



TRANSFORMATION OF THE REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM IN CENTRAL ASIA UNDER CONDITIONS OF GLOBAL INSTABILITY

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ABOUT ARTICLE

Key words: Central Asia, regional security, global instability, cybersecurity, digital transformation, information warfare, geopolitical competition, cyber threats, regional cooperation, artificial intelligence.

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Abstract: Global instability has become one of the defining features of the modern international system. Political conflicts, economic crises, terrorism, cyber threats, migration processes, and geopolitical competition increasingly affect regional stability in different parts of the world. In these conditions, the transformation of regional security systems becomes an important issue, especially for strategically significant regions such as Central Asia.

Central Asia occupies an important geopolitical position between Europe and Asia and serves as a bridge connecting major economic and political centers. The region possesses significant natural resources and transport potential, which increases the interest of global powers such as Russia, China, the United States, and the European Union. As a result, security processes in Central Asia are influenced not only by internal regional factors but also by global political and economic changes.

The purpose of this article is to examine the transformation of the regional security system in Central Asia under conditions of global instability and to analyze the main modern threats affecting regional stability. Special attention is given to cyber threats, information warfare, geopolitical competition, digital transformation, and regional cooperation mechanisms.

The research is based on descriptive, analytical, comparative, and content analysis

methods. Scientific articles, international reports, regional security studies, and statistical materials published between 2021 and 2025 were analyzed during the research process. Tables, diagrams, maps, and statistical figures were also used in order to provide a clearer understanding of modern security trends in Central Asia.

The study shows that regional security in Central Asia is undergoing significant transformation. Traditional security threats such as terrorism, border conflicts, extremism, and transnational crime remain important. However, modern risks connected with cyberspace, digital infrastructure, information manipulation, and artificial intelligence are becoming increasingly influential. The rapid growth of digital technologies creates both opportunities and vulnerabilities for the region.

The findings also demonstrate that cybersecurity and information security are becoming essential parts of modern regional stability. Information warfare through social media platforms, online propaganda, and cyber attacks on critical infrastructure create new challenges for governments and societies. In addition, geopolitical competition between major powers continues to influence political and economic processes in Central Asia.

The article concludes that maintaining regional stability in Central Asia requires stronger regional cooperation, modernization of cybersecurity systems, development of digital protection strategies, and effective international dialogue. The transformation of the security system in the region reflects broader global changes where traditional and non-traditional threats increasingly interact with each other.

GLOBAL BEQARORLIK SHAROITIDA MARKAZIY OSIYODA MINTAQAVIY XAVFSIZLIK TIZIMINING TRANSFORMATSIYASI

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MAQOLA HAQIDA

Kalit so'zlar:	Markaziy Osiyo,	Annotatsiya:	Global beqarorlik
mintaqaviy xavfsizlik,	global beqarorlik,	zamonaviy xalqaro	tizimning asosiy

kiberxavfsizlik, raqamli transformatsiya, axborot urushi, geosiyosiy raqobat, kiber tahdidlar, mintaqaviy hamkorlik, sun'iy intellekt.

xususiyatlaridan biriga aylandi. Siyosiy mojarolar, iqtisodiy inqirozlar, terrorizm, kiber tahdidlar, migratsiya jarayonlari va geosiyosiy raqobat dunyoning turli mintaqalaridagi barqarorlikka tobora kuchli ta'sir ko'rsatmoqda. Bunday sharoitda mintaqaviy xavfsizlik tizimlarining transformatsiyasi, ayniqsa Markaziy Osiyo kabi strategik ahamiyatga ega hududlar uchun muhim masalaga aylanmoqda.

Markaziy Osiyo Yevropa va Osiyo o'rtasida muhim geosiyosiy o'rinni egallab, yirik iqtisodiy va siyosiy markazlarni bog'lovchi ko'priq vazifasini bajaradi. Mintaqa katta tabiiy resurslar va transport salohiyatiga ega bo'lib, bu Rossiya, Xitoy, Amerika Qo'shma Shtatlari va Yevropa Ittifoqi kabi global kuchlarning qiziqishini oshirmoqda. Natijada, Markaziy Osiyodagi xavfsizlik jarayonlariga nafaqat ichki mintaqaviy omillar, balki global siyosiy va iqtisodiy o'zgarishlar ham ta'sir ko'rsatmoqda.

Mazkur maqolaning maqsadi global beqarorlik sharoitida Markaziy Osiyoda mintaqaviy xavfsizlik tizimining transformatsiyasini o'rganish hamda mintaqaviy barqarorlikka ta'sir qilayotgan zamonaviy tahdidlarni tahlil qilishdan iborat. Tadqiqotda kiber tahdidlar, axborot urushi, geosiyosiy raqobat, raqamli transformatsiya va mintaqaviy hamkorlik mexanizmlariga alohida e'tibor qaratilgan.

