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**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF STEPPE DIPLOMACY IN THE HISTORY OF
THE KAZAKH STATEHOOD**

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Diplomacy's history, as well as the determination of its forms and methods, dates back to ancient times, with the formation of distant states. The truth is that not every state existed independently after its formation; instead, each was in some way linked to other states. They existed within the framework of a particular state structure. In addition to resolving internal issues, each state sought strategies to implement them, outlining their outward contact issues and future directions. This implies the legitimacy of diplomacy, which says that a country's advantages and disadvantages depend on its relations and contacts with neighbouring countries. This industry has the authority to regulate its own ties as well as relations with other states. Diplomacy is born and grows in importance here.

Diplomacy is the product of humanity's socio-cultural, socio-political identity, the development by society of the industry of external international interactions. On appraising the diplomatic situation, President N.A. Nazarbayev stated: "... a diplomat's mission, both honorary and responsible ambassador, acts on behalf of a state to preserve national interests. Being an ambassador is the apex of a diplomat's career and carries a unique set of responsibilities. The ambassador must meet the most stringent requirements..." [1].

Diplomacy encompasses the activities of international conferences and discussions aimed at building interstate relations, international collaboration, maintaining peace, and preventing interstate conflict.

Since the times of the Saks, Huns, Wusun, and Kangju, when Tomiris, Zarina, Modu Chanyu, and the rulers of Wusun, who preserved the strength and integrity of statehood, concluded deals and conducted diplomatic negotiations with neighboring countries and invading enemies, steppe diplomacy has been unique. The nomadic people, which repulsed the mighty Achaemenid force, terrified the

Chinese, and caused the construction of the Great Wall of China, attained this level not only due to its military prowess, but also due to its political acumen and diplomatic abilities. Steppe diplomacy, distinguished by Turkic-era traditions, has advanced to a high level in the history of ties with Byzantium, Iran, Sogdians, China, and other countries. Our ancestors, who steadfastly followed this tradition, are distinguished by the fact that, during the restoration of national statehood and the establishment of the Kazakh Khanate, they advanced to a new qualitative stage of communication with neighboring countries that satisfies specific goals.

History demonstrates that diplomatic acts, such as compromise and a negotiated arrangement, took place in traditional Kazakh society in the nomadic world to protect the integrity and unity of the Kazakh people. The history of domestic diplomacy can be traced back to the establishment of the Kazakh Khanate.

The widespread dissemination of information about the first Kazakhs of the XV-XVII centuries in Russian and European literature was due, not to the Kazakhs' weakness, but to the reinforcing, strengthening, threat to neighbouring countries and the achievement of positive results of the foreign policy of strong rulers who firmly hold the state integrity. This can be seen in the data on Kazakhs by Danil Gubin, Ambassador Sigismund Herberstein, Italian Pavel Iovii Novokamsky, Russian ambassadors Semyon Maltsov, Tretyak Chebukov, Boris Domozhirov, Velyamin Stepanov, Nogai Mr. Yusuf, English merchant Anthony Jenkinson. We can see a strong interest in the history of pre-revolutionary nomadic Kazakhs in the writings of historians from the 18th and 19th centuries, such as P. I. Rychkov, P. S. Pallas, I. Falk, N.P. Rychkov, K. Miller, V. V. Velyaminov-Zernov, A. I. Levshin, and V. V. Bartold.

The issue of examining the Kazakh Khanate's interethnic interactions occupies prominent positions in Soviet historiography. There is a tradition of analysing Kazakh rulers' foreign policy operations using data from mediaeval Chinese, Arabic, Persian, and Turkic-Chagatai languages. Works by A. P. Chuloshnikov, G. E. Grum-Grzhimailo, S. D. Asfendiyarov, V. Lebedev, and M. P. Vyatkin are among them. Researchers A. Sabyrkhanov, V. Ya. Basin, R. B. Suleimenov, E. Bekmakhanov, N. G. Apollova, S. E. Tolybekov, S. Z. Zimanov, V. A. Moiseev, and I. Ya. Zlatkin trace the connection of Kazakhs with neighbouring countries through diplomatic relations, political and legal relations, trade and economic relations, and international relations.

