

## Digitalization and Cyber Security Policies in Uzbekistan's Institutions and Sectors in One Belt One Road Project\*

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### ABSTRACT

The diffusion of information and communication technologies (ICT) into a rapidly growing area of global trade has contributed significantly to the gains made by companies and governments. Increasing consumption at the international level and the desire for faster and more reliable delivery of goods have led to the emergence of new sectors. In this context, states, other government agencies, and the private sector have sought to enhance their bilateral relations and investments and establish strategic partnerships to develop new fast, and reliable trade networks. While actions and activities in cyberspace and digital spaces have provided significant convenience and opportunities, they have also led to significant security concerns. The purpose of this study is to examine and evaluate the contribution of the One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative to the digitalization of Uzbekistan and the policies pursued by Uzbekistan in this regard, and to investigate the effects of public and private sector institutional cooperation in the One Belt, One Road project. The content analysis method was applied, one of the qualitative research methods. The study was also strengthened with the SWOT analysis method. By comparing relevant documents and sources on the subject, the aim of the study was concluded. The studies carried out to increase Uzbekistan's cyber capacity, the importance of maintaining strong cyber security policies through technology transfer, the challenges and legal regulations, institutional and sectoral cooperation, and their effects are the problem statements within the outline of the purpose of the study.

**Keywords:** Obor, Cyber Security, Sectors, Uzbekistan, Digital Transformation, Global Trade.

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### Bir Kuşak Bir Yol Projesi Kapsamında Özbekistan Kurumlarında ve Özel Sektörde Dijital Dönüşüm ve Siber Güvenlik Politikaları

### ÖZ

Bilgi ve iletişim teknolojilerinin (ICT) küresel ticaretin hızla büyüyen bir alanına yayılması, şirketler ve devletler tarafından elde edilen kazanımlara önemli ölçüde katkıda bulunmuştur. Küresel düzeyde artan tüketim ve malların daha hızlı ve güvenilir bir şekilde teslim edilmesi isteği yeni sektörlerin ortaya çıkmasına neden olmuştur. Bu bağlamda devletler, hızlı ve güvenilir yeni ticaret ağları geliştirmek amacıyla diğer devlet kurumları ve özel sektörler ikili ilişkilerini ve yatırımlarını geliştirmeye ve stratejik ortaklıklar kurmaya çalışmışlardır. Siber uzayda, dijital alanlarda gerçekleştirilen eylem ve faaliyetler önemli kolaylık ve fırsatlar sağlarken, aynı zamanda önemli güvenlik endişelerine de yol açmıştır. Bu çalışmanın amacı Tek Kuşak, Tek Yol (OBOR) girişiminin Özbekistan'ın dijitalleşmesine katkısını ve Özbekistan'ın bu konuda izlediği politikaları incelemek ve değerlendirmek, bu

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doğrultuda Bir Kuşak Bir Yol projesinde kamu ve özel sektör kurumsal iş birliğinin etkilerini araştırmaktır. Araştırmada nitel araştırma yöntemlerinden içerik analizi yöntemi uygulanmıştır. Çalışma, SWOT analiz metodu ile de güçlendirilmiştir. Konuyla ilgili belge ve kaynaklar karşılaştırılarak, çalışmanın amacından sonuca ulaşılmıştır. Özbekistan'ın siber kapasitesini artırmak için yapılan çalışmalar, teknoloji transferi yoluyla güçlü siber güvenlik politikalarının sürdürülmesinin önemi ve karşılaşılan zorluklar ve yasal düzenlemeler, kurumsal ve sektörel iş birlikleri ve etkileri çalışmanın amacının ana hatları içerisinde yer alan problem ifadeleridir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Tek Yol Tek Kuşak, Sektörler, Özbekistan, Dijital Dönüşün, Küresel Ticaret.

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## INTRODUCTION

Trade routes are the most important political, social, cultural, economic, and geopolitical factors in developing civilizations and nations. However, its importance has decreased with new developments over time. Due to the emergence of new job opportunities with the impact of globalization and the inability of global trade to meet the market supply, nation-states have turned to various feasibility studies to create new trade routes and formations and have started to work to identify alternative new routes. For the enrichment of their nations and their efforts to monopolize the global trade network, nation-states are working in partnership with other nation-states as well as acquiring port enterprises to develop the hinterland of their existing projects and establishing or partnering with companies engaged in international container transportation, which is the backbone of global trade.