Tadqiqot tavsifiy, tahliliy, qiyosiy va kontent-tahlil metodlariga asoslangan. Tadqiqot jarayonida 2021–2025-yillarda chop etilgan ilmiy maqolalar, xalqaro hisobotlar, mintaqaviy xavfsizlik bo'yicha tadqiqotlar va statistik materiallar tahlil qilindi. Shuningdek, Markaziy Osiyodagi zamonaviy xavfsizlik tendensiyalarini yanada aniqroq tushuntirish maqsadida jadvallar, diagrammalar, xaritalar va statistik ko'rsatkichlardan foydalanildi.

Tadqiqot natijalari Markaziy Osiyoda mintaqaviy xavfsizlik tizimi sezilarli transformatsiyaga uchrayotganini ko'rsatadi. Terrorizm, chegara mojarolari, ekstremizm va transmilliy jinoyatchilik kabi an'anaviy xavfsizlik tahdidlari hanuz muhim ahamiyatga ega. Shu bilan birga, kiber makon, raqamli infratuzilma, axborotni manipulyatsiya qilish va sun'iy intellekt bilan bog'liq zamonaviy

xavf-xatarlar tobora kuchayib bormoqda. Raqamli texnologiyalarning jadal rivojlanishi mintaqa uchun ham imkoniyatlar, ham zaifliklarni yuzaga keltirmoqda.

Natijalar shuni ham ko'rsatadiki, kiberxavfsizlik va axborot xavfsizligi zamonaviy mintaqaviy barqarorlikning muhim tarkibiy qismiga aylanmoqda. Ijtimoiy tarmoqlar orqali olib borilayotgan axborot urushi, onlayn targ'ibot va muhim infratuzilmaga qilingan kiberhujumlar hukumatlar va jamiyatlar uchun yangi muammolarni yuzaga keltirmoqda. Bundan tashqari, yirik davlatlar o'rtasidagi geosiyosiy raqobat Markaziy Osiyodagi siyosiy va iqtisodiy jarayonlarga ta'sir ko'rsatishda davom etmoqda.

Maqolada xulosa qilinshicha, Markaziy Osiyoda mintaqaviy barqarorlikni ta'minlash uchun mintaqaviy hamkorlikni kuchaytirish, kiberxavfsizlik tizimlarini modernizatsiya qilish, raqamli himoya strategiyalarini ishlab chiqish hamda samarali xalqaro muloqotni rivojlantirish zarur. Mintaqadagi xavfsizlik tizimining transformatsiyasi an'anaviy va noan'anaviy tahdidlar o'zaro tobora chambarchas bog'lanib borayotgan global o'zgarishlarni aks ettiradi.

ТРАНСФОРМАЦИЯ СИСТЕМЫ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ В ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ В УСЛОВИЯХ ГЛОБАЛЬНОЙ НЕСТАБИЛЬНОСТИ

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О СТАТЬЕ

Ключевые слова: Центральная Азия, региональная безопасность, глобальная нестабильность, кибербезопасность, цифровая трансформация, информационная война, геополитическая конкуренция, киберугрозы, региональное сотрудничество, искусственный интеллект.

Аннотация: Глобальная нестабильность стала одной из ключевых характеристик современной международной системы. Политические конфликты, экономические кризисы, терроризм, киберугрозы, миграционные процессы и геополитическая конкуренция всё сильнее влияют на региональную стабильность в различных частях мира. В этих условиях трансформация систем региональной безопасности становится важным вопросом, особенно для стратегически значимых регионов, таких

как Центральная Азия.

Центральная Азия занимает важное геополитическое положение между Европой и Азией и служит мостом, соединяющим крупные экономические и политические центры. Регион обладает значительными природными ресурсами и транспортным потенциалом, что усиливает интерес со стороны таких мировых держав, как Россия, Китай, Соединённые Штаты Америки и Европейский союз. В результате процессы безопасности в Центральной Азии находятся под влиянием не только внутренних региональных факторов, но и глобальных политических и экономических изменений.

Цель данной статьи — исследовать трансформацию системы региональной безопасности в Центральной Азии в условиях глобальной нестабильности, а также проанализировать основные современные угрозы, влияющие на региональную стабильность. Особое внимание уделяется киберугрозам, информационной войне, геополитической конкуренции, цифровой трансформации и механизмам регионального сотрудничества.

