



A MORE PERFECT TURKIC UNION? - PROJECT  
SYNDICATE - 06.12.2021

Djoomart OTORBAEV

Blog No: 76  
09.12.2021

**Project Syndicate (6 December 2021)**

**Djoomart OTORBAEV\***

*Russia, China, and the West have so far said relatively little about the seven-member Organization of Turkic States. But with the Eurasian chessboard becoming increasingly pivotal as great-power competition heats up, they are unlikely to remain silent for long.*

I still have vivid memories of my first trip to Turkey in 1993. After the Soviet Union's collapse two years previously, we Kyrgyz gained access to a world we had hitherto only imagined. We all had Turkish relatives somewhere in the West with whom we had lost contact. And there was a similar emotional reaction on the Turkish side: Turkey was the first state to recognize the independence of my country and the other Soviet Central Asian republics.

So, when I arrived at Atatürk airport in Istanbul, I approached ordinary Turks and tried to speak with them. To my disappointment, we didn't understand each other. I realized that although many elements of our respective languages were similar, differences in pronunciation and the many Persian, Arabic, and Latin words that had become a part of modern Turkish prevented me from communicating freely with the people I met. Despite a shared culture and traditions, history had separated Turkic-speaking people not only geographically and linguistically but also in essence.

Please click to read the rest of the article:  
<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/organization-of-turkic-states-great-power-reaction-by-djoomart-otorbaev-2021-12>

*\*Djoomart Otorbaev was prime minister of Kyrgyzstan in 2014-15*

About the author:


To cite this article: Djoomart OTORBAEV. 2026. "A MORE PERFECT TURKIC UNION? - PROJECT SYNDICATE - 06.12.2021." Center For Eurasian Studies (AVİM), Blog No.2021 / 76. December 09. Accessed February 17, 2026. <https://www.avim.org.tr/Blog/A-MORE-PERFECT-TURKIC-UNION-PROJECT-SYNDICATE-06-12-2021>



Süleyman Nazif Sok. No: 12/B Daire 3-4 06550 Çankaya-ANKARA / TÜRKİYE

**Tel:** +90 (312) 438 50 23-24 • **Fax:** +90 (312) 438 50 26

 @avimorgtr

 <https://www.facebook.com/avrasyaincelemelerimerkezi>

**E-Posta:** [info@avim.org.tr](mailto:info@avim.org.tr)

<http://avim.org.tr>

---

© 2009-2025 Avrasya İncelemeleri Merkezi (AVİM) Tüm Hakları Saklıdır