

Comparative Analysis of the Economies of Türkiye and Uzbekistan

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ABSTRACT

The independence of the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan, described as the Turkic Republic, has added a new dimension to Turkish foreign policy. In this context, relations and cooperation between Turkey and Uzbekistan, where common language, history and cultural ties are shared, have developed rapidly in many areas due to common interests. Turkey's policy towards Uzbekistan is to support the country's continued existence as an independent state that has political and economic stability, is integrated with the international community, and internalizes democratic values. As a matter of fact, Turkey has clearly implemented its strategy and policy on this issue by immediately recognizing Uzbekistan's independence and providing economic support to the country. In this direction, Turkey supports the country with training programs, projects and technical assistance, especially through the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA). In line with this basic strategy, in this study, Uzbekistan and Turkey are evaluated from an economic and sociopolitical perspective and how each country's special location and geopolitical position shapes the strategies they follow.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, Türkiye, USSR, EU, NATO, Economy, Socio-Culture.

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Türkiye ve Özbekistan Ekonomilerinin Karşılaştırmalı Analizi

ÖZ

Orta Asya cumhuriyeti Özbekistan'ın, Türk Cumhuriyeti olarak tanımlanan bağımsızlığı, Türk dış politikasına yeni bir boyut kazandırmıştır. Bu bağlamda, ortak dil, tarih ve kültürel bağların paylaşıldığı Türkiye ile Özbekistan arasındaki ilişkiler ve iş birliği, ortak çıkarlar nedeniyle birçok alanda hızla gelişmiştir. Türkiye'nin Özbekistan'a yönelik politikası, ülkenin siyasi ve ekonomik istikrara sahip, uluslararası toplumla bütünleşmiş ve demokratik değerleri içselleştirmiş bağımsız bir devlet olarak varlığını sürdürmesini desteklemektir. Nitekim Türkiye, Özbekistan'ın bağımsızlığını derhal tanıyarak ve ülkeye ekonomik destek sağlayarak bu konudaki stratejisini ve politikasını açıkça uygulamıştır. Bu doğrultuda Türkiye, özellikle Türk İşbirliği ve Koordinasyon Ajansı (TIKA) aracılığıyla eğitim programları, projeler ve teknik yardımlarla ülkeyi desteklemektedir. Bu temel strateji doğrultusunda, bu çalışmada Özbekistan ve Türkiye ekonomik ve sosyopolitik açıdan değerlendirilmekte ve her ülkenin özel konumu ve jeopolitik konumunun izledikleri stratejileri nasıl şekillendirdiği ele alınmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Özbekistan, Türkiye, SSCB, AB, NATO, Ekonomi, Sosyo-Kültür.

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INTRODUCTION

Türkiye and Uzbekistan are two countries that have common aspects, especially due to their sociocultural ties. However, they have different experiences in terms of the historical change and transformation processes they have experienced. First of all, while Uzbekistan has had close economic, political and sociocultural relations with Russia throughout history, the Republic of Turkey has tried to move forward in a western-centered economic, political and sociocultural line since its foundation.

Within the framework of this purpose, Turkey has become a member of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), UN (United Nations), OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe), IMF (International Monetary Fund), WB (World Bank), WTO (World Trade Organization), UEFA (Union of European Football Associations), the FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) and has been pursuing full membership in the EU (European Union) for 50 years. On the other hand, Uzbekistan is a member of the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States), and the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization), of which Russia is an active member, within the framework of economic, political and sociocultural relations with Russia.

In this respect first, the situation of Uzbekistan was analyzed within an economic and sociopolitical framework. In this context, the background of the economic and sociopolitical processes that have taken shape in Uzbekistan from the past to the present was evaluated. The country's economic and sociopolitical ties, especially with Russia, and their effects on the structural transformation of the country were examined. Indeed, unlike Turkey, Uzbekistan has been making efforts to integrate into the market economy since its independence in 1991. However, Turkey has been following a western-style economic and political strategy since its establishment. In this context, while integration into market integration comes to the forefront for Uzbekistan, Turkey has been making efforts for the stability of the western-style economic model it has been following since the beginning of time. In this respect, it is important to consider the situation of these two countries with a comparative analysis in order to show the necessity of the study.

