# European Union as a New Actor in Central Asia: Its Interests and Challenges

## Mubeen Adnan & Bushra Fatima\*

## Abstract

In the global politics, Central Asia with its five stans namely, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan playing a vital and a contributing role with other states for a multiple purposes. European Union being the huge and vast union presenting its contribution and part as a new actor in the great game of Central Asia in order to achieve its goals and objectives for the purpose of fulfilling its national interest. The main aim of writing this article that specifies on the part of European Union (EU) as an entrance, arch or as a portal in Central Asian region, also focused on the European Union interests in this landlocked region. Both Central Asia and European Union shared a heightened and widen mutual interest in political as well as in economic relations. European Union is having cooperative and collaborative relations with all the five states of the region. European Union can also be labeled as the United States of Europe mainly concerned, having a keen interest and keeping an eye on Inner Asia for having control of the oil and gas reserves which the region is rich and wealthy especially due to the reason for throwing out the Russia's interest for this region. Apart from this, for the development of industries, machinery, vehicles, energy pipelines EU making efforts to develop good relations with all the five republics of this region. Thus in the contemporary 21st century, other than the USA, European Union is thoroughly and wholly re-appraise and re-examined its strategy for the bilateral relations, for the democratization, for the better relations with the civil societies within Central Asia. Some of the challenges regarding EU in this land also highlighted. Efforts by the EU in capturing the resources and definitely for the successful outcomes to achieve its main goal are and would be in process in dealing with this large and expand territory so called Heartland of Central Asia.

**Keywords:** Central Asia, European Union, Interests, Co-operation, Silk Road, Energy Resources, Challenges.

# Introduction

Central Asia, a landlocked region consists of five different republics win independence and arise as liberal after the demise of Soviet Union specifically in 1991. Due to the disintegration of former Soviet Union that in fact came up with a drastic new change in terms of both the historical as well as political

<sup>\*</sup>Authors are Assistant Professor and M.Phil. Scholar at Dept. of Political Science; University of the Punjab, Lahore - Pakistan.

backstage of Central Asian republics. By Geographical means Central Asia is one of the great and huge division of land on the globe located on the east of Caspian Sea, mounted and enclosed by the demarcation line of Iran and Afghanistan in the south, whereas Russian Siberian and the Xinjiang province in China come across north and eastern portion correspondingly.

Central Asian region being the closest border to Afghanistan is a witnessed eye on the part of the European Union. European Union which is a politicaleconomic confederation of twenty-eight member states residing in Europe, right after the independence of Central Asia from the loop and Gordian knot of USSR, on the journey of making and developing new strategies and new policies within Central Asian region. Europe which is surrounded by the Arctic, Atlantic Oceans towards the north and west also the Mediterranean Sea and Black sea follows towards the south and the south-east parts respectively. From the area and landscape perspective the two regions i.e. Central Asia as well as the Europe both is having vast and large surface area. By Asia Europe is divided in different mountainous areas and rivers in which Caspian Sea and Black Sea are significant from the point of view in connection with Central Asian region. In the historical background Europe integrated in the Eurasian region and open its doors not only for the economic and political links but also amalgamate its diplomatic representations and for the travelling purposes. European Union is engaged in Central Asian region for a multipurpose aspect such as economic, political, strategic, trade, geopolitics, cultural also for the technological development. Central Asian region seeking its reach for the greater contact with the outside world in order to build outstanding image in the international system. In 1990s Central Asian Republics (CARs) was quite free from the Western culture whereas European Union used to promote the western culture."In the early 1990s, the engagement of the Western states in Central Asia remained modest: essentially focused on energy projects and cultural ties." (Melvin, 2008, p. 2) Central Asia or Middle Asia looked European Union (EU), United Kingdom (UK), United States of America (USA) and Japan for the strong global economy, development and endorsement of the foreign direct investment. Moreover, on the part of CARs, European states stepped forward for the prudent and circumspect solicit. It is a subsequent and ensuring question raised that why the Europeans and the westerns wants to merged or coalesce in eternal relations and bonds with Asian country particularly with the Central Asian republics due to the reasoning that as Central Asia being the silkstocking and guid in with natural resources and accumulation.