During his official visit to Kazakhstan in 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the One Belt One Road (OBOR) project to revitalize global trade and further develop the global economy and stated that this project would benefit all states of the world (Hali et al. 2015). The OBOR initiative potentially covers 70% of the global population, 55% of the global Gross National Product (GNP), 75% of all energy reserves, and a potential global sphere of influence, with a capital of 40 billion US dollars with the Silk Road Fund established in 2014 (Buranelli 2018). The OBOR initiative is China's new foreign and economic development strategy that directly connects Asia and Europe and indirectly affects other states (Ismailova & Abdinabieva, 2021).

China is trying to expand its global economic influence using cooperative and soft power elements (cultural, political, and policy influences) instead of expansionist and hard power elements. This is evidenced by China's economic and social cooperation with Central Asian states, signing agreements with Europe on technological investments and technology transfer, and establishing close relations and investments with African states. These actions show China is taking appropriate and strategic steps in the OBOR project. In 2013, China's

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announcement of the OBOR project, which is closely related to global trade and excited the Central Asian states, proved that China's policies are justified.

The main reason why the announcement of OBOR by China has excited the Central Asian states is the close economic relations between China and the Central Asian states. For example, China's pledge to invest in railways, highways, tunnels, and other transportation projects in Uzbekistan with the OBOR project, as well as its promise to increase investments in telecommunications, has become linked to Uzbekistan's economic development model (Maitra 2016).

As China is an essential producer in the global economy and a pioneer in telecommunications and new technologies, it is trying to become a reliable partner worldwide. It is trying to change the image of the Eastern Bloc. In this context, it has primarily shaped its relations with neighboring and regional states on the axis of public diplomacy and used soft power elements. Our study focuses on how the relations between Uzbekistan and China have changed with the OBOR project and Uzbekistan's understanding of the importance of cyberspace in the light of current technological developments and the legal regulations and cyber security policies it has realized in the development of this field.

This study examines the effects of the Uzbekistan state's institutional cooperation in the scope of public-private sector digitalization in the One Belt One Road project. The problem of the research: Has Uzbekistan effectively created the digitalization structure in the One Belt One Road project through public and private sector institutional cooperation? The content analysis method was applied in this study. Content analysis is a qualitative research method that systematically analyzes the content of written, visual, or audio documents to obtain in-depth information about a specific topic or problem (Harwood & Garry 2003). The content analysis method was used to compare different sources' contents and reveal similarities/differences. The limited information and data on Uzbekistan was one of the difficulties encountered in the study.

### **Digital Independence: Uzbekistan**

After gaining independence in 1999 following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Uzbekistan adopted the principle of balance in its foreign policy. It sought to develop relations with various actors, including Russia, the United States, China, the European Union, and Islamic countries. Uzbekistan's balanced approach is designed to reduce the risk of overdependence on a single power to avoid being dominated by a single global power and to establish its presence in the

international arena. Although Uzbekistan has concluded various cooperation agreements with other countries after gaining independence, it has given its paramount importance to other countries in Central Asia. Uzbekistan has cooperated with the region's governments and regional organizations in this context. In particular, it has played an active role in regional organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), and the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC).

By pursuing an officially neutral foreign policy, Uzbekistan has not only ensured that the country stays away from regional conflicts and maintains friendly relations with all countries but has also sought to align its foreign policy with its economic development goals, and in this context, has developed policies and strategies to encourage foreign investment and expand its international trade. This situation has also caused Uzbekistan to experience changes in its foreign policy in recent years. While aiming to improve its relations with Russia through the SCO, it has signed various agreements with China to increase economic and political cooperation to ensure cyber security in public institutions and organizations and to develop information technologies, as well as with the United States by holding various negotiations with the US-Uzbekistan Strategic Partnership Dialogue, and signed multiple agreements for the establishment and development of American universities (Spot 2023; U.S. Embassy in Uzbekistan 2023; Webster University 2023).

Despite being a relatively young country, Uzbekistan has achieved significant success in maintaining its independence and neutrality in the international arena, thanks to the effectiveness of its policies and strategies. However, despite its considerable social, economic, and technological deficiencies stemming from its young age, it is taking various steps to overcome these deficiencies rapidly. The most important is the country's participation in international projects such as the OBOR initiative, strengthening and developing infrastructure and superstructures, and acquiring new technologies through knowledge transfer. In addition to the acquisitions above, the country is developing legal regulations and long-term strategies to avoid falling prey to emerging technologies. In particular, the most important among these strategies is the Digital Uzbekistan 2030 strategy that Uzbekistan has determined on the path of digitalization.