After considering Uzbekistan's adaptation process to the market economy, Turkey's efforts to achieve stability against the economic crises that recur from time to time, the process of change and transformation are examined. In this context, Turkey's economic and sociopolitical structure has been examined from an analytical perspective from the republic to

the present. In this section, the causes and consequences of Turkey's western-centered reforms and initiatives are discussed. In this context, it has been evaluated whether Turkey's EU, NATO and USA (United States of America)-oriented economic and sociopolitical approach brings the country closer to EU norms and levels. Here, the consequences of economic crises, especially in the development process of the country, are highlighted.

As a result, the economic and sociopolitical structures of Turkey and Uzbekistan were evaluated with a comparative analysis. In this context, the position of the two countries, the reasons, requirements and consequences of the economic and sociopolitical model they follow have been analyzed. Thus, a macroeconomic comparison of the two countries, which is the basis of the research, was made. As a result, it is aimed to contribute to a better situation assessment in order to develop a more successful strategy for each country.

Focus and Research Questions of the Study

This article examines the economic and socio-political change and transformation processes of Türkiye and Uzbekistan with a comparative analysis.

The research questions of this study are listed as follows: What common and different experiences can be mentioned that unite and/or differentiate Turkey and Uzbekistan economically and socio-politically?

The Strategic Importance of Uzbekistan-Turkey Relations

The most important argument that makes this article different and special is that Uzbekistan and Turkey have common characteristics on the one hand, but they are in very different positions in terms of their geographical and political location and history. In this respect, when considering the economic, political and sociocultural relations between these two countries, it is required to consider the dissolution of the USSR as a turning point. Indeed, after the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on December 26, 1991, Uzbekistan began to reshape its relations with other countries of the world, especially Turkey.

Thus, the relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey are based on new and future-oriented strategies. In other words, these relations go beyond being based solely on a common sociocultural past and emphasize the evolution of an intense interaction and cooperation in economic and political terms in the future.

In this context, since the economies, policies and cultural experiences of the two countries started to develop particularly after the collapse of the Soviet Union, it is useful to

first look at their history and bring their history to the forefront. In this respect, although their relations are ancient cultural, they are evaluated as post-Soviet relations and emerging risks.

In addition, after the history of the two countries, the economic, cultural and political aspects of how they developed a strategy for the future and what they are trying to develop are evaluated. This approach is extremely important for the two countries to develop a correct and sustainable strategy. While Uzbekistan is a Central Asian state and a former Soviet republic that became independent in 1991, Turkey has been an independent state and a European Union candidate country since its establishment. Uzbekistan is on the Silk Road, an old trade route between China and the Mediterranean, with its mosques, tombs and historical caravanseraï ruins. Samarkand, one of the most important cities on the route, stands out with its symbolic structures of Islamic architecture.

Table: 1. Comparative Analysis of Turkey-Uzbekistan Relations in Economic, Political and Sociocultural Terms

Economic	Political	Sociocultural
The bilateral trade volume between Turkey and Uzbekistan was 1.5 billion dollars in 2017, 1.7 billion dollars in 2018, 2.3 billion dollars in 2019 and 3 billion dollars in 2023. Strategies are being developed to increase the trade volume to 5 billion dollars in the first stage and then to 10 billion dollars.	The Republic of Türkiye was the first country to recognize the independence of Uzbekistan on 16 December 1991.	Uzbekistan is in an important position for regional peace and stability with its population exceeding 33 million, geostrategic location, deep-rooted history, rich cultural values and economic potential. Turkey attaches great importance to the development of cooperation with brotherly Uzbekistan in all areas and maintains its will to advance relations that draw strength from the close ties between the Turkish and Uzbek peoples.
A total of 1900 Turkish-capital companies, 100 of which are representative offices, operate in Uzbekistan, primarily in the textile, contracting, food, hotel, construction materials and plastic, pharmaceutical and service sectors. Their investments are around 1.7 billion dollars. Projects undertaken by Turkish contractors are around 7.2 billion dollars.	Diplomatic relations have been established between the two countries. In order to establish the legal basis of relations, more than 100 bilateral agreements and protocols have been signed with this country, and many high-level visits have been made. It was decided to establish the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (YDSK) between Uzbekistan and Turkey.	The two countries support various exchange and transformation programs, such as the Mevlana Exchange Program, to carry out education, cultural activities and joint projects within the framework of the socio-cultural revival of the Silk Road process.