## **Historical Context**

In the historical analysis, Central Asia is the region which is important and dominant from both Eastern and Western bird's eye view. On the boundaries of Central Asian region there is a challenging and stimulating situation in terms of its connection with the Eastern and the Western blocs. In the past magnificence, the Greeks invasion mainly the contribution of Alexander the Great, in the Central Asia specifically in fourth century B.C. revamp and transmute the set of circumstances. However, in the fifth and sixth centuries the Turkic flock and bunch began appeared in the southern areas of the Central Asian region. The nomadic and pastoral Iranians protest against security of this region because of the fact that the ethnic group of Indo-Europeans were earlier on domiciled in everywhere in the urban areas. There was also supremacy signs of the Iranian civilization in this region. In the eighth century A.D., the Arabs vanguishments and the overpowering in this region, also in the ninth and tenth century many Indo-Europeans originated ethnically in this region, on the other hand the ferocious and the callous Mongol clobber and wallop in the thirteenth century A.D. and the most propellant and presiding Russians annexation and seizure in the nineteenth century. "Persian, Arab, Mongols and Russians have all met in the heart of the Eurasian continent to exchange culture, history, and commodities to create the true melting pot of human history." (Hasse, 2008, p. 9)

Furthermore the settlers and the populace belong to Central Asia have been for a long duration under the control and influence of the political, cultural, ethics and ideological intention of others in the primitive times. The ancient Central Asia edification and cultivation is fabricated and put up in the large natural elevation of the earth's surface, valleys and the clay pan, environ and wall in around the region all these characteristics apprehend and penetrate the modern present day Central Asia. Prior the treaty of Westphalia in 1648, (Westphalia is a region in Germany) the tribal societies were burgeon and make strides in the region, and there were peasants and undomesticated as well as translocation and migrating birds. A large number of community still residing in the ancient fertile valleys that subsist all over in Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers. In the history of this region, many Europeans and Russians were also sojourn in and were emigrate and overseas during the Soviet influence. Additionally, there was a socio-cultural alignment and orientation in terms of the Arab triumph and mastery above the Chinese Army in 751 A.D. across the Talas River which is presently located in Kazakhstan. It is observed that the battle between the Arabs and the China helped in the creation of the Central Asian region along with the cultural ties.

The last decagon of the twentieth century is defined as the turning point and critical moment in the antiquity of the Central Asia. Later than, after the seventy-years long duration of Soviet rule the Central Asian republics were given civil liberties to become sovereign and autonomous in their own free way as a nation-state. "The Soviet Union, which ruled the region both politically and socially, kept a firm and decisive grip on all matters related to life within the region".(Hasse,2008, p. 11)Preparatory to the demise of the Soviet Union, there was no concept or know-how of the nation-hood and national identity in Central Asia, it was considered as a new idea and new innovation between the republics. The region is also under the control of the Turkic and Mongols but for a short duration and were separated when there instigators and founding fathers succumb and drop off. For many centuries, these occupier and intruder were also dominated by the Islamic culture of Iranians that had a commanding and assertive role in Central Asia. After the independence, Central Asian states have took forward and be at the helm in order to overcome the differences among themselves and intended to solve the problems regarding congenital and the feudal culture. In the overall religious scenario, Islam has provided a foundation for the establishment of the Central Asian states. As it is observed that "prior to the Russian invasion Islam dominated and provided the legal and moral structure within Central Asian states." (Hasse, 2008, p. 13) Many in the Western bloc were afraid from the view that after the self-reliance and home-rule, Islamic mossback and extremists used to expel and spew out in the Central Asian states. Nevertheless, in the wake of gaining independence the leaders of these five stans originated the concept of the identity in a way by building the nationstate concept such as Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Tajiks, Turkmen and Uzbek. As it is noted that approximately 230,000 ethnic Germans are still living in Kazakhstan." (Cameron, 2009, p. 46) In terms of the ethnicity or the ethnic circle, many ethnic groups were ignored and separated in this region for example those of Samarkand and Bukhara related to the Iranian civilization and also the Uzbekistan where still the Iranian society is living. "Ethnic demographics still pose a threat to stability in the region because Russian. Turkish, Uzbek, Kazakh, and other ethnicities are scattered across national borders."(Cameron, 2009, p. 13)

Most interestingly, in case of the independence of Central Asia, it was not a matter of prediction or the revolution rather they were given liberty and freedom deliberately and voluntarily. "Since liberation from the Soviet Union there have been drastic changes within the states themselves, but rather than reflecting true ideological transformations these changes have been superficial" (Hasse, 2008, p. 16). Thus Central Asia historical background is filled with complexities and scuffle on the part of not only the giant role of

Soviet Union but also many other states were involved in the primitive times tug of war in this region.