### **Digital Transformation in Institutions and Sectors: Digital Uzbekistan-2030**

Uzbekistan's adoption of digital transformation and integration of digital technologies into the country's economy is seen as a significant factor behind Uzbekistan's being the fastest-growing

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country among other countries in the region (Khamidov et al. 2023). The widespread use of information technologies, which started with the spread of the Internet to the social base, caused the world to enter a new industrial revolution process and created great opportunities for the diversification of countries' economies and financial resources and the emergence of new areas (Nematullayev 2022). Since the digitalization race in the world is a significant engine of economic development, Uzbekistan has integrated it into its systems, enacted legal regulations, and developed long-term cybersecurity strategies and policies to stabilize the digital economy and create an attractive country profile for domestic and foreign investors.

Due to the lack of share of the digital economy in the overall economy in Uzbekistan, it was decided to fully digitize the fields of transportation, geology, education, and archives by establishing Information and Technology (IT) parks created with modern infrastructure in 2020. Various initiatives have been taken to close the lack of digital skills in the population so that digitalization movements can proceed healthily (Yuldashmakhmudov 2022). In this context, radical changes have been adopted within the scope of the digitalization movement of public institutions and organizations, and legal regulations have secured these radical changes. In this context, legal arrangements were made to protect personal data, and the country's first and most comprehensive cyber security law was adopted on February 25, 2022.

Article 6 of the relevant law: protecting the interests of individuals, society, and the state from external and internal threats in cyberspace. Article 8: When purchasing goods necessary to ensure the cybersecurity of the state and economic management bodies local self-government bodies, the main element of cybersecurity is the preference for nationalization by giving preference to goods produced on the territory of Uzbekistan, and Article 9: development and protection of digital development by conducting international cooperation with international organizations, foreign countries and their authorized bodies within the framework of international agreements in the field of cybersecurity (Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan About Cyber Security 2022).

Uzbekistan has also made various legal arrangements to prevent the loss of rights of public institutions, organizations, and private companies with the digitalization process and to protect personal data actively used in the digitalization process. In this context, the Law on Personal Data was adopted in 2019. On January 14, 2021, the State Personalization Center, which operates under the Cabinet of Ministers, remained open to new developments. To avoid lagging behind the digitalized world, section 27/1 was added to the existing law, providing for

collecting, storing, and systematizing personal data obtained within the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Mamasoliyeva 2021).

Uzbekistan's increasing strategic importance and global trade volume with the OBOR project have led to the development of state strategies and policies to increase investments in cyberspace and to determine stable policies. In this context, President Shevket Mirziyoyev approved the Digital Transformation 2030 strategy in 2020 and signed the decree on measures to implement long-term policies effectively (Nemutullayev 2022). The Digital Transformation 2030 strategy aims to develop the digital economy, expand modern Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in all sectors and areas, especially in public administration, education, health and agriculture, improve the e-government system, develop software and ICTs domestically, increase the competitiveness of the national economy, create an electronic geographic portal and develop the Digital Tashkent program (On the Approval of the "Digital Uzbekistan-2030" Strategy and Measures for Its Effective Implementation 2020).

The authorities of Uzbekistan are keen to monitor and implement the digitalization process earnestly, which has led to exceeding the set targets. In this context, in January 2022, the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications Development organized a briefing to explain the projects carried out within the scope of the Digital Transformation 2030 strategy, stating that they exceeded the targeted figures and projects and said that nearly 300 public services have been digitized with the my.gov.uz portal (Nematullayev 2022). In addition, Uzbekistan is working to close open legal areas by completing its domestic legal regulations and strategy documents in the light of new developments, as well as to integrate into the international system by becoming a party to international agreements and international forms and to benefit from a broader perspective on cyber law (Rakka 2023).

### **Cyber Security: Protecting Digital Transformation**

As in every country where internet usage has increased due to digitalization and globalization, cyber-attacks have increased numerically in Uzbekistan. In light of the data provided by the Uzbekistan Cyber Security Center, it was stated that 9.9 million security incidents occurred in 2022, and 9.5 million of this figure was carried out to obtain personal data (Nematullayev 2022). In this context, the Uzbekistan administration is trying to attract the attention of national and international investors by implementing various legal regulations to prevent attacks and protect personal data. It sees this as an essential step in becoming a party to global projects. However,

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although Uzbekistan is developing cyber policies and laws to control cyberspace and prevent the loss of rights and damages that will occur, the high deficiency in this field puts pressure on the Uzbek administration (Rakka 2023).