In the works of V. P. Yudin, K. A. Pishchulina, M. K. Abuseitova, T. I. Sultanov, B. B. Karibaev, A. Isin, N. Atygaev, who scientifically studied the role of Kazakh statehood in the system of diplomacy of the Great steppe and international relations, diplomatic missions of Kazakh rulers were presented, some aspects of the relations of the neighboring Siberian Khanate, Nogai Hordes, Mughal states, Timurid empires in Central Asia, Shaybanid dynasties, Ashtarkhanid, Safavid, Russian, Kalmyks dynasties in Iran.

After gaining independence, the study of traditional steppe diplomacy based on the domestic and foreign policy of historical figures, the analysis of foreign policy

under each khanate, embassies and military conflicts, diplomatic contacts were considered in research papers by historians M. K. Kozybaev, H. Abzhanov, T. O.Omarbekov, K. L. Esmagambetov, J. K. Kasymbaev, K. Mamyrovich, B.Karibaev, A.M. Abdildabekova, S. A. Edilkhanova, J. E. Zhappasov.

The XVI-XVIII century is a pivotal time in Kazakhstan's history. This is a time of continued strengthening of Kazakh statehood. The Kazakh Khanate had close ties with neighboring countries and was engaged in the military-political, trade-economic, spiritual, and cultural realms around the turn of the century. The development of the Kazakh Khanate and its strengthening have improved the state's authority and resulted in some success in foreign policy and diplomatic ties. In turn, Kazakhstan established political, commercial, and diplomatic ties with the existing Central Asian khanates, Volga area countries, West Siberian Khanate, and Russian state.

The origins of the Kazakh Khanate, established in the middle of the XV century, range from the khans of Zhanibek and Kerey to outstanding personalities such as Kasym Khan, Khaknazar Khan, Tauekel Khan, Yesim Khan, Zhangir Khan, Az-Tauke Khan, Abylai Khan, Abulkhair Khan, who managed to create favorable external conditions for achieving diplomatic relations with neighboring countries in foreign policy, keeping the country in unity and solidarity.

From the history of the Kazakh people, the concept of diplomacy is an ancient concept in the socio-political consciousness of the country. Kazakh diplomacy-protection from the negative influence of external forces on our vast expanses shows that diplomatic activities are deep. "Historical sources clearly indicate that the Kazakh Khanate in its time was in contact with such countries as Mughal, Chagatai, Sheiban, Iran, China, Russia," writes Orientalist Islam Zhemenei [2].

There were various khans who held a special place in the history of the 16 century Kazakh Khanate. Their historical significance is determined by the khanate's political, economic, and military circumstances under each Khan. If we consider Kasym Khan's historical role at the beginning of the sixteenth century, it is first and foremost the territorial expansion of the Kazakh Khanate, the strengthening of statehood, population growth, and the popularization of the name of the Kazakh people and the state in countries both near and far abroad.

There is no doubt that Kasym Khan is a competent commander, a strong historical figure who knows how to hold the state in his hands, capable of resolving situations in his country's advantage through diplomatic abilities in foreign policy with neighboring states.

Maurennahr's beneficial political relations with Kasym Khan not only enlarged its holdings in the south and south-east, but also created prospects for political relations in the west. If the admission of the pre-Volga regions to the Kazakh Khanate is a stage in the unification of the Kazakh tribes' ethnic territory, it becomes problematic for Moscow. Western European countries are also receiving information about the resurgent Kazakh Khanate.

The first written code of rules for Kazakhs, known as "The Bright Road of Kasym Khan," has not reached us, although its existence is confirmed by folk oral

literature. "The Bright Road of Kasym Khan" is made up of five articles, the fourth of which is titled Embassy rituals (eloquence, decency, politeness). This means that the unwritten laws of steppe diplomacy, as well as the ethics of embassy rites and ambassadors, are legally fixed and widely disseminated throughout the community.

Of course, during the period of "temporary weakening" in Kazakh history, the khanate's foreign diplomacy weakened, internal stability was disturbed, the khans were unaware of the secrets and facets of power, and the khan's power was undermined and nearly destroyed owing to a lack of diplomatic ability.

If you ask what Khaknazar Khan's historical role was in the second half of the sixteenth century, the answer is that the Kazakh Khanate was restored and expanded in territory, as in the period of Kasym Khan, strengthened in statehood, increased population, and assigned the name of the Kazakh people and state to countries both near and far abroad.

"Khaknazar is a khan who quickly understands the political situation, is sensitive and knows how to use his time rationally. ... In Bahr al-Asrar, Khaknazar was called the Kazakh and Kyrgyz Khan," says historian T. I. Sultanov [3]. "All the political activity of Khaknazar Khan was aimed at the integration and protection of Kazakh society from external enemies and ensuring the security of his country," says researcher Erofeeva I. V.

