



## THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN ON THE WORLD MAP

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**Annotation:** this article explores the geopolitical, economic, and cultural position of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the world map. It discusses the country's geographical features, historical background, international relations, and its growing role in global politics and regional cooperation. Special attention is given to Uzbekistan's strategic location in Central Asia, its natural resources, and its participation in international organizations.

**Key words:** Uzbekistan, Central Asia, geopolitics, economy, culture, Silk Road, international relations, global integration; regional cooperation; foreign policy; Silk Road; strategic location.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is a sovereign state located in the heart of Central Asia. It borders Kazakhstan to the north, Kyrgyzstan to the northeast, Tajikistan to the southeast, Afghanistan to the south, and Turkmenistan to the southwest. With a total area of about 448,924 square kilometers, Uzbekistan is one of the largest countries in the region. The country declared its independence on August 31, 1991, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and since then has played a key role in maintaining regional stability and cooperation in Central Asia. Geographical location and natural features: Uzbekistan is one of only two double landlocked countries in the world (the other being Liechtenstein), meaning that it is surrounded entirely by other landlocked countries. The nation lies between the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers, which historically formed part of the fertile Fergana



Valley — the agricultural heart of Central Asia. The country's landscape includes deserts, such as the Kyzylkum Desert, as well as mountains in the east. Uzbekistan's climate is continental, with hot summers and cold winters. Natural resources include natural gas, gold, copper, uranium, and cotton, which play a vital role in the national economy. Moreover, Uzbekistan's territory has a long and rich history. It was one of the main centers of the ancient Silk Road, which connected China with Europe. Historical cities like Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva were major trade and cultural hubs, known for their Islamic architecture, science, and art. During the Middle Ages, the region flourished under the rule of Amir Temur (Tamerlane), whose empire became one of the most powerful in Eurasia. Later, the territory came under Russian control in the 19th century and became part of the Soviet Union in the 20th century. After independence in 1991, Uzbekistan started building its new national identity and strengthening its position in the international community. Political and economic development - since independence, Uzbekistan has undergone significant political and economic reforms. The current President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev (in office since 2016), has implemented modernization programs aimed at improving governance, supporting entrepreneurship, and attracting foreign investment. Uzbekistan is a member of major international organizations, including the United Nations (UN), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The country's foreign policy is based on principles of neutrality, cooperation, and mutual respect. Economically, Uzbekistan is one of the fastest-growing countries in Central Asia. The government focuses on diversifying exports beyond natural gas and cotton, promoting tourism, agriculture, and renewable energy. Major economic partners include China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, South Korea, and the European Union.

Uzbekistan is home to more than 38 million people, representing a diverse and young population. The majority are ethnic Uzbeks, and Uzbek is the official language. Islam is the dominant religion, though the country ensures freedom of belief and interethnic harmony. Culturally, Uzbekistan is famous for its architecture,



traditional music, crafts, and cuisine. Cities such as Samarkand and Bukhara are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List for their historical significance. The government promotes cultural diplomacy through initiatives like the ‘New Uzbekistan’ development strategy and international cultural festivals. Education is a national priority. Many universities have partnerships with foreign institutions, helping Uzbekistan integrate into the global academic community.

Uzbekistan’s role in the global community - on the world map, Uzbekistan occupies a strategically important position between East and West. It serves as a bridge connecting Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. The country participates actively in addressing global challenges, including climate change, water management, and regional security. Uzbekistan’s foreign policy focuses on peace and cooperation. The nation supports regional connectivity projects such as the Trans-Afghan railway and the China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan transport corridor, which will boost trade and economic integration. Uzbekistan is also strengthening its image through tourism. The brand “Uzbekistan — the Heart of the Silk Road” attracts millions of visitors every year, showcasing the nation’s historical heritage and modern development.

In conclusion, Uzbekistan occupies a unique and strategically significant position on the world map due to its central location in Central Asia, abundant natural resources, and rich historical and cultural heritage. Its cities, such as Samarkand and Bukhara, not only preserve ancient traditions but also serve as important centers for tourism and international cultural exchange. The country’s ongoing political and economic reforms aim to modernize governance, diversify the economy, and attract foreign investment, strengthening its regional influence. Through active participation in international organizations and regional connectivity projects, Uzbekistan contributes to peace, stability, and development in Central Asia. Moreover, investments in education, science, and culture demonstrate the nation’s commitment to long-term sustainable growth. Overall, Uzbekistan is emerging as a progressive, cooperative, and globally connected country, playing an increasingly important role in regional and international affairs. Furthermore, the



Republic of Uzbekistan occupies a strategically important position on the world map, both geographically and geopolitically. Located at the heart of Central Asia, the country serves as a vital bridge between East and West, linking major economic, cultural, and transportation routes. Its rich historical heritage, economic potential, and active foreign policy have significantly strengthened its role in regional and global affairs. In recent years, Uzbekistan has expanded its international cooperation, joined influential global organizations, and initiated large-scale reforms aimed at openness, sustainability, and development. These efforts have enhanced the nation's global visibility, increased foreign investment, and deepened diplomatic partnerships. Furthermore, the country's commitment to peace, stability, and regional connectivity demonstrates its growing importance in the international community. Overall, Uzbekistan's unique geographical position, combined with its strategic development policies, ensures that the country continues to play a dynamic and influential role on the world map. As Uzbekistan integrates more deeply into global political, economic, and cultural processes, its significance in shaping the future of Central Asia and beyond will continue to grow.

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