Исследование основано на описательном, аналитическом, сравнительном и контент-анализе. В процессе исследования были проанализированы научные статьи, международные отчёты, исследования по региональной безопасности и статистические материалы, опубликованные в 2021–2025 годах. Также использовались таблицы, диаграммы, карты и статистические данные для более наглядного понимания современных тенденций безопасности в Центральной Азии.

Результаты исследования показывают, что система региональной безопасности в Центральной Азии претерпевает значительную трансформацию. Традиционные угрозы безопасности, такие как терроризм, пограничные конфликты, экстремизм и транснациональная преступность, сохраняют свою актуальность. Однако всё большее влияние приобретают современные риски,

связанные с киберпространством, цифровой инфраструктурой, манипуляцией информацией и искусственным интеллектом. Стремительное развитие цифровых технологий создаёт как новые возможности, так и уязвимости для региона.

Полученные результаты также демонстрируют, что кибербезопасность и информационная безопасность становятся важнейшими элементами современной региональной стабильности. Информационная война через социальные сети, онлайн-пропаганда и кибератаки на критически важную инфраструктуру создают новые вызовы для государств и обществ. Кроме того, геополитическая конкуренция между крупными державами продолжает оказывать влияние на политические и экономические процессы в Центральной Азии.

В статье делается вывод о том, что для поддержания региональной стабильности в Центральной Азии необходимы усиление регионального сотрудничества, модернизация систем кибербезопасности, разработка стратегий цифровой защиты и развитие эффективного международного диалога. Трансформация системы безопасности в регионе отражает более широкие глобальные изменения, в которых традиционные и нетрадиционные угрозы всё теснее взаимодействуют друг с другом.

Introduction. The modern world is experiencing a period of deep political, economic, and technological transformation. Global instability has become one of the defining characteristics of the twenty-first century. International conflicts, economic crises, migration processes, geopolitical competition, terrorism, cyber threats, and information warfare increasingly influence regional security systems in different parts of the world. In such conditions, the issue of regional stability becomes especially important for strategically significant regions, including Central Asia.

Central Asia occupies a unique geopolitical position between Europe and Asia. The region serves as an important transport corridor and possesses significant natural resources, including gas, oil, uranium, and water reserves. Because of this strategic location, Central Asia attracts the attention of major international powers such as Russia, China, the United States, and the

European Union. The interests of these actors influence political processes, economic cooperation, and security systems within the region.

After gaining independence, the Central Asian states faced a number of complex security challenges. Traditional threats such as border disputes, terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking, and water resource conflicts remained important for regional stability. However, modern globalization and technological development have expanded the concept of security itself. Today regional security includes not only military and territorial issues but also cybersecurity, information protection, economic stability, environmental safety, and digital infrastructure security.

Digital transformation has become one of the key factors influencing security systems in Central Asia. Governments actively introduce electronic governance systems, digital banking, online education, and communication technologies. These processes improve economic efficiency and public administration but also increase dependence on digital infrastructure. As a result, cybersecurity threats are becoming more dangerous for regional stability.

Cyber attacks, information leakage, online propaganda, and digital manipulation now represent serious risks for states and societies. Information warfare through social media platforms has become one of the major instruments of political influence in the modern world. False information and online propaganda can affect public opinion, increase social tension, and create instability. Because of this, cybersecurity today is closely connected with national and regional security.

Another important issue is the influence of global instability on Central Asia. Ongoing geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, and military conflicts in different regions of the world indirectly affect political and economic processes in Central Asia. The situation in Afghanistan also remains one of the important factors influencing regional security. Border security, migration processes, extremist movements, and transnational crime continue to create challenges for the states of the region.

At the same time, regional cooperation has become increasingly important for maintaining stability in Central Asia. Organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), and other regional mechanisms play a significant role in strengthening security cooperation, information exchange, and counterterrorism activities.

The transformation of regional security systems in Central Asia demonstrates that modern threats are becoming more interconnected and multidimensional. Traditional military threats now coexist with cyber risks, information attacks, and digital vulnerabilities. This creates the need for

new security strategies based on technological modernization, international cooperation, and digital protection systems.

