

16  NEW INTERNATIONAL INSIGHTS

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THE COMPLETION OF EURASIA ?

**CONTINENTAL CONVERGENCE
OR REGIONAL DISSENT IN THE
CONTEXT OF 'HISTORIC TURNS'**


PETER LANG

Introduction	
Eurasia, why its thriving matters	63
<i>Pierre Chabal</i>	

PART I ORGANISATIONAL AND DIPLOMATIC COMPETITION
Kunaly Baizakova and Richard Balme

Preventing threats of terrorism and religious extremism in CA: The experience of European countries	73
<i>Kunaly Baizakova</i>	
Multilateral relations in Central Asia: Perspectives on the Central Asian Consultative Forum	83
<i>Mirzakhid Rakhimov</i>	
Eurasian partners for Kazakhstan during the power transition	93
<i>Fatima Kukejeva</i>	
Reciprocal challenges for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and Eurasia in mutual globalisation	105
<i>Altya Akhatayeva</i>	
The impact of a 'Regional Governance Structure' on US post-cold war policies in Eurasia	117
<i>Lu Xia</i>	
Northeast Asia's construction and Mongolia's structural contribution to Eurasia	129
<i>Bayasakh J. Khoreid</i>	
How membership in a Eurasian organisation complies with the expectations of sub-regional actors: The case of Kyrgyzstan in the EAEU	139
<i>Jildiz Nishanpova</i>	

Preventing threats of terrorism and religious extremism in CA: The experience of European countries

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Religious radicalisation has become a particularly critical issue in many countries as extremist organisations, always more numerous, involve young people in the orbit of their influence and attract them into their activities, thus turning the youth into part of their social base. This chapter analyses and compares models and experiences of combating religious radicalism, extremism and terrorism in prominent countries, in order to identify effective examples. Central Asian countries share with the European Union a common interest in the field of regional and international security, as illustrated by the geopolitical pluralism of the 2019 New EU Strategy for Central Asia. The bi-regional partnership in this area includes cooperation with the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. Kazakhstan's experience in cooperating with international organisations demonstrates the need to establish comprehensive contacts, not only military-political ones, but also humanitarian interaction, in order to prevent the spread of radicalism.

Central Asian countries, thirty years on after their independence, continue facing a wide range of regional security issues that directly impact the stability and sustainable development of each country separately and that of the region as a whole. CA countries are undergoing serious political and socio-economic transformations aimed at modernising the traditionally oriental state and society. Their marked industrial development, slowed down by the global pandemic, is accompanied by changes in the societal organisation and structure due to urbanisation and the breakdown of traditional ties, by the politicisation of religion, which in turn alters the political life in CA and the regional security system. As to Kazakhstan, threats of terrorism and of religious extremism appear much more relevant in the context of the January 2022 events.

