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CENTRAL ASIA AS A REGION? ANALYSIS OF THE REGIONAL ELITES DISCOURSE

Abstract

The aim of the article is to present the approach of Central Asian elites to the region. The analysis was based on the statements and the official documents defining foreign policy strategies. Discourse analysis was the main research tool, semantic fields analysis was used for the statements' categorization.

I argue that the Central Asian presidents use the term Central Asia and identify with the region. Nonetheless, their narratives about the region differ significantly and do not form one consistent representation. There is no agreement at the level of defining the fundamental challenges that the region is facing, as well as choosing forms of cooperation within the region.

Keywords: Central Asia, regionalization, region, discourse analysis.

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