Figure 1. Major Security Threats in Central Asia (Pie Chart)

Figure 1. Major Security Threats in Central Asia

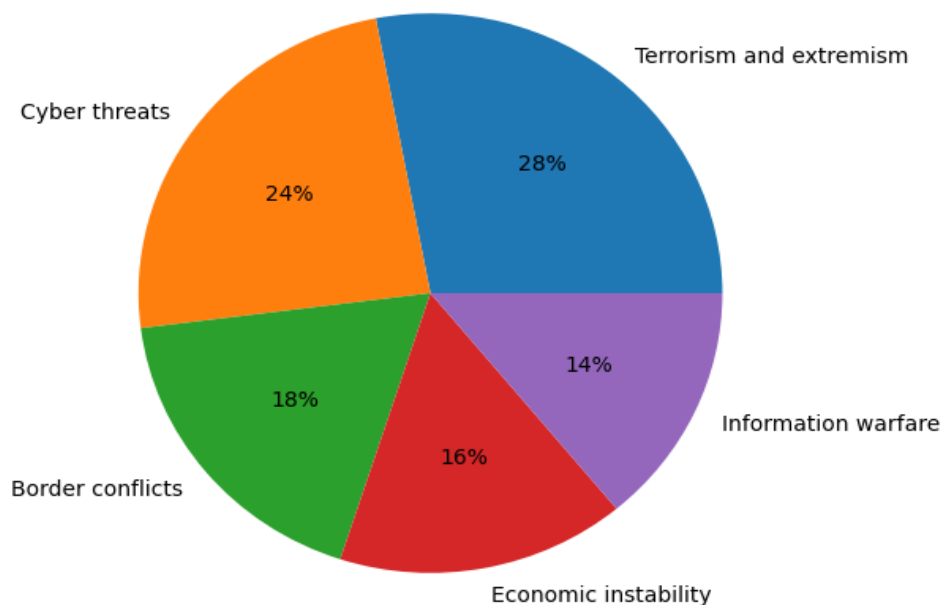


Figure 1 illustrates the major security challenges influencing Central Asia in conditions of global instability. Terrorism and extremism continue to remain among the most serious threats because of regional instability and cross-border security risks. At the same time, cyber threats and information warfare are becoming increasingly important due to rapid digitalization and the growing role of online communication technologies in political and social processes.

Source: Prepared by the author based on regional security and cybersecurity analytical reports (2023–2025).

Table 1. Main Regional Security Challenges in Central Asia

Security Challenge	Main Consequences	Impact on the Region
<i>Terrorism and extremism</i>	Violence, insecurity, political instability	Weakens regional stability
<i>Cyber attacks</i>	Data leakage, system damage, financial loss	Threatens digital infrastructure
<i>Border disputes</i>	Regional tension and local conflicts	Reduces interstate cooperation
<i>Information warfare</i>	Fake news and public manipulation	Increases social instability

Security Challenge	Main Consequences	Impact on the Region
<i>Economic instability</i>	Unemployment and economic pressure	Creates social and political risks

Table 1 presents the main regional security challenges currently affecting Central Asia. The results demonstrate that modern regional security includes both traditional and non-traditional threats. Alongside terrorism and border conflicts, cybersecurity and information protection are becoming increasingly significant elements of regional stability.

Literature Review. Regional security has become one of the central topics in modern political and security studies. Researchers increasingly emphasize that globalization, technological development, and geopolitical competition have significantly changed the structure of international and regional security systems. Traditional security threats such as military conflicts and terrorism still remain important, but modern regions also face cyber threats, information warfare, migration problems, economic instability, and digital security risks (Akkozhina, 2025).

Many scholars describe Central Asia as one of the strategically important regions in Eurasia because of its geographical position, natural resources, and transport potential. The region connects major political and economic centers and therefore attracts the attention of global powers. Because of this geopolitical importance, regional stability in Central Asia is influenced not only by internal factors but also by external political and economic interests (Parfinenko, 2022).

A large number of studies focus on terrorism and extremism as traditional security challenges in Central Asia. Researchers note that instability in neighboring regions, especially Afghanistan, increases security risks connected with radical movements and transnational crime. Border control, migration processes, and regional cooperation are therefore often discussed as important elements of security policy (Akkozhina, 2025).

At the same time, recent literature shows growing attention to cybersecurity and digital transformation. The expansion of online communication systems, electronic governance, and digital infrastructure has created new vulnerabilities for states and societies. Cyber attacks targeting government institutions, banking systems, and communication networks are becoming more frequent. Scholars argue that cybersecurity today is closely connected with national stability and regional security (Zagdsuren & Densmaa, 2025).

Another major topic in recent studies is information warfare. Researchers explain that social media platforms and digital technologies are widely used for propaganda, fake news, and online manipulation. Information attacks may influence political processes and public opinion,

especially during periods of political instability or international tension. Because of this, information security is increasingly viewed as part of modern regional security systems (Zagdsuren & Densmaa, 2025).