On the part of the Europeans involvement in this region can be seen from the very emerging role of the Eastern and the Western sides of the Europe in playing their wrestling match in this land surface state. In the historical background, Europe can be divided into three phases,

- The first one represents the era before the Middle Ages or the era of classical times and other human civilizations include the emergence of the ancient Greeks and ancient Rome.
- The second phase includes the era of Christian Europe which originated after the crumple of the Western Empire.
- The third era covers when the Romans were prosperously and auspiciously challenged by the religious anarchists and there was an innovation of the new scientific techniques and the Europeans set about on the policy and stratagem of despotism and tyranny in order to establish and stumble on the continents in pursue of developed and rich colonies.

By the beginning of the sixteenth century, the territorial states with weak markets were dominant in the west maritime and north and east continental principles of Europe. However, in the continental and trade, the widespread markets were more ruling over the weak universal system of Empire. This opposition between the market less peripheral states and stateless central networks attracts the essential openness of the system. Since the 16th century, European integration is the main in the history of the Europe, which includes at the first, is the state building, the development of capitalism, the building of nation, process of democracy, formation of the welfare system, and also the economic, cultural and political administration.

Since the First World War (1914-1918), trade and financial markets were not in regularity either in national or international. But after the First World War, the things and the processes were reestablished for the development. Similarly, after the Second World War (1939-1945), governmental settings worked for the exploitation of the capital capacity in order to have gain profit and new inventions by using the tool of macroeconomic measure without restricting the choices of the producers and consumers. Integration is described as the major development in the historical perspective of the EU.

Moreover, in the second half of the 19th century, there was a great transformation from attempt to set a self-regulatory market worldwide to

corporatist, communist and social democracy. The process of integration was initiated in the mid of 1970s and onwards within the international processes. To some extent, the EU's limited capacity in the formation of its system is highly reflective in limiting the role of the state in the transfer of power from the central to the local authority.

Therefore the common market should be beneficial for the general goals and objectives of the EU. In the year 1950s and 1960s, where for the formation of the political project economic boundaries were eliminated. To liberalize at the international level and also exchanges with each also became a major goal in order to establish in the economic growth. The judicial and legal administrative settings are also useful in the economic integration of the EU, where the new legality of universality is also initiated.

Internationalization of the economic process that change the position of the vital part of the value and formation of the profit in terms of the external borders of the Europe and in those countries where the economic and property rights system are associated in the widespread of the EU common market. In the historical perspective, the new part of the preeminent nation-state boundary involves the European integration. It is viewed as a critical juncture in the European history which largely impacts on the European political structures.

# **Central Asia and Europe**

The vast Central Asia also called as the Multi-ethnic states of Asia and European Union can be labeled as the United States of Europe.

"Today, the five countries of Central Asia continue to represent the cultural, economic, and political crossroads of Asia and Europe." (Stevenson, 2011, p. 1) In the latter half of the twentieth century, the three aspects such as cold war, decolonization and European integration altogether brought drastic changes in the nature of Europe. On the other hand, the trends such as globalization and internationalization are fundamental in altering into the wider context.

- Firstly, the cold war has great implications in the Europe where the Europe was divided into west and east and there was a diplomatic struggle between the two superpowers over the expansion of capitalism or the communism.
- Secondly, in the Second World War (1939-1945) the major role was performed by the imperial power in Europe where France and Germany were the most influential and played dominant role in new

- constructions and also in this era the decolonization emerges both at the local and international level.
- Thirdly, European integration began within the Western Europe by the core states. The process of the integration has many facets and aspects. The age of nationalism is dominant with respect to the two world wars and was transformed into supranational age.