Let us look back in time to observe how important marital relations between dynasties were in diplomacy between countries and states. For example, the Wusun, Hun tribes, and Turkic peoples as a whole integrated treaties with their neighbors or allies into kinship through marital bonds. There is a wealth of information regarding dynastic marriages in Russian, Chinese chronicles, Persian, Turkic, and other written sources [4].

Doctor of Historical Sciences, orientalist Abuseitova M. H. in her scientific monograph dwelt on the significance and importance of the marriage union in the diplomacy of the Kazakh Khans and explained its role in diplomacy with concrete examples [5].

Kazakh khans and sultans wisely opted to extend foreign policy and strengthen the country's international connections through diplomatic relations. As a result, many schemes were formed to either terminate the wars with success or to escape the looming threat. Hence, in order to maintain favorable relations with other neighboring states, the Kazakh khans successfully employed dynastic marriages. During the marriage, it was able to avoid the impending conflict and strengthen the commonwealth. . Those dynasties that gave their daughters, gave land as a dowry of the bride, expanded their territory, became defenders, supporters of this dynasty. There have been cases when neighboring states that were at peace went from the failure of marital relations to inciting war.

In the foreign policy of the Kazakh khans from the 15th to the 16th century, tactics and strategies aimed at the peaceful resolution of international problems were carried out by international ambassadors, messengers, and interpreters.

The Kazakh Khanate has posed a severe danger to the Nogai, the nomadic Siberian Khanate, and the Central Asian Khanate since the late 15th century.

Khaknazar Khan's diplomacy is notable by the signing of a pact with Uzbek Khan Abdullah II. Tauekel Khan's diplomacy was historically represented in the formation of a political alliance between the Kazakh Horde and Russia. Negotiations were also held with Iran. Under Yesim Khan, diplomatic activity is carried out, which concluded a truce with Bukhara.

Tauekel Khan, according to I.V. Erofeeva, "was able to establish himself as a talented and able to make quick choices commander who knows how to employ tactics in foreign policy during the entire era of the Kazakh Khanate's existence" [6]. Formally, Kazakh-Russian relations evolved into diplomatic agreements under Tauekel Khan. Tauekel Khan, as a visionary leader, intended to take various important foreign policy moves as a result of these ties.

Tauekel Khan, according to historian M. H. Abuseitova, failed to achieve his major goal of bringing the Maurennahr under Kazakh control. Nonetheless, Turkestan, Tashkent, and Ferghana were once part of the Kazakh lands [7]. This was supported by a peaceful truce between Kazakh and Central Asian khans under the influence of Naqshbandi Sufi sheikhs. The sheikhs of Naqshbandi granted permission and favourable benediction to the Kazakh khans' authority in Turkestan.

The 16th and 17th century were one of Kazakhstan's most peculiar times. The Kazakh Khanate's worldwide standing has shifted dramatically. This is because the Dzungarian Khanate was established in 1635-1758, posing a severe danger to the Kazakhs. Instead of the ruling Shiban dynasty in Mauarennahr, the Ashtarkhanid dynasty took authority in the south-western provinces. This is a period for Kazakhstan to enhance its statehood through active military-political, trade, and cultural connections with neighbouring countries and peoples. At the period, the Kazakhs dominated Tashkent, Turkestan, Sauran, and Andijan, and these cities were always at war with the Kazakh rulers and the nascent Ashtarkhanid empire (the dynasty that ruled Mauarannahr in 1598-1743).

After taking the throne, the Khan concluded a truce with Bukhara and sought to establish peaceful economic ties with the cities of Central Asia. He intended to make the Kazakh Khanate a state subordinate to one center. Yesim Khan drafted a law known as the "Ancient journey of Yesim Khan".

Yesim Khan, like the khans of the nomadic state as a whole, is an extraordinary figure, equally respected on the throne and in horseback riding. Yesim Khan is one of the khans whose name is frequently mentioned in folk oral literature. This demonstrates that he was able to appease the khanate. Yesim Khan was the head of state, a great commander, and a foresighted diplomat, thus the people brought him to stories, poems, and worshipped their khans without taking him out of their mouths.