Artificial intelligence is also discussed as both an opportunity and a challenge in cybersecurity studies. AI technologies improve digital monitoring systems and help detect cyber attacks more efficiently. However, researchers also warn about AI-based cybercrime, automated attacks, and deepfake technologies that create new security risks in cyberspace. Modern digital transformation therefore creates not only technological advantages but also new vulnerabilities connected with artificial intelligence and information security (Mahmud & Hossain, 2025).

Many scholars emphasize that regional cooperation is necessary for solving modern security problems. Organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) are often mentioned as important mechanisms for maintaining stability in Central Asia. International cooperation in cybersecurity, border protection, and counterterrorism activities is becoming increasingly important because modern threats frequently cross national borders (Mahmud & Hossain, 2025).

Researchers also note that the rapid development of digital technologies changes approaches to information exchange, education, and access to knowledge. Online platforms, digital libraries, and electronic information systems now play an important role in strengthening communication and supporting regional cooperation processes. These technological changes influence not only education and culture but also broader information security systems within society (Nazarova et al., 2024).

Despite the growing number of studies related to regional security, researchers note that some areas still require further examination. In particular, the combined influence of cyber threats, information warfare, and digital transformation on regional stability in Central Asia remains insufficiently explored. Rapid technological change continuously creates new security challenges, making this topic highly relevant for modern academic research (Nuriddinova, 2022). Scholars emphasize that communication and information exchange systems strongly influence social and political interaction in modern society. Different forms of communication, including digital interaction and online communication platforms, increasingly shape public opinion and regional information environments. This demonstrates that information technologies today are closely connected with political stability and regional security processes (Ikromova & Abduvaliyeva, 2020).

Figure 2. Main Security Factors Influencing Central Asia (Pie Chart)

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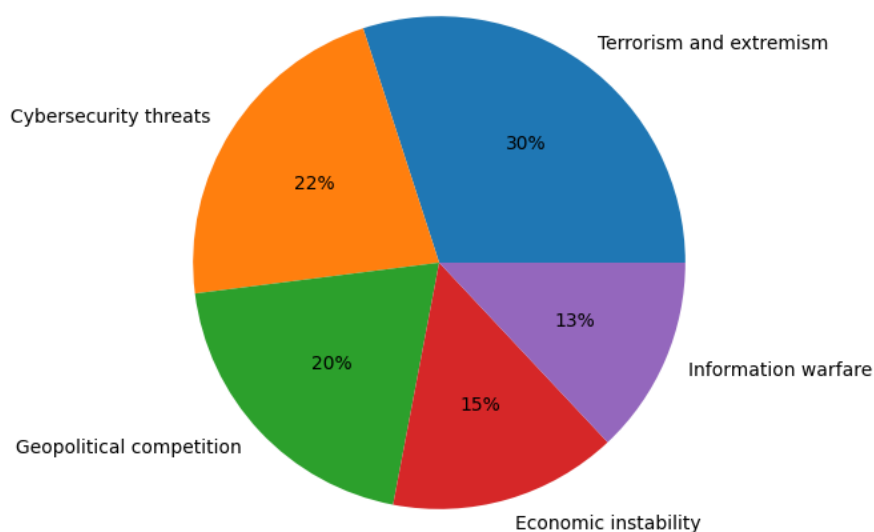


Figure 2 demonstrates the main factors influencing regional security in Central Asia. Terrorism and extremism continue to represent one of the largest security risks in the region. At the same time, cybersecurity threats and information warfare are becoming increasingly significant because of rapid digitalization and the growing role of online communication technologies.

Source: Prepared by the author based on regional security and cybersecurity studies (2022–2025).

Table 2. Modern Security Threats in Central Asia

Security Factor	Main Effect	Regional Impact
<i>Terrorism</i>	Violence and instability	Weakens regional security
<i>Cyber threats</i>	Digital system attacks	Threatens infrastructure
<i>Geopolitical rivalry</i>	Political pressure	Increases regional competition
<i>Economic crises</i>	Financial instability	Creates social risks
<i>Information warfare</i>	Fake news and propaganda	Influences public opinion

Research methods. This research is devoted to the analysis of the transformation of the regional security system in Central Asia under conditions of global instability. The study focuses on traditional and non-traditional security threats, including terrorism, cyber threats, information warfare, economic instability, and geopolitical competition. Modern studies emphasize that

regional security systems are increasingly influenced by technological development, digital communication, and global political changes (Tulibayeva, 2024).

The research is based mainly on qualitative and analytical approaches. These methods were chosen because the topic requires detailed examination of political, technological, and security processes influencing the region. Analytical methods made it possible to study the relationship between global instability and regional security challenges in Central Asia. Researchers note that modern interdisciplinary approaches are important for understanding political and technological transformation processes in the region (Tikaev & Yousupov, 2025).