# **European Union (EU) Interests in Central Asia**

"After the fall of the Soviet Union, the EU found itself marginalized in the region, with the ascendancy of Turkey, Russia, the US and China." (Cameron, 2009, p. 31)In the modern era of 21st century, the principle task of European Union (EU) is to build and maintain peace, stability, security and prosperity to the entire European continent. This gives a clear image in the formation of the European Union where twenty-eight member states are united to become powerful in the globalized world. Economically the European Union is a super power and its currency dominates in the world market. Due to its weak military muscles the EU does compete with the United States, a dominant state in the world politics. The EU is a union of nation states, with strong major institutions that work actively in the maintenance of the European Union. Currently EU contains multiple cores, where member states work collectively for the further development in the field of economic, politics, humanitarian, environmental, technology as well as the scientific field. As such, EU showed great interests and entered its great involvement in this region specifically in the year 2004.

The EU is combination of intergovernmental cooperation and communautaire institutions. The yearly gas conflict between the Russia and Ukraine which was mainly an eye focused by the EU states in order to attain and achieve embryonic and dormant position in the Central Asian region as an energy makeshift and transitory. Nevertheless, in 2005,EU also created a EU Special Representative (EUSR)for the region which appeared as a role model in the regional integration. Interestingly, the two major states of European Union namely Germany and France had taken the case of Central Asian region as being engaged in closed connection with this region. "Germany is by far the most important member state in the region and the only one with embassies in all five capitals." (Cameron, 2009, p. 45)

After the 9/11 incident, EU made more developments in this region and it was contemplated and sketched as a turning point on the part of EU. When Afghanistan's extremists' groups intervention in the Central Asia from this time, EU engaged herself to see the matters as the re-evaluation of the attempts and initiated in providing comfort and reinforcement for the Central

Asian Republics (CARs). European Neighborhood policy was established in favor of EU main concern for having neighborhood relations for the Central Asian republics and can be titled as the neighbors of our neighbors. As a further matter, EU also played a vital role for having strong ties and bond with the Central Asian states, the most remarkable example on this part is that of Kazakhstan's oil and gas reserves and Turkmenistan's gas became a great provenance and origin of attractiveness for the European nations. It was the main intention of EU to import the Central Asia's oil and gas reserves without transporting or passing through the western sides especially to that of Russia so that there should be no influence or control of the Russians in this oil rich region. "The region is a source of significant energy imports for the EU. All five Central Asian countries are beneficiaries of the EU's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)."(Cameron, 2009, p. 31) European Union is now one of the main trading companion and collaborator with the Central Asian states. In 2006, the European Council obstinate and marked to intricate and serpentine EU legislative and bureaucratic policies specifically for the Central Asia. Partnerships and Cooperative Agreements (PCAs) is formed by the EU for the advancement and promotion of the bilateral relationships with the five republics of Central Asia. This agreement is based on the three foundations and pilaster for multifariousness cooperation such as

- Economic ties
- Trade relations
- Political, governmental and administrative duologue

As such, EU showed great interests and entered its great involvement specifically in the year 2004. The years 2004 and 2007 are highlighted at the world-level because of the European Union's (EU) interests in maintaining and prolonging the bilateral and regional relations with CARs. The European Union also focuses in providing them with the economic, cultural social and democratic aid. The other EU member states such as United Kingdom, Italy, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania and Baltic states have different center of interests like UK is interested in Central Asia for the financial and monetary services, Italy for the industrial sectors and textiles development, Romania and Bulgaria for the energy services whereas Baltic states and Poland has had keen engrossment and heed and performed as shipment fulcrum and opening channel for the Central Asian exports.. In 2010 the European Union's institutions gives a different image prior to ten years. Yet currently it includes a single most European Administration, where Commission, the Council Secretariat and the new Diplomatic Service are vital.

Multiple interests of European Union in Central Asia can be summed up as follows.

- As Central Asia has had a threat from Afghanistan, for this European states mainly concerned for the protection of humanitarian laws and also performed functions for the security matters in this region.
- Also there is an issue of drug-trafficking, EU played a vital role for the blockade of such transition in the region.
- EU in terms of having strong economic ties with Central Asian states to become more developed in the economic regional integration.
- Russia being the most giant lion in controlling the Central Asian republics, and to capture and influence all the natural resources of CARs, for this EU's main interest to get benefited from the oil and gas reserves of Central Asian republics and to throw-out the Soviet rule.
- For the development of industries, machinery, vehicles, energy pipelines EU supported all the five republics of this region.
- Not only for the macro-economic growth but also for the stability in political circumstances and political stuff, alongwith the cultural manifestations EU penetrated and grasp its attention within this land surrounded area.
- Apart from all these, EU wants to have closer connections with this region for the more attractive state in the international system.

