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Security and Regionalism in Russia's relations with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan

This work explores Russia's security strategy in the two former Soviet Central Asian countries, importance of which in regional geopolitical terms has been considerable. Kazakhstan, the second largest ex-Soviet country after Russia, Caspian oil-rich country, with which Russia has also signed an agreement on lease of the Space Station "Baikonur". Kyrgyzstan's geopolitical importance is particularly determined by its "Manas" military bases, periodically leased by both Russia and USA, followed by mutual acquisitions in the interference in this country's political violent coups. To explore the dynamics of Russia's security strategy towards these countries, several key issues in this area are also reviewed, including such as institutional regionalism(CIS, CSTO, SCO) and elimination of nuclear and biological forces/weapons between Russia, Kazakhstan, USA and the international community. Kazakhstan's and Kyrgyzstan's relationships with the NATO and with the US on bilateral level, as influencing Russia-Kazakhstan relations in the military area in a broader term, are also briefly outlined. Finally, the paper underlines more general trends in relationship between Russia and these two ex-Soviet Central Asian states, explaining overall Russia's role in in military and security affairs of these countries and Central Asia more broadly.