Descriptive analysis was used to explain the main concepts related to regional security, cybersecurity, digital transformation, and information warfare. Through this method, different types of threats and their impact on political and social stability were examined. The study also analyzed the role of digital technologies and cyberspace in the transformation of modern security systems. Digital communication and information technologies increasingly influence both social interaction and political processes in modern society (Ido, 2025).

Comparative analysis was applied to compare different approaches to regional security and cybersecurity used by states and international organizations. This method helped identify similarities and differences in security strategies, regional cooperation mechanisms, and digital protection systems. Comparative analysis also allowed examination of the influence of external actors such as Russia, China, and Western countries on Central Asian security processes.

Content analysis was another important research method used in this study. Scientific articles, analytical reports, policy papers, and international publications related to regional security and cybersecurity were examined. Special attention was given to academic materials published between 2021 and 2025 because security threats and digital technologies change rapidly in modern conditions. Scholars emphasize that information systems and digital technologies increasingly influence research processes, communication systems, and information exchange mechanisms (Abjalova, Rashidova, & Hasanov, 2024).

The research also considered historical and cultural approaches in understanding regional transformation processes. Historical sources and regional studies help explain how political and social development influences modern regional cooperation and security systems in Central Asia (Jabborov, 2019). In addition, linguistic and cultural research demonstrates that communication systems and information environments play an important role in shaping modern regional interaction and social stability (Gafurova, 2021).

The study also used statistical materials and visual analytical tools such as tables, pie charts, and diagrams. These materials helped present information more clearly and supported the

interpretation of regional security trends. Statistical data related to cyber threats, geopolitical influence, and regional instability were collected from scientific publications and analytical reports.

The theoretical basis of the research includes studies related to regional security, international relations, cybersecurity, digital transformation, and information warfare. Different academic approaches were analyzed in order to understand how global instability influences security systems in Central Asia.

The research process consisted of several stages. At the first stage, scientific literature and analytical materials connected with regional security and cybersecurity were collected. At the second stage, the selected materials were analyzed and grouped according to thematic relevance. The final stage focused on interpretation of the results and formulation of conclusions about the transformation of regional security systems under modern global conditions.

The chosen research methods made it possible to examine the topic from political, technological, and security perspectives. The combination of descriptive, comparative, and analytical approaches helped provide a broader understanding of the modern challenges affecting regional stability in Central Asia.

Table 3. Research Methods Used in the Study

Research Method	Purpose	Use in the Study
<i>Descriptive analysis</i>	To explain the topic	Regional security and cyber threats were described
<i>Comparative analysis</i>	To compare different approaches	Security systems and regional strategies were compared
<i>Content analysis</i>	To study scientific materials	Articles, reports, and analytical sources were analyzed
<i>Analytical method</i>	To examine relationships	The impact of global instability on regional security was studied
<i>Statistical review</i>	To present data clearly	Pie charts, tables, and security statistics were used

Table 3 presents the main research methods used in the study. Different analytical approaches were combined to examine regional security challenges, cybersecurity risks, and geopolitical processes in Central Asia. The use of statistical and visual materials helped improve the clarity of the research and supported the interpretation of modern security trends.

Source: Prepared by the author based on the research methodology used in the study.

Results and Discussion. The research demonstrates that the regional security system in Central Asia is undergoing significant transformation under conditions of global instability. Traditional security threats such as terrorism, extremism, border conflicts, and transnational crime continue to remain important for regional stability. However, modern challenges connected with cyberspace, information warfare, digital infrastructure, and geopolitical competition are becoming increasingly influential.

One of the main findings of the study is the growing role of cybersecurity in regional security systems. The rapid development of digital technologies and online communication platforms has increased the vulnerability of states and institutions to cyber attacks. Governments, financial systems, communication networks, and public services are becoming more dependent on digital infrastructure, which creates additional cybersecurity risks. The analysis shows that cyber attacks are among the fastest-growing security challenges in Central Asia. Phishing attacks, malware, ransomware, hacking, and information leakage increasingly affect public institutions and private organizations. In many cases, cyber threats create not only technical problems but also economic and political consequences. Damage to digital infrastructure may disrupt communication systems, banking operations, and public administration. Another important result of the study is the increasing role of information warfare in regional politics. Social media platforms and online communication technologies allow information to spread rapidly across societies. However, these platforms are also used for propaganda, fake news, and digital manipulation. Information attacks may influence public opinion, increase political tension, and weaken trust in public institutions. The study also demonstrates that geopolitical competition continues to influence regional security in Central Asia. Major international actors such as Russia, China, the United States, and the European Union actively participate in political and economic processes within the region. Their interests affect regional cooperation, economic development, and security strategies.