# **European Union-Central Asia Cooperation**

EU-Central Asia cooperation is important also in terms of the region's security. In the international system EU is Central Asia's emerged as a second-largest trading comrade and also presents as a negotiator and donor in the field of cooperation framework or projects that was mainly aimed at modernization and ameliorate. The Central Asian region has enormous potential in terms of business and development opportunities particularly for the duration of 2014-2020 period, as such somehow 1.068 billion euro of funding is get-at-able for the EU strategy for Central Asia, with a spread or mount up of 56% over the previous era i.e. from 2007-2013.

As the region faces new and escalating security challenges, in particular in the context of Afghanistan, security issues are at the forefront of its relations with the EU. The fields are highlighted mainly educational sector, the rule of law, energy and transport, environmental management and challenges relating to water resource management, as well as trade and economic relations all these are the crucial sectors in which the EU and Central Asia have developed close cooperation and understanding links among each other.

The EU established economic relationship with the Asian countries, as it is described that "The problem for the EU with trade with East Asia is not so much its size but its rate of growth" (Fulbrook, 2001, p. 159). There was an import and export between the European Union and the Asian countries, as it is estimated that Asia is conducted for approximately one quarter of the EU global imports. The EU in terms of giving priority to the region also to region arrangements does not coincide in making progress for regional integration in third world countries. Eurasia is geographical notion, which means that it is a combined continental landmass of Europe and Asia.

Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) is basically an economic union of states which is situated at the northern part of Eurasia. This union or treaty was aimed for the establishment of the EEU, which was signed on 29th May 2014,in which the leaders of Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus and came into force on 1st Jan,2015.

Three areas to the forefront of the cooperative activities,

# 1-Security

The security by means of the region would consider as a major set out or venture. Notablythe stabilization of Afghanistan is still said to be provocation or a difficult task. In order to have a look that in case if Afghanistan can be balanced or firm up in a credible or defendable way, it would be possible to implement many existing projects, inclusive with railway, road, and energy links between Afghanistan and its neighboring countries. Essentially security is considered as the premise in terms of the economic establishment. However, specifically agreement of closed cooperative ties for the security purposes where EU and Central Asian paradigmatic or archetypal had arranged a meeting titled as EU-Central Asia High-Level Security conversation in 2015 at Dushanbe.

Perhaps, the EU's border management and drug counter-measure programs would be in further process, also the member states implementing the proceeding episode of the BOMCA (Border Management Programme in Central Asia) plan of action. The main destine of the program is to support for the successive execution or carrying out of contemporary border management modus operandi in all the five Central Asian states. The betterment and advancement of frontier security as well as the fostering of statutory trade and transit flows are the most vital of the current border management targets. Moreover, BOMCA comprised of both the institutional upgrading and the enhancement of professional skills, anti-drug capacity-building also change for the better situation at border crossing areas.

## 2-Education

The time era from 2014 to 2020 is said to be the most substantial one due to the multiannual projects in the field of education. Withal Central Asia Education Platform was erected and generated for the development of the coordination on educational scheme also to enrich and strengthen educational alterations. The basic aim of constructing the platform or manifesto is to pull off the global harmony or affinity of educational systems in order to come up with the betterment and polish up student's potency and adaptability. On the other hand, EU-Central Asia Education Initiative was formed with the goal ad target of establishing greater level educational organized systems, with the aim of march into the twenty-first century institutions, learning procedures as well as setting and disposing qualifications for the stimulation world-level collaboration in the educational sector. As such this collaboration and partnership come up with the training projects for the member of the workforce in a state organization, also to provide a larger number of scholarships to the students belong to the Central Asia living in EU, also raised inclusive on the whole funding for the educational matters.

# **3-Miscellaneous Development**

Enhanced border management is seen as a greater effect on the economic development due to the reason that it provides support in terms of trade and cross-border motility. One of the major issues is in the field of energy and transport infrastructure. It is quite tough and complex task in terms of exports towards Europe due to the fact that western-side pipelines are highly under the Russian's control. Nonetheless for the enlarge operations of gas supply EU is encouraging the Southern Corridor. The crucial dimension of this policy is the so called Trans-Caspian Pipeline program that is connecting with Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan.