Although the Uzbekistan administration has made great strides and forward-looking strategy plans compared to past legal texts on the development of cyberspace and the promotion and support of digitalization in this context, the idea that change should first be from the grassroots to the center has prevailed, knowing that the change that starts from the center will take time to spread to the grassroots. The World Wide Web (www), developed by Tim Berners-Lee in 1989 and introduced in 1991, spread worldwide with the effect of globalization, contributed significantly to the development of cyberspace, and led to new concepts. The Internet of Things (IoT), which is a driving force for states to create cyber security policies and deeply perceive the existence of cyberspace, the IoT concept developed by Kevin Ashton in 1999, has become an essential cog in the age of digitalization with the use of global companies such as LG as well as the US military in a short time and has become a driving force that accelerates the digitalization of states (Suresh et al. 2014).

IoT technology has led to the collection of big data, leading to the emergence of questions such as how data will be collected, how it will be stored, and how it will be secured within the scope of cyber security. The process that started with IoT and other technologies has caused states to determine their cyber security policies and accelerate their policy-making processes. In this context, Uzbekistan has realized various legal regulations not to stay caught up in the developments and to ensure the security of its citizens.

In this context, Uzbekistan became the first comprehensive legal text by preparing the Personal Data Law in 2019, enabling the legal protection of personal data collected by public and private organizations, enabling individuals to control and manage their collected personal data, providing transparent information on personal data collected from citizens, and processing personal data by obtaining consent from citizens (Mamasoliyeva 2021; Rakka 2023). Amendments to the Copyright and Related Rights Law adopted in 2006 aimed to create a safe, innovative, and enabling environment for preventing intellectual property infringement and protection of rights in the digital environment, considering current developments (About Copyright and Related Rights 2006). Finally, in 2022, the country's first comprehensive legal document, the Law on Cyber Security, was adopted (Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan About Cyber Security 2022).

### **Reflections on Digital Transformation on the OBOR Project**

In light of the global digital transformation movements that have emerged in recent years, there has been a parallel shift in the focus of national and international projects. As national and international projects are increasingly digitalized, they are being used to their full potential in cyberspace. Nation-states attach great importance to technological investments, especially for international projects' total capacity and stability. The OBOR project is a project in which technological infrastructure is critical. It has emerged as an essential driving force in increasing states' technological infrastructure and capacities. The emergence of a multi-participant international project is a crucial factor in the commoditization of digital integration and an important factor for other states to reach global standards.

With the emergence of Industry 4.0, states have evaluated the efficiency of the new industrial wave and started to develop technological infrastructures to realize Industry 4.0 as they have seen its positive reflections on the economy and aimed to strengthen the current position with technology transfers from other countries. The fact that China led the OBOR initiative has prompted China to take the lead in technological infrastructure and new technologies. In 2008, the first International IoT Standardization Conference was held in Shanghai. In 2014, the International Organization for Standardization approved the IoT system structural criteria, which led China to have a say in the international standards of IoT and lead the development trends (Xu 2016). The importance of IoT for China is that China believes that IoT will be a Chinese Miracle in technological terms and is critical to the emergence of a new information revolution.

In this context, Germany proposed the use of IoT-supported Industry 4.0. At the same time, the US preferred to accelerate the development of its physical systems to develop its big data strategy (Xu 2016). Other states have welcomed the OBOR project in terms of international agreements to which they are party (Paris Agreement, Kyoto Protocol, etc.). In particular, studies conducted in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member countries between 1990 and 2016 showed decreased CO2 emissions by integrating technological developments (Bilal et al. 2021). The more efficient, safer, low-carbon emission and faster transportation of goods from East to West has also made the European countries' approach to OBOR positive.

With the OBOR, which was launched in 2013, China, apart from developing its relations with the Central Asian states economically in good relations, has adopted and declared its



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bilateral ties with the countries in the region and the principle of non-interference and respect for each other's sovereignty, which has led to an increase in interest in OBOR and an increase in investments. In this context, Uzbekistan, with the view that it will become a regional center in Central Asia with OBOR and that the way to reach the Persian Gulf will be solved with OBOR, has applied all its technological possibilities throughout the country and accepted technology transfer from China (Buranelli 2018).