The son of Yesim Khan Zhangir Sultan ascended to the throne of Khan in the mid-40s of the XVII century after the death of the eldest son of Yesim Khan Zhanibek. For his outstanding feats in the fight against the Dzungars, Zhangir

Khan was called by the people "SalkamZhangir". Under his leadership, the Dzungarian Oirats, led by Batyr Kontayshi, were strengthened. They were relentless in their attacks on the Kazakh Khanate. The Dzungars advanced south as a result of the displacement of Kyrgyz and Kazakh pastures in the south. Moving to the West, the Kalmyks played a significant role in the Kazakh Khanate's foreign policy in the 16th century. The lack of a distinct pasture border has resulted in frequent tension between the two nomadic countries. The years of Khan Zhangir's rule coincide to a period of continual Dzungarian operations to capture Kazakh territory.

Zhangir Khan's army was not far from Turkestan. Zhangir Khan formed an alliance with the Bukhara Khanate and resisted the Dzungarian invasion. Simultaneously, he strove to develop similar relations with the Kyrgyz and the Mughals. All of this was created to defend against the Dzungarian onslaught. When Zhangir saw the destructive threat from the east, he wanted to unite the Kazakh clans in order to oppose the invaders together. Zhalantos Bahadur, the hero of Alshin (Junior Juz), was approached and requested for assistance.

Zhangir Khan took some actions to get help from the Mughals in the fight against the Dzungars. He sent ambassadors twice to establish good-neighborly relations with them. This diplomatic assignment is entrusted to the sons of Zhangir Khan Tauke and Appak Sultans. Zhangir's diplomatic skills in a difficult wintering are continued by his son-Tauke.

Tauke Khan is a historical figure who made significant contributions to the country's defence against an external enemy as well as the building of diplomatic relations with neighbouring countries. According to historical evidence, Az Tauke Khan is one of the primary khans who established the foundations of our country while keeping ties with surrounding powers such as Russia, Dzungaria, Iran, and Turkey. It is not for nothing that Tauke's reign was called a "golden age," or a period of peace.

Tauke Khan diplomacy was famous for sending diplomats to Russia through Siberia five times. Tauke Khan negotiated with Sultankul Khan of Bukhara concerning Tashkent in 1687-1688. The Kazakhs retained control of Tashkent. He worked hard to expand trade with the Bukhara Khanate. As a result, the Kazakh state and the Bukhara Khanate established amicable relations, and Bukhara merchants were permitted to enter and trade on Kazakh territory [8].

Due to the Russian Empire's colonial policy in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, the Kazakh Khanate suffered a political, economic, and spiritual crisis, and the lack of reciprocity and unity weakened the influence of Kazakh diplomacy on the preservation of independence. Not only the Dzungarian and Chinese factors, but also the little-known Bashkir factor, had a role in the transformation of the Kazakh people into a subordinate of the Russian Empire.

Diplomacy continued with peacekeeping operations with Dzungarian, Russia, and China during the reign of Abylai Khan. According to written data, Abylai, as a foresighted politician, effectively used a diplomatic approach to recover from the gruelling wars with the Kalmyks, maintaining peacemaking relations and the

exchange of embassies with Russia and the Qing dynasty in order to preserve the Kazakh people's integrity.

According to historical documents, Abylai wanted to establish a relationship with Afghan Shah Ahmad Duran and send an embassy to Turkey. According to certain sources, diplomatic actions carried out concurrently with military actions raised Abylai to the level of great figures during his time.

The diplomatic policy undertaken by Kazakh khans and prominent historical figures in national history holds a special position in independent Kazakhstan's modern diplomacy. It can be seen throughout Kazakh history that diplomatic issues, such as reconciliation, are mostly carried out by authoritative, brilliant individuals - biy-speakers. "Well-known biys solved challenges of campaigns, politics, embassies, international relations, ideology..., actively participated in such complicated matters as the country's government," says K. Sh. Beissenbayev. Tauke Khan's main figures were Tole biy, Kazybek biy, Aiteke biy, Kozhabergen zhyrau, Bukhar zhyrau, and Tileu batyr. Each of them became a role model for the population due to their embassy mission, diplomatic foresight, manner, and oratory ethics.

According to the history of diplomacy on the vast Kazakh steppe, the state has evolved into an independent and vital institution, establishing priority directions for the peaceful implementation of foreign policy. And the Kazakh Khanate, which has been through many difficult times, has proven in history that it is a viable Kazakh state, having survived the difficulties of this period and retaining its independence.

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