The influence of Afghanistan remains another important factor affecting regional stability. Security risks connected with terrorism, extremism, migration, and transnational crime continue to create pressure on neighboring states. Because of this, border protection and counterterrorism cooperation remain important priorities for Central Asian countries. Economic instability is also identified as one of the major regional security challenges. Inflation, unemployment, economic dependence, and global financial crises create social and political pressure within the region. Economic problems often increase migration and social dissatisfaction, which may negatively influence political stability. The research shows that digital transformation creates both opportunities and vulnerabilities for Central Asia. On the one hand, digital technologies improve

communication, public administration, financial systems, and access to information. On the other hand, increasing digital dependence creates new cybersecurity risks and information security challenges. Artificial intelligence is becoming another important factor influencing regional security systems. AI technologies improve data analysis, digital monitoring, and cyber defense systems. However, the use of artificial intelligence in deepfake technologies, automated attacks, and digital manipulation also creates new security concerns. This demonstrates that technological development continuously changes the nature of regional security threats.

The results also confirm that regional cooperation is necessary for maintaining stability in Central Asia. Security threats today frequently cross national borders, which means that individual states cannot solve these problems independently. Cooperation through regional organizations, cybersecurity agreements, and information exchange mechanisms plays an important role in strengthening regional security systems.

Table 4. Main Effects of Global Instability on Central Asia

Factor	Main Effect	Influence on Regional Security
Cyber threats	Digital system vulnerability	Weakens cybersecurity systems
Terrorism	Political instability	Increases regional tension
Geopolitical rivalry	External political pressure	Influences regional cooperation
Economic crises	Social and financial pressure	Creates instability risks
Information warfare	Manipulation through media	Affects public opinion

Table 4 presents the major effects of global instability on regional security in Central Asia. The results show that modern security challenges are interconnected and influence political, economic, technological, and social processes simultaneously. Cybersecurity and information protection are becoming increasingly important components of regional stability.

Source: Compiled by the author using analytical reports and regional security studies.

The research demonstrates that geopolitical competition remains one of the major factors influencing regional security in Central Asia. Because of its strategic geographical location, natural resources, and transport potential, the region attracts the attention of major international powers. Russia, China, the United States, and the European Union continue to strengthen their political, economic, and technological presence in Central Asia through different forms of cooperation and strategic initiatives.

Russia traditionally plays an important role in the regional security system through military cooperation, economic relations, and participation in regional organizations such as the

Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). Security cooperation with Russia includes joint military exercises, counterterrorism activities, and border security support. Historical, political, and economic ties also continue to influence regional relations.

China has significantly increased its influence in Central Asia during recent years, especially through economic and infrastructure projects connected with the Belt and Road Initiative. Chinese investments in transport, energy, and digital infrastructure contribute to economic modernization in the region. At the same time, growing economic dependence on external actors creates discussions about political influence and strategic balance within Central Asia. The United States and Western countries also remain important participants in regional political and economic processes. Their activities are mainly connected with economic cooperation, democratic reforms, educational projects, and cybersecurity support programs. Western states often emphasize regional stability, digital modernization, and international cooperation in counterterrorism efforts. The study shows that geopolitical competition in Central Asia is no longer based only on military or territorial influence. Modern competition increasingly includes digital technologies, information systems, economic projects, transport corridors, and energy cooperation. Cybersecurity and digital infrastructure are gradually becoming part of geopolitical strategy and international influence. Another important finding is the growing role of regional cooperation mechanisms. Central Asian states increasingly recognize that modern security threats cannot be solved individually. Organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and regional dialogue platforms help strengthen cooperation in areas including counterterrorism, border protection, economic development, and cybersecurity.

Regional cooperation is especially important in addressing transnational threats. Terrorism, cybercrime, migration, and information warfare frequently cross state borders and therefore require coordinated responses. Information exchange between states and joint security initiatives improve regional stability and strengthen collective security mechanisms. Economic cooperation also plays a major role in reducing regional instability. Trade relations, transport connectivity, and infrastructure development create stronger interdependence between states and support long-term political stability. Regional economic integration therefore becomes not only an economic issue but also an important security factor. The research further indicates that balancing relations with major international actors remains a complex challenge for Central Asian states. Countries in the region often attempt to maintain balanced foreign policies in order to avoid excessive dependence on a single external power. This multidirectional approach influences diplomatic strategies and regional security policies.