# Central Asia's Silk Road Trade, Energy Routes Linkage with EU

As Central Asian states are rich in oil reserves, also developed in terms of the energy pipelines in comparison with the European states. "Central Asia has been a nexus of the international movement of goods, people, and services along the Silk Road that dominated international trade for centuries." (Cameron, 2009, p. 13)

However, one of the most famous oil conduit named as Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC)a short-cut and brought to an end in Erzurum, a city in the east Turkey, where it connects the Turkish gas pipeline along with the different parts of the

Europe. Later, this gas channel allowed the gas export from the Central Asia directly to the Europe.

Other than the Russia, European countries also interested in collecting and possessing oil and gas reserves of Central Asian region. It is observed that if EU members want to have influence on the fuel and gas reserves of Central Asia then it is necessary for her to be actively making contributions with this region. In terms of the narcotics and drugs flows, Central Asia experienced hardships in its strategic location. For this purpose silk road trades were being opened for the truckage of opiates from Afghanistan then into Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan which are then beyond transmit into Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan as well as to Russian and European Union. "For Kazakhstan, the EU is the most important trading partner. For Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the EU is in the second position, for Turkmenistan, it is in the third and for Kyrgyzstan, the EU is in the fifth position. Given the deep integration of EU and Central Asian trade and economic affairs, it becomes clear that supporting and enhancing Central Asia trade development is a major EU interest." (Cameron, 2009, p. 37)

Moreover, Central Asian republics also get benefited by the aid which is put into orbit by the EU so called Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of the Independent States (TACIS) from 1991 to 2002. This assistance program was basically more emphasized in the national orientation and emplacement of the Central Asian region. Similarly the Interstate Oil and Gas Transport to Europe (INOGATE) program created by the attempts and efforts of the EU for the enhancement of the energy security and this INOGATE was also supported and encouraged by the Central Asia. In 1993, the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA), formation shows cooperation among the two states for the economic betterment. Energy security is also the main motive of the EU's priority in this region also with the strengthening and escalation of the external provocations. "Central Asia's main assets are its energy resources, rare metals and stones, cotton, special fruits and vegetables." (Cameron, 2009, p. 15) Furthermore, Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) was not successful in maintaining the collaboration and coo petition at the regional level. It has a little effect on the regional level water issues. Both politically and economically the endowment of European member states can be seen as "the EU stated that it would lend its political support and assistance to Central Asian countries in developing a new Caspian Sea-Black Sea-EU energy transport corridor." (Cameron, 2009, p. 32) Besides, European Union strategy sheet was formed especially under the German presidency. It's main goal is that Europe and Asia to amalgamate with each other, to gear-up and solve the disputes by negotiations with each other and to have amicable relations among themselves. From the years

2007 to 2013, this strategy development programmed was also formed for a number of reasons such as technical help, economic cooperation, regional concurrence, also for the reduction of the poverty. From 2007 till the present twenty-first century, European Union is thoroughly and wholly re-appraise and re-examined its strategy for the bilateral relations, for the democratization, for the better relations with the civil societies within Central Asia.

# **Challenges of European Union in Central Asia**

- European Union is facing challenges in the areas of border management, migration, the fight against organized crime, international terrorism, human drugs and arms trafficking in Central Asia.
- As such, separatism is considered as the main issue in Central Asian region, for this EU has to make rational, logical and consistent approaches. Due to the independence of Kosovo, and the Russian-Georgia war during the year 2008 as it was quite difficult situation for the EU to manage the matters.
- Should Central Asia receive more funding than the other region from EU? Tough choices need to be made about where the EU directs its resources. It's also a matter of its reputation. In order to increase funding linking security to development and taking towards good governance, rule of law, democracy and human rights into account.
- Also one of the most concerned issues regarding EU is that its member states do not have unity in terms of making relations with the different republics of Eurasia. In fact some member states make greater contributions with this rich-resource land. It is deeply divided over its engagements with authoritarian regimes and leaders in Central Asia. Flexible towards Turkmenistan and not impressive growth is seen towards Uzbekistan.
- As Russian authoritative involvement in Central Asia, in viewing the relations between the EU and Russia, the two countries Ukraine and Moldova are considered as the most vital dimensions between EU-Russia ties, while on this perspective, EU has to make attempts to check on the domestic and political developments of these countries. It is a matter of huge challenging for EU, that she cannot openly intervene in this region because of the dominant role of the Russia.
- EU is also going through a difficult time to become a single dominant actor in this region because of less contributory attitudes either in political, economic, military or diplomatic areas.
- It is quite challenging for EU that in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, Russia plays an influential role then comes China in Kazakhstan and

