion. In more than 10 years of this scientific event, which has become a major international platform for professional communication of representatives of science, education, business community, government agencies, public organizations, it was attended by representatives of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Germany, India, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Lithuania, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Estonia and others. The collections of scientific works published as a result of the forum contribute to the preservation of the historical memory of the Eurasian peoples and provide an opportunity to learn the results of scientific research (fundamental and applied) to the representatives of scientific communities in different countries of the continent. The main scientific directions of the forum are defined as historical, philosophical, political, sociological, economic, legal, pedagogical, psychological sciences, as well as intercultural communication, cultural studies and art history.

It should be noted that the University associated with IA EAEC constantly pays attention to work with the younger generations of the new Eurasian states. It is carried out in different forms, to name just a few: the International Competition of Research and Project Creative Works of Young Scientists of Eurasia "Science and Creativity: Dialogue and Development", dedicated to the World Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (UNESCO); International Research and Practice School "Scientific Spring of Young Scientists of Eurasia", etc. Competitive project was supported by the Standing Committee on Culture, Information, Tourism and Sport of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS. A special place among such events took the International Scientific Symposium "CIS Youth: a vector for integration. The Symposium was opened with the lecture of the outstanding economist Sergey Glazyev after which the academician answered the questions of youth representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, Russia, Tajikistan, and other countries. Almost all subsequent presentations aroused great interest among the participants, who actively joined the discussion on the analyzed problems of cooperation of the CIS member states. As a result of the scientific event, the University published a two-volume volume of works under the same title as the symposium.

Conclusion. Thus, in the current conditions of integration of the Eurasian space becomes a priority foreign policy task for many states of the continent, especially for the states of the former Soviet Union. As part of the implementation of the Eurasian project, it is foreseeable not only to restore destroyed economic ties, but also to reach new levels of economic cooperation, which will inevitably yield positive results in terms of the development of national economies. In this vein, the activity of the University associated with IA EAEC is one of the vivid examples of creating conditions for a favorable regional integration process in the post-Soviet space, allowing for gradual (multi-speed) integration of the former states of the Soviet Union.

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