

Tajikistan: Recent Developments and Interests

Tajikistan, a country nestled in Central Asia, has been making significant strides in recent years. With a rich history, stunning landscapes, and a strategic geopolitical position, Tajikistan has garnered increasing attention from the international community. In this article, we will explore the recent developments and interests in Tajikistan, shedding light on the country's progress and potential.

The Growing Economy

Tajikistan's economy has experienced steady growth over the past decade. The country has been actively implementing economic reforms and diversifying its industries. Key sectors, such as agriculture, banking, construction, and tourism, have been major contributors to this growth. The government's efforts to attract foreign investments and improve the business environment have resulted in several successful partnerships with international companies.

One major development is the construction of the Rogun Dam, a hydroelectric power plant on the Vakhsh River. This ambitious project aims to boost Tajikistan's energy production and reduce its dependency on imported electricity. Once completed, the Rogun Dam will not only meet domestic demand but also allow for potential exports to neighboring countries, further strengthening Tajikistan's position in the region.



Tajikistan: Recent Developments and U.S.

Interests by J. Warner Wallace (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 357 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 35 pages
Lending : Enabled



Infrastructure and Connectivity

Tajikistan recognizes the importance of modern infrastructure and connectivity in driving economic growth. The government has prioritized the development of road networks, airports, and railways, all aimed at enhancing trade and tourism. The construction of the Pamir Highway, a scenic road traversing the Pamir Mountains, not only improves connectivity within the country but also opens up opportunities for international tourists seeking adventure and natural beauty.

Furthermore, Tajikistan is a key partner in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China's ambitious infrastructure project aimed at enhancing connectivity across Asia and Europe. As part of the BRI, Tajikistan has seen the development of ports, railways, and industrial zones, which will facilitate regional trade and investment. These initiatives have attracted the attention of global investors and positioned Tajikistan as a vital link in the connectivity network.

Cultural Heritage and Tourism Potential

Tajikistan is home to a rich cultural heritage that spans centuries. The country boasts ancient cities, such as Khujand and Penjikent, which were once important centers along the Silk Road. These historical sites, along with numerous fortresses, mosques, and mausoleums, attract history enthusiasts from around the world.



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July 13, 2012

Congressional Research Service
7-5700
www.crs.gov
97-727

CRS Report for Congress
Prepared for Members and Committees of Congress

Moreover, Tajikistan's stunning natural landscapes offer immense opportunities for eco-tourism. The Pamir Mountains, with their snow-capped peaks, crystal-clear lakes, and abundant wildlife, are a favorite destination for hiking, mountaineering, and bird-watching. The Fann Mountains and Iskanderkul Lake are also popular tourist spots, attracting nature lovers and adventure seekers alike.

Geopolitical Importance

Tajikistan's strategic location further adds to its significance on the global stage. Situated at the crossroads of Central Asia, it shares borders with Afghanistan, China, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. This geopolitical position makes Tajikistan a crucial player in regional politics, security, and trade.

The stability and security of Tajikistan are of paramount importance to neighboring countries and international actors. Tajikistan has been actively cooperating with its allies to combat terrorism, drug trafficking, and other transnational threats. Additionally, the country's membership in organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) strengthens its diplomatic ties and provides a platform for regional cooperation.

Investment and Partnership Opportunities

With its growing economy, improved infrastructure, and tourism potential, Tajikistan offers numerous investment and partnership opportunities. The government has implemented investor-friendly policies, offering incentives such as tax breaks and simplified procedures to attract foreign businesses.

Investment prospects in sectors like renewable energy, agriculture, mining, and tourism are particularly promising. Tajikistan's vast hydropower potential, fertile agricultural lands, and untapped mineral resources make it an attractive destination for investors seeking diverse opportunities.

, Tajikistan's recent developments and interests highlight its growing economy, improved infrastructure, rich cultural heritage, and strategic importance. The country's progress and potential make it an exciting destination for both investors and tourists. As Tajikistan continues to build upon these achievements, it is poised to play a significant role in Central Asia and beyond.



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Tajikistan is a significant country in Central Asia by virtue of its geographic location bordering China and Afghanistan and its ample water and other resources, but it faces ethnic and clan schisms, deep poverty, poor governance, and other severe challenges. Tajikistan was one of the poorest of the new states that gained independence at the end of 1991 after the break-up of the former Soviet Union. The new country was soon plunged into a devastating civil conflict between competing regional and other interests that lasted until a peace settlement in 1997. Former state farm chairman Imomaliy Rahmon rose to power during this period and was reelected president after the peace settlement as part of a power-sharing arrangement. He was reelected in 2006. His rule has been increasingly authoritarian and has been marked by ongoing human rights abuses, according to many observers.

The civil war had further set back economic development in the country. The economy recovered to its Soviet-era level by the early 2000s, and GDP had expanded several times by the late 2000s, despite setbacks associated with the global economic downturn. Poverty remains widespread, however, and the

infrastructure for healthcare, education, transportation, and energy faces steep developmental needs, according to many observers. The country continues to face problems of political integration, perhaps evidenced in part by recent violence in eastern Tajikistan. The country also faces substantial threats from terrorism and narcotics trafficking from Afghanistan.

The United States has been Tajikistan's largest bilateral donor, budgeting \$988.57 million of aid for Tajikistan (FREEDOM Support Act and agency budgets) over the period from fiscal year 1992 through fiscal year 2010, mainly for food and other humanitarian needs. Budgeted foreign assistance for FY2012 was \$45.1 million, and the Administration requested \$36.4 million for FY2014 (these FY2012 and FY2014 figures exclude most Defense and Energy Department programs; data for FY2013 is not yet available).

After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, Tajikistan seemed to be willing to cooperate with the United States, but hesitated to do so without permission from Moscow. However, Tajikistan had long supported the Afghan Northern Alliance's combat against the Taliban. Perhaps after gauging Russia's views, Tajikistan soon offered use of Tajik airspace to U.S. forces, and some coalition forces began to transit through Tajik airspace and airfields. During a January 2009 visit, the then-Commander of the U.S. Central Command reached agreement with President Rahmon on the land transit of goods such as construction materials to support military operations of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. While most land transport along this Northern Distribution Network traverses Uzbekistan to final destinations in Afghanistan, Tajikistan serves as an alternative route for a small percentage of supplies. In March 2012, the land transit of some ISAF material out of Afghanistan through Tajikistan began.



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