- Kyrgyzstan, as Iran also having its status in Tajikistan, more specifically EU and USA comes at the third or fourth one sequentially.
- In Kazakhstan, EU in concerned to both ideological and pragmatic interests, also showed keen interest in the betterment of human rights record as well as in promotion of democracy but in terms of the economic interests majorly the energy sector where the EU member states branch off and disunity situation present as a huge obstacle for the EU to be considered as having a transparency in its strategy regarding Kazakhstan.
- There is no direct route of transportation of goods into Europe because
  of Russia appeared as an giant hurdle, one has to pass through the
  Russia to provide the goods in Europe, which is a big issue for the
  European countries.

EU has to make greater efforts with implications and more strong relations in different fields with all the five Central Asian republics to have the dominion role and much improved friendly relations with this region. It is interesting to note that the two prominent world actors European Union (EU) and the United States of America (USA) both go halves in terms of interests yet having distinct perspectives and distinguished in attitudes to proceed. In Central Asian region these two world actors are not presenting their roles as principle one, because of the fact that still Russian domination is existing in the region by means of the security concern, whereas China has made quite good links and made its rope quite strong in economic and trade matters. It is vital to observe that one come up that when two regional actors Russia and China are playing their greater attempts and presenting their role as the chief model actors with the different stans of Central Asia in order to attain maximum profit and benefit, by all such conditions, both EU and USA have to make linkage with this region by using the cooperative tools and strategies.

In defiance of the distinctions in terms of interests and policies, the trade battling or contention between the EU and USA where the land is not at the prime concern for each of the state, although EU's contribution at by a mile excel and outshine to that of the USA. However, in American foreign policy both Central Asian region and Caucasus are of the most pressing matter. The region is crucial to play its part by means of developing of the Silk Route which is called as the cross-intercontinental trade road between the Central Asia, Europe, Middle East as well as Far East. As such the strategic inference of the Caucasus, a connection between Russia, Iran and Turkey which are convoluted or knotty by a presenter of political, religious and ethnic apprehensions.

## Conclusion

In the new great game of Central Asia the two powers i.e., the Asian side of the globe Central Asia and the western bloc that of the European Union both are in process of making vigorous and strapping bond and interrelation with each other. In comparison of both EU and USA have divergent and complex decision-making policies which include multiple policies and attitudes of the governmental administrators such as State, White House, Defense and Congress regarding USA whereas the European Commission, Parliaments, Council as well as the member states of the EU. The major difference that lies between the two i.e. USA and EU is that the American strategies is fast and expeditious and much versatile yet lacks in terms of the short-term institutional echo. Meanwhile, on the EU which is much slow-going and deliberate and much concerned in long-terms path, perhaps with less twist and turn. The most oil-rich stan called as Kazakhstan is viewed as the economic mechanism of the region and it is a matter of great concern for the European which really took a desirous and ambitious inclination in cooperation with Almaty along with the desire to invest in the state's economic as well energy zone. For the establishment of democracy EU looked at Kyrgyzstan and is getting sufficient developed endowment from the European side. Similarly in viewing Turkmenistan which is yet in isolation but EU and Turkmenistan at some or the other areas shows cooperative attitudes and actions. On the other hand Tajikistan is perceived as a development state which is pretentious by virtually every security warning that the region is square up to. It is vital by means of the safety and stoutness of regional connotation particularly on the part of Uzbekistan which is observed as a keystone state but with the minimum cooperative actions with Tashkent. Over the next years, it is being planned by the EU to spend somehow €1 billion to support for the region. From these financial assistance would beneficial for the regional projects but amazingly the giant part is restrained for Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan being the developing republics of the region.EU has encouraging behavior towards Kazakhstan due to its richness in oil and gas resources, for Tajikistan due to its abundance in cotton and metal manufacturing, also EU wants to have a potential entente with Turkmenistan due to propertied in supply of gas. However, for the development of education and institutional objectives, Western Europeans showed pronounced urge and will power with Uzbekistan. At some areas to some extent not progressive attitudes are shown by the European Union in developing uphill and broad-shouldered relations with Central Asia, the so called semi-democratic state. European being the new actor in the new great game of Central Asia is on the journey to reach it destinations with powerful ambitions in order to meet its much prominent role in the contemporary world politics, specifically with economically rich-wealthy region.

