

**MODERNITY, DEVELOPMENT AND DECOLONIZATION OF
KNOWLEDGE IN CENTRAL ASIA:
KAZAKHSTAN AS A FOREIGN AID PROVIDER**

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Received: 27.05.2021

Accepted: 16.02.2022

Nafissa Insebayeva. *Modernity, Development and Decolonization of Knowledge in Central Asia: Kazakhstan as a Foreign Aid Provider.* Series Editor Timur Dadabaev. Singapore, Palgrave Macmillan, 2022. 138 p.

Development assistance, humanitarian, technical and military aid in the international landscape began after World War II. The definition of the concept of foreign aid is to cover the main company by providing food, housing or medical care to save lives in the event of conflicts, crises or natural disasters. The international assistance service has such categories as “old” / “traditional” / “Northern” and “new” / “emerging” / “Southern”.

Kazakhstan joined the “emerging donors’ camp” in 2013 and this year approved the Official Development Assistance (ODA) Concept, which sets out the roadmap for the first official assistance for Development Assistance, and in 2014 officially became the first foreign donor to Central Asia. The Kazakhstan Agency for International Development (KazAID) has established its own development assistance program. Kazakhstan has been providing various assistance to Afghanistan, Central Asia and Caucasus, Jordan, Lebanon, Mongolia and Syria and other countries since independence. This book discusses various sources related to Kazakhstan’s activities and practices in the Central Asian region, from being the first official aid recipient to becoming a donor country. The author believes that this important phenomenon in the history of Kazakhstan, in most cases, is insufficiently studied, focusing only on foreign policy motivations (economic, political and strategic objectives and interests) to assist Kazakhstan in development. The literature on Kazakhstan’s activities as a first aid provider (ODA) states that its donorship is explained on the basis of the concept of foreign aid as a tool to achieve its foreign policy interests. The advantage of the book is that it focuses on previously unexplored aspects of Kazakhstan’s foreign policy. This book, with an objective position, attempts to systematically analyze and explain the political documents, decisions taken by Kazakhstan in the international arena to become a donor state, and its division into foreign aid classifications theoretically and conceptually, taking into account its historical experience and features as a state (post-communist country). However, although the book provides an in-depth socio-political analysis of Kazakhstan’s foreign

aid services in the international arena, it does not provide a detailed economic study. At the same time, there are no discourses on the views of the countries that have received foreign aid from Kazakhstan.

The book includes seven chapters: “Introduction”, “Setting the Stage for Research: Theoretical Approaches to Development”; “The “Development” Paradigm: Official Development Assistance and DAC”, “Kazakhstan as a Humanitarian Aid Donor”, “New Actors Through Old Lenses?”, “In the Colonial Matrix of Power: The Aftermath of the Soviet Collapse” and “Conclusion”.

The Introduction section discusses the discourse of Kazakhstan’s activities in the field of The First Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the Central Asian region. In addition, this chapter provides an overview of current discussions on future foreign aid to other countries and the importance and specificity of discourse theories and emphasis is placed on the importance and specificity of discourse theories and views between “old” / “traditional” / “Northern” and “new” / “emerging” / “Southern” development actors. According to the author, international aid projects under the OECD-DAC are implemented on the logic of “from the rich and powerful North” to “the poor and marginalized South”.

In the second chapter, “Setting the Stage for Research: Theoretical Approaches to Development”, the author examines the nature and interpretation of the concept of development, which dates back to the history of modernity, colonialism and capitalism, which emerged as a result of decolonization and reconstruction of the world after World War II. Analyzing the general typology of donor countries, she states that Kazakhstan is an interesting new type of donor (hybrid donor) that provides foreign assistance due to its historical experience (Kazakh SSR), which does not belong to the group of donor countries “North” and “South”. In other words, Kazakhstan’s international assistance services have the same characteristics and characteristics of traditional and emerging types of foreign donation. Analyzing the experience and decisions of the West and the United States in the development process, he argues why Kazakhstan is not included in the donor typology. At the time of the First-Second-Third World classification, Kazakhstan was not an independent member of the global system like other Soviet republics, so when the term was first introduced (1950), it did not fall into the category of “Third World” countries (Asia, Africa, Latin America).

In this chapter, the author emphasizes that since the collapse of the Soviet Union, many issues concerning the post-Soviet world, especially Central Asia, remain unanswered, and theories and phenomena remain unclear. He believes that intellectual, critical research should be conducted in the field of international relations, which will objectively assess the history, experience and current situation in Central Asia. The concept of development rooted in the deep historical processes of modernity, colonialism and capitalism, which became popular as a result of decolonization and reconstruction of the world after the Second World War, is studied.

The third chapter, “The Development Paradigm: Official Development Assistance and DAC”, describes the meaning, categories, consequences, organization, and history of the foreign aid concept. In addition, the goals, interests, strategies and financial potential of Kazakhstan as a member state of international assistance were discussed. The literature on Kazakhstan’s aid services does not

explain the specifics of Kazakhstan's identity as a donor and how it was formed.

The fourth chapter, "Kazakhstan as a Humanitarian Aid Donor", discusses the activities and mechanisms of Kazakhstan as a facilitator, and describes the main features and characteristics of the Kazakhstani ODA system. In this chapter, the author reviews the various legislative acts adopted by Kazakhstan under the ODA system and the amount of funds allocated for each stage of international assistance.

In the fifth chapter, "New Actors Through Old Lenses?", the author discusses the importance and results of projects related to the Soviet-era education system, the emancipation of women, according to sources he found in the archives of Kazakhstan. The author provides an in-depth look at whether Kazakhstan's pre-independence history has influenced its foreign aid policy in recent years. In addition, this chapter analyzes Kazakhstan's assistance projects for the development of Central Asia and Afghanistan and explains how these projects have been influenced by Kazakhstan's identity as a former Soviet republic, aid recipient and ODA provider.

The sixth chapter, "In the Colonial Matrix of Power: The Aftermath of the Soviet Collapse", examines the role of international donors in shaping Kazakhstan's development path and its impact on the ODA system. The author states that Western assistance had a significant impact on Kazakhstan's self-development strategy in the 2000s, and then on its foreign aid policy in the early 2010s. In addition, Kazakhstan's aspirations, steps and experience in reducing dependence on foreign aid in the early 2000s were discussed.

The Conclusion section summarizes the discussions in each chapter of the book. In the field of international assistance, the author considers that Kazakhstan does not belong to any of the so-called "old" / "Northern" and "new" / "Southern" donor categories, i.e. it is considered an "outliner" due to its historical experience. The author warns that methodological tools in research based on the Western context cannot be used to study the foreign aid services of post-Soviet Kazakhstan. That is, the historical, cultural, socio-economic characteristics of Kazakhstan, as well as the post-Soviet states of Central Asia, should be taken into account in the literature on international assistance.

In conclusion, this book examines the strategic objectives of Kazakhstan as a foreign aid provider from all angles, a topic which has been insufficiently studied in the scientific literature based on rational understanding, explains the content of the category of development, theoretical and conceptual issues of classification and categorization. In general, the author systematically conveys his conclusions and judgments on the topic, based on various reliable and important sources. The selected topic and content complement each other, and the research is quite difficult to read. This book may be useful for readers who are interested in, and make analysis on, the content of international aid and Kazakhstan's foreign aid services and experiences.