Source: (DEIK 2024; Şimşek & Kurt 2021).

Turkey, on the other hand, is a transit country that acts as a bridge between Asia and Europe in terms of historical artifacts, economic and political relations. The country has an important geopolitical and geostrategic position due to its location at the intersection of important geographical points such as the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, Asia and Europe. In this context, Uzbekistan has a fertile area such as the Fergana Valley, and it is a landlocked country in Central Asia, but it is close to China and Russia and is at the center of the Turkic Republics, which is of particular importance to Turkey (Şimşek & Kurt 2021). It is also important for Uzbekistan to be a European Union candidate country surrounded by seas on four sides. Thus, Uzbekistan is trying to manage its relations with the West through Turkey, while balancing its relations with Russia. This is reflected in the economy, policy and political relations of the two countries.

Uzbekistan's Russian-Axis Economic and Sociopolitical Position from Past to Present

Uzbekistan is a Central Asian country that has cooperated closely with Russia in economic, political and socio-cultural terms from past to present and has made joint decisions from time to time. Uzbekistan, which has been independent since the dissolution of the USSR in 1991, continues its existence within the CIS as a country with agricultural, mining and oil export capacity. As a result, Uzbekistan, which continues to remain in Russia's orbit, is directly affected by economic and political developments in Russia.

Uzbekistan currently has close economic and political ties with Moscow, as it did during the Tsarist, Bolshevik and Communist periods. As a matter of fact, Uzbekistan is a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States established by Russia. When viewed in this context, Uzbekistan is still within Russia's sphere of influence, as it was in the past, and the two countries aim to protect their mutual economic and political interests. As it is known, the Commonwealth of Independent States is a community of states established by the agreement signed between Russia, Ukraine and Belarus on December 8, 1991. With the agreement, the Soviet Union was officially collapsed. On December 21, 1991, all former Soviet Republics except Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine and Georgia signed this agreement. Currently, the member countries are Azerbaijan, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Russia and Tajikistan, respectively (Tolkun 2021).

The Adaptation Process of Uzbekistan Economy from the USSR System to the Market Economy

After the dissolution of the USSR (The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Uzbekistan, like other Turkic Republics, entered a new turning point by declaring its independence. However, even though 30 years have passed since the country gained its independence, it is still in the transition phase from a centrally planned economy to a market-oriented economy. For a long time, the state's economic and investment strategies aimed to remain largely independent of external influences. Economic liberalization, privatization and structural reforms are making slow progress (Aben 2022).

On the other hand, as in all former USSR member countries, after Uzbekistan left the USSR and declared its independence in December 1991, it was initially full of uncertainty in which direction it would develop and how it would determine its direction. Indeed, for Uzbekistan, independence brought with it several serious problems at the economic and political level that the young state could not cope with. On the other hand, intense support from Russia, Europe, China and the USA enabled the country's integration into the market economy in a short time (Alpago 2018).

Position and Importance of Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan is geographically located between China in the east, Afghanistan in the south, Turkmenistan in the west and Kazakhstan in the north. The country consists of many ethnic groups, and the Uzbek ethnic group lives outside the country in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. According to 2024 data, the population of Uzbekistan consists of 83.8% Uzbeks, 4.8% Tajiks, 2.5% Kazakhs, 2.3% Russians, 2.2% Karakalpaks, 1.5% Tatars and 2.9% other ethnic groups. This situation is primarily due to Stalin's management policy (TASAM 2024).

The majority of the population is concentrated in the fertile Fergana Valley in the easternmost branch of the country. While significant human communities exist in the south, the central and western deserts are sparsely populated (Muradova 2010).

Economic and Social Structure of Uzbekistan During USSR Membership

Uzbekistan was granted the status of an autonomous Soviet republic by Stalin in 1936. During its membership in the USSR, Uzbekistan had a very limited scope of activity in foreign policy. The country had no authority to represent itself abroad. Accordingly, there was a strong economic dependence on Russia. The country's industrial development lagged far behind the

rest of the Soviet Union, as its industrial production per capita was half that of the Russian Federation. Since the region initially lacked an industrially qualified workforce, there were many foreigners, mostly Russians, who migrated to the industrialized regions of Central Asia to fill the large number of job vacancies. During the USSR, industry was largely dependent on Russia, or at least oriented towards bilateral trade with Russia (CIA 2024). On the other hand, two reasons can be seen for Uzbekistan to have close ties with Russia even after independence. The first of these is its economic dependence on Russia, especially in terms of industrialization and technology. The second reason is that it had to cooperate closely with Russia due to its geographical location and political relations. In addition, as we mentioned at the beginning, Uzbekistan became a member of the CIS after declaring its independence. The basic policy of the member countries of this union is based on intense economic, political and sociocultural relations among themselves (Kangal 2022).