# **End Notes**

Boonstra, J. (2015). Reviewing the EU's approach to Central Asia.Retrieved from <a href="http://www.eucentralasia.eu/uploads/tx\_icticontent/EUCAM-PB-34-Reviewing-EU-">http://www.eucentralasia.eu/uploads/tx\_icticontent/EUCAM-PB-34-Reviewing-EU-</a> policies-in-Central-Asia-EN\_01.pdf.

Boonstra,J. & Denison,M. (2011).Is the EU-Central Asia strategy running out of steam? No. 17 Retrieved from aei.pitt.edu/58494/1/EUCAM\_PB\_17.pdf.

Boonstra, J. & Laruelle, M. (2013). EU-US cooperation in Central Asia: Parallel lines meet in infinity? Retrieved from <a href="http://www.eucentralasia.eu/uploads/">http://www.eucentralasia.eu/uploads/</a> tx icticontent/EUCAM-PB-31-EN-EU-US.pdf.

Cameron, F. (2009). The policies of European Union and Russia towards Central Asia. Retrieved from http://icbss.org/media/112\_original.pdf.

Cohen, A. (2000). Paving the Silk Road: US interests in Central Asia and the CAUCASUS. Retrieved from http://www.jstor.org/stable/4273879.

Dun, V. F. (1995), Essential European background.Retrieved from users.ugent.be/~frvandun/Texts/European%20history/EuropHistory.pdf. Grant,C. (2010). EU 2010: An optimistic vision of the future, Retrieved from http://www.cer.org.uk/pdf/p19x\_2010.pdf.

Haase,S. (2008), Central Asia: "A study of history, society, culture and its effects on the current political and economic ideologies of today's leaders. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.hpu.edu/CHSS/History/GraduateDegree/MADMSTheses/files/HaaseScott\_COMPLETED\_MADMS\_PROFESSIONAL\_PAPER\_09182">https://www.hpu.edu/CHSS/History/GraduateDegree/MADMSTheses/files/HaaseScott\_COMPLETED\_MADMS\_PROFESSIONAL\_PAPER\_09182</a> 009.pdf+&cd=3&hl=en&ct =clnk&gl=pk.

Hiro, D. (2010). Inside Central Asia. New Delhi, Harper Collins.

Mary, F.(2001), European since 1945. New York, NY, Oxford University Press.

Melvin,N.J. (2008). (Ed.). Engaging Central Asia:The European Union's new strategy in the heart of Eurasia. Retrieved from ei.pitt.edu/32610/1/49.\_Engaging\_ Central\_ Asia.pdf.

Peyrouse,S. (2009).Facing the challenges of separatism: The EU, Central Asia and the Uyghur issue" Retrieved from <a href="http://aei.pitt.">http://aei.pitt.</a> edu/11080/1/1787[1].pdf.

Peyrouse, S. (2014). (Ed.). How does Central Asia view the EU? Retrieved from <a href="http://www.eucentralasia.eu/uploads/tx\_icticontent/EUCAM-WP18-How-does-">http://www.eucentralasia.eu/uploads/tx\_icticontent/EUCAM-WP18-How-does-</a> Central-Asia-view-the-EU-1\_01.pdf.

Stefano, B. (2005).Restructuring Europe Centre formation, system building, and political structuring between the nation state and the European Union. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Stevenson,M. (2011).Where East meets West: The EU and Central Asia. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.euintheus.org/resources-learning/eu-insight/july-2011-where-east-meets-west-the-eu-and-central-asia/eu-insight-where-east-meets-west-the-eu-and-central-asia/+&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=pk.</a>

Teleuova,A.S. (2015). Some aspects of the European Union's policy towards Central Asia. Retrieved from <a href="http://ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/ass/article/download/49123/26372">http://ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/ass/article/download/49123/26372</a>