Digital transformation is also changing geopolitical competition itself. States increasingly compete through technological influence, digital infrastructure projects, artificial intelligence development, and control over information flows. Because of this, regional security today depends not only on military capacity but also on technological resilience and cybersecurity preparedness. Findings demonstrate that geopolitical competition and regional cooperation simultaneously shape the transformation of the regional security system in Central Asia. External influence, economic integration, digital modernization, and collective security mechanisms all play interconnected roles in maintaining regional stability under conditions of global instability.

Conclusion. The transformation of the regional security system in Central Asia has become one of the most important political and strategic processes under conditions of global instability. Modern security challenges are no longer limited only to traditional military threats. Today regional stability is influenced by terrorism, cyber threats, information warfare, economic instability, digital transformation, migration processes, geopolitical competition, and technological dependence. This demonstrates that the concept of security itself has significantly expanded in the modern world. The research shows that Central Asia occupies a strategically important position in international political and economic relations. The region connects major geopolitical actors and serves as an important transport and energy corridor between Europe and Asia. Because of this geographical importance, Central Asia remains under constant influence from external political and economic interests. Relations with Russia, China, the United States, and international organizations continue to shape regional security processes.

One of the major findings of the study is the growing role of cybersecurity in modern regional security systems. Rapid digital transformation has increased dependence on internet technologies, online communication systems, electronic governance, and digital infrastructure. Although digitalization creates many opportunities for modernization and economic growth, it also creates serious vulnerabilities connected with cyber attacks, information leakage, online manipulation, and digital dependence. The study demonstrates that cyber threats are becoming more complex and more dangerous every year. Cyber attacks may target banking systems, government institutions, communication networks, healthcare platforms, transport systems, and critical infrastructure. In many cases, cyber incidents create not only technical damage but also political, economic, and social instability. Because of this, cybersecurity today is directly connected with national sovereignty and regional stability.

Another important result of the research is the increasing influence of information warfare. Social media platforms and digital communication technologies are actively used for propaganda, fake news, disinformation campaigns, and manipulation of public opinion.

Information attacks may increase political tension, weaken trust in institutions, and create instability within societies. The study confirms that information security has become one of the essential components of modern regional security. The findings also show that terrorism and extremism continue to remain serious threats in Central Asia. Instability in neighboring regions, especially Afghanistan, still affects border security, migration processes, and counterterrorism policies. However, extremist organizations increasingly use digital technologies and online platforms for communication and propaganda, which demonstrates the connection between traditional and modern security threats.

Economic instability is another major factor influencing regional security. Inflation, unemployment, migration, financial crises, and dependence on external markets create additional social and political pressure within the region. Economic security therefore becomes closely connected with political stability and public safety. Digital economies and technological modernization create new opportunities, but they also require stronger protection of financial systems and digital infrastructure. The research further demonstrates that geopolitical competition continues to influence the transformation of the regional security system in Central Asia. Major powers actively participate in economic projects, technological cooperation, energy infrastructure, and political processes in the region. Modern geopolitical rivalry increasingly includes digital influence, information control, technological projects, and cybersecurity strategies. At the same time, the study confirms the growing importance of regional cooperation. Modern threats such as cybercrime, terrorism, information warfare, and migration frequently cross national borders. Because of this, individual states cannot fully solve these challenges independently. Regional organizations, security agreements, and international cooperation mechanisms therefore play an important role in maintaining stability and strengthening collective security systems.

Another important conclusion is that security systems in Central Asia are gradually transforming from traditional military-centered models toward broader multidimensional approaches. Modern regional security now includes cybersecurity, information protection, digital governance, economic resilience, technological modernization, and environmental security. This reflects wider global changes in the understanding of security in the digital age.

The study also highlights the importance of cybersecurity education and digital literacy. Technical protection systems alone are not sufficient if users lack awareness of online risks and digital safety principles. Public education, professional training, and development of qualified cybersecurity specialists are becoming essential parts of long-term regional security strategies. Transformation of the regional security system in Central Asia reflects broader global political

and technological changes. The region faces both traditional and modern security challenges simultaneously. Terrorism, border disputes, and economic instability continue to remain important, while cyber threats, information warfare, and digital vulnerabilities are becoming increasingly influential. This combination creates a complex and constantly changing security environment. Future regional stability in Central Asia will depend on the ability of states to strengthen cooperation, modernize digital infrastructure, improve cybersecurity systems, and adapt to rapidly changing global conditions. Technological development will continue to influence political, economic, and social processes in the region. Because of this, maintaining security in the future will require flexible strategies, international dialogue, and balanced approaches combining technological progress with effective protection systems.

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