Reconstruction Process of Uzbekistan from its Independence to the Present Day

As observed in all Central Asian countries, Uzbekistan experienced rapid declines in its gross domestic product after declaring its independence in 1991. Thus, the country experienced a serious economic crisis at first stage. For example, in 1990-95 GDP fell by 55 percent in Kazakhstan, 49 percent in Kyrgyzstan, and 16 percent in Uzbekistan. The main reason for this was the deterioration of economic relations with Russia, that is, the lack of subsidies from Moscow and the difficulty of trade. Since the Central Asian states were ruled by the Tsar and later by the Soviets since the 19th century, they were never able to develop their own functioning industries (Aben 2022).

The Central Asian belt of the CIS, which includes Uzbekistan, faced not only economic problems but also political stability problems for a while. The fully independent republics faced some problems, especially between 1991 and 2000 (Çatalbaş 2014). As a result, political administrations faced problems such as lack of experience and lack of democracy, and this situation led to turbulence from time to time in the efforts to ensure internal stability (Dilaver 2020).

Full Economic and Political Integration into Russia

The country has been experiencing a process that is compatible with Russia and prone to full integration from past to present. According to official data, the Uzbek economy has grown continuously by at least five percent since 2017 (Önder 2024). After the weakening in 2020 due to the corona epidemic, a strong increase plus 7.4 percent came in 2021. The International

Monetary Fund (IMF) expects growth rates of around five percent for 2024 and subsequent years (URL-1).

The Uzbek economy is largely dependent on world market prices of the country's main exports such as gas, metals, cotton, as well as on the economic situation of its main trading partners, China and Russia. Russia's offensive against Ukraine has a significant impact on Uzbekistan. In this context, food and transportation costs increased, exports to Russia tended to decrease, and foreign exchange inflows from Uzbek migrant workers from Russia also decreased. On the other hand, to combat inflation, the government-imposed price controls, eliminated import duties on basic foods, increased the minimum wage, and established a crisis fund for Uzbek companies (URL-2).

Comprehensive Reforms

The economy is at the center of Uzbekistan's reform policy. In recent years, the government has taken many measures to improve the investment environment, increase competitiveness and create employment. These include the relaxation of exchange rate policy, tax and customs reforms, and the gradual privatization of state-owned companies. However, the framework conditions for private sector participation remain difficult. Potential investors are deterred by the continued strong presence of the state in many economic sectors, lengthy approval procedures, lack of legal certainty and inadequate infrastructure, among other factors.

On the other hand, widespread corruption in the country is also seen as an important problem. This situation has steadily improved over the past decade, according to Transparency International data. However, Uzbekistan, ranked 140th among 180 countries evaluated in 2021, is still in the bottom third of the ranking (Doroshko 2013).

Development Potential

Uzbekistan has good development opportunities due to its natural resources such as gold, copper, uranium, coal and natural gas and its central location. Important pillars of the economy are the fuel industry, mechanical engineering, metal processing, transportation equipment construction and electrical engineering (URL 3). The textile sector, electricity sector and mobile communications sector also have development potential. When the sectoral distribution of 2023 GDP in Uzbekistan is examined, it is seen that 43.4 percent is services, 26 percent is industry, 24.3 percent is agriculture and 6.2 percent is construction (Önder 2024). For foreign investors, the country can serve as a bridge to the entire Central Asian market. One of the country's

strengths is its young population. If educational opportunities are improved, Uzbekistan's economy can count on a large number of qualified workers (Erol 2018).

Instantaneous Expansion of Renewable or Green Energy

While the share of green or renewable energies in electricity production in Uzbekistan was 9 percent in 2022, this rate is expected to increase to at least 25 percent by 2026 (İTO, 2024). The target is to reach 40 percent by 2030. To achieve this ambitious goal, systems with a total capacity of up to 25 gigawatts need to be added (Önder 2024).

Moreover, Uzbekistan is expected to operate eight gigawatts worth of new industrial green power plants by 2026. There are currently 19 solar power plants 4 gigawatts, 7 wind power plants 3.1 gigawatts and some hydroelectric power plants 0.9 gigawatts under implementation. Additionally, 9 billion US dollars of foreign investment is flowing into these projects (Kadirov 2015).

The government of Uzbekistan and the World Bank predict that economic growth will increase to 5.5 percent in 2024 and 5.8 percent in 2025. The drivers of economic recovery are broad. In fact, the Republic of Uzbekistan is known as one of the most reform-oriented countries in the world with a population of 36.6 million. However, it cannot be ignored that many of the new regulations are still not consistently implemented. Moreover, the need for reform in many areas of the economy remains great (TİKA 2024).

According to the government's estimate, the total FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) will be around 30 billion US dollars in 2024. The driving force is the private sector. In 2024, they will invest 16 to 18 percent more in their projects compared to 2023 (URL-2). Foreign investments and loans are expected to constitute more than two-fifths of the total expected investments. The high proportion of machinery and equipment in gross fixed capital formation is particularly striking. For years, this rate was around 40 percent. This is not surprising since the main investment sector in the country has been and continues to be manufacturing. This is followed by raw material extraction, housing construction, the electricity sector and the transportation and logistics sector (TOBB 2024).

The population of Uzbekistan can look forward to increasing real incomes. In the January-September 2023 period, the increase was 3.5 percent. The main reasons for this are rising wages, increased work among the self-employed in the service sector and more sales of agricultural products from secondary sectors (TUİK 2024).

As income increases, consumption also increases. This is also supported by high private money transfers from abroad, especially from Russia, increased consumer loans and increased domestic tourism. However, according to 2023 projections, per capita spending on services \$90 and retail \$60 is still low. In the capital Tashkent, these amounts are several times higher. Domestic and foreign trading companies are expanding, thanks to the opening of the market and the concentration of trade on supermarkets, shopping malls and specialist retailers.

In addition, imports of goods and services are expected to increase by up to 20 percent in 2023 and 2024. Import growth is based on increasing trade liberalization, rapid capital inflows from abroad, and increasing consumption. It is noteworthy that traditionally, approximately 40 percent of total imports come from the supply of machinery, equipment, and transportation vehicles. Since the country has not yet acquired a sufficient technological infrastructure, it is anticipated that the import rate in this area will continue to be high in the future, especially due to external dependence on machinery and equipment. This is supported by many new projects in the manufacturing sector, the electricity sector, agriculture, and construction sectors (Alagöz et.al. 2004).

Exports are dominated by gold, textiles/clothing, non-ferrous metals/their products and fruits and vegetables. Without gold exports, exports are expected to increase by 10 to 12 percent in 2023 and 2024. The main source countries and sales markets are China and Russia. Germany is the EU's main purchasing market and delivered 760 million euros worth of goods to Uzbekistan between January and September 2023 (Bekar 2024).

Economic Restructuring Process of the Turkish Economy from the Ottoman Empire to the Republic of Turkey

The Republic of Turkey followed the agriculture-based economic system inherited from the Ottoman Empire and an industrialization policy based on the western economic model. Indeed, agriculture and its sector played an important role in the Turkish economy and society from the establishment of the republic in 1923 until the early 1990s, and indirectly played a fundamental determining role in the country's politics through interest groups. Ataturk's statement "The peasant is the master of the nation!" can be considered the most competent expression of this situation (Balıkcıoğlu 2019).

The Ottoman economic system was also basically based on agriculture. In this context, although Turkey followed an industrialization policy with the republic, it focused on the use of machines in basic agriculture. In this respect, higher efficiency in agriculture was aimed with

modern agricultural tools, equipment and machinery rather than heavy industry. Only in the mid-1990s did the Republic of Turkey begin to transition from an agricultural society to an agriculture-based industrial society.

Especially in Turkey, as in the rest of the world, with the official dissolution of the USSR in 1991, western-style economic developments based on urbanization gained momentum throughout the world. In this economic understanding, the economic system based on production, consumption and marketing began to be city-centered. Even classical agriculture has now given way to livestock farming, greenhouse farming and Ricardo's theories of comparative and absolute advantage. Turkey has reduced the role of domestic agriculture by paying particular attention to the cost factor to meet its food needs and by importing agricultural products from countries where it has a comparative advantage. In this context, agricultural subsidies were given only to high-productivity areas, and low-productivity agricultural areas were not supported (Hamzaoğlu 2022).

Due to the long-standing tradition of the agricultural sector, social structure and the economic importance of agricultural products, Turkish farmers have a high degree of ability to express and implement their interests. Therefore, since the introduction of the multi-party system in 1947, the relevant governments and oppositions have been trying to more or less win the voting rights of farmers and the rural population (ITO 2024).

Governments often tried to win rural votes, that is, the votes of the rural population, through economic advantages for farmers such as tax relief and especially subsidies. Undoubtedly, at the beginning of the Republic of Turkey under Atatürk and after the end of the Second World War, economic aspects played an important role in the implementation of subsidies, namely the promotion of the agricultural sector, but this is no longer the case last ten years. Rather, farmers' interest groups used rural votes to influence politics to gain or maintain greater advantages. This situation raises the question to what extent interest groups in the agricultural sector are a driving force or brake on the Turkish economy (Hepaktan & Çılbant 2016).

Turkey's Taking the West as an Economic and Sociopolitical Model

From its establishment until today, the Republic of Turkey has been engaged in a structuring effort based on a western-style model as an economic and social system. However, economically and politically, this process occasionally experiences serious disruptions and turbulence. For example, although the country moved from a single-party government system

to a multi-party democracy system in 1950, it is occasionally marred by party closures and coups. As a matter of fact, coups occurred in 1960, 1971, 1980, 1997 and 2016 and democratic rights were suspended by declarations of state of emergency. Economically, deep economic crises are experienced from time to time depending on national and global factors. As a result of these crises, the Turkish lira experienced devaluation, inflation increased to double digits, the unemployment rate increased to double digits, and the budget deficit, external debt, current account deficit and poverty rate exceeded acceptable limits (Alpago 2022).

In the Turkish economy, three continuous basic economic indicators show that the economic crisis has reached its peak and necessitates taking radical measures. These key indicators are inflation, unemployment and poverty. These three basic indicators are factors that trigger each other. In the years when these indicators are present, radical changes such as coups and the party in power losing the election are seen as the most striking events.

Table: 2. Inflation and Unemployment during Economic Crisis Periods

Year	Inflation	Unemployment
1980	110,6 %	7,2 %
1988	73,7 %	8,7 %
1994	104,5 %	8,0 %
2001	54,2 %	7,8 %
2023	64,77	10,4 %

Source: (TUIK 2024; İTO 2024).

CONCLUSION

Since Uzbekistan and Turkey are in different geopolitical positions, it is possible to say that the economic and sociopolitical strategies they follow are different today as they were in the past. The Republic of Turkey maintains its close relations with the EU and its western allies today, as it did in the past. On the other hand, Uzbekistan follows a completely different strategy from Turkey due to its geopolitical location. The strategy followed by the country largely requires economic and sociopolitical integration with Russia. Despite these differences, the two countries have followed a friendly and mutual support strategy throughout history, especially due to their deep-rooted sociocultural ties.

Turkey, which is among the 20 largest economies in the world and one of the most important players in the region with its growth figures, offers significant investment opportunities to the countries in the region in terms of economic and commercial opportunities.

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Turkey aims to strengthen and diversify its cooperation with Uzbekistan through mechanisms such as high-level mutual visits, joint economic commissions, joint land transport commissions, works councils and high-level strategic cooperation councils. Relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey are at the level of strategic partnership and are developing rapidly in many areas, especially trade, economy, investment and construction. Türkiye also runs a comprehensive scholarship program called “Türkiye Scholarships” for Uzbekistan students.

Finally, despite the physical distance between them, Turkey and Uzbekistan have cooperated closely throughout history due to their economic, political and especially common sociocultural values, and they are making joint efforts to further develop this cooperation and carry it into the future.

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<i>Çıkar Çatışması:</i>	Çalışmada kişiler veya kurumlar arası çıkar çatışması bulunmamaktadır.	<i>Conflict of Interest:</i>	The authors declare that declare no conflict of interest.
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