### SWOT Analysis of the OBOR in Uzbekistan with Sectoral and Institutional Perspective

SWOT analysis is a strategic planning tool used to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of an organization, project, or any situation, and this analysis helps businesses understand their internal and external environments, evaluate them by asking questions, and make strategic decisions (Teoli et al. 2023).

To obtain more descriptive findings to understand the institutional collaborations of the OBOR project in Uzbekistan in terms of organizations and companies, the study was strengthened by SWOT analysis.

The table of SWOT analysis is presented and explained below. See Table 1.

**Table: 1. SWOT**

#	Strengths	Weakness	Opportunities	Threads
1	Trade Agreements	Insufficient Qualified Personnel	Trade and Logistics Center	Confrontational policies of countries like the US
2	Consolidation of Advanced Human Resources	Infrastructure Deficiencies	Investments of Companies and Institutions	Lobbies that do not want to strengthen the rail lines
3	Supporting Innovative Technologies and Impact on Economic Growth	Cyber Security Risks	Development of Regional Digital Infrastructure and Electronic Services	Companies not involved in the project

The strengths and opportunities provided by sectoral and institutional cooperation within the scope of the OBOR project constitute the aspects of the study that are evaluated especially in terms of benefits. Addressing weaknesses and evolving them into strengths should be one of the inevitable goals of the project. However, since threats are of international concern, they are not easy to eliminate and multidisciplinary studies are recommended for a better understanding.

### ***Strengths***

We see trade agreements as one of the important contributions of the project in institutional and sectoral cooperation. China has made several commercial agreements with Central Asian countries, including Uzbekistan, to develop technology and infrastructure and to fill the gaps in the OBOR Project (Meng 2021). China has been sending specialized human resources to Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries to carry out the project in a more qualified manner, and in this way, local human resources are also trained and qualified (Izimov & Muratalieva 2018). The formation of qualified manpower for the project in Uzbekistan emerges as a strength for companies and institutions in Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan will take a leading role in the digital transformation of the region and become a major player in the global technology market thanks to this project with investments through institutional collaborations (Buranelli 2018). The project strengthens Uzbekistan's hand in technology and economic growth in terms of institutional cooperation.

### ***Weaknesses***

In Uzbekistan, there should be sufficient employment of local qualified personnel who can support companies and institutions for project implementation (Akmoldoev 2022). Infrastructure deficiencies should also be eliminated (Yetgin & Yılmaz 2022).

### ***Opportunities***

The implementation of the Chinese initiative helps to increase trade and investment with countries along the Belt and Road (Imomnazar 2018). Among the opportunities of the project are the development of regional digital infrastructure and electronic services, and increasing investment trends of companies and institutions (Sukhankin 2021).

### ***Threads***

The US trade rivalry with China and the fact that the project is not under US control and that the companies are determined within the project consortium may reveal the threats of this country against the project (Yetgin & Yılmaz 2022). China's investments and innovations in the railway industry play a crucial role in the project (Bucsky & Kenderdine, 2020). In the project, China, European corporate rail cooperation (Van der Putten & Meijnders, 2015), this situation is seen as a threat due to the inability of US railway companies to be more active in the region.

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### **CONCLUSION**

While the OBOR project, directly and indirectly, affects all nation-states, it has become more critical for the states where private investments are made within the scope of OBOR. OBOR is seen as an opportunity to solve political, social, cultural, and geopolitical problems between neighboring and party countries, and its primary goal is to improve trade. Any issues that may arise in the OBOR project may cause disruptions in global trade and question the interest and security of OBOR. In this context, the healthy and stable progress of the OBOR project depends on the mutual development of stable policies by the countries, as well as the stability of technological progress. Just as the European Union has made breakthroughs in digital transformation and the use of artificial intelligence technologies in sustainable green marketing strategies during the transition to the European Green Deal, (Aydın et.al. 2023) the components developed will meet with digital investments in Asia for the same purpose in the One Node One Belt Project.

The different levels of development of nation-states make it difficult for OBOR to integrate with other states, and the continuation of OBOR's existence in the global trade system by increasing technological investments and supporting or transferring technology from economically and technologically developed states to developing states is progressing in parallel. However, although the realization of a global project such as OBOR provides excellent opportunities and new job opportunities for international trade, it also raises the question of how cyber security will be established, as well as the question of the level of trust indices of the states that are parties to the project due to their different ideological structures and views.

Although the win-win policy emerging with OBOR is schematically sound, it will cause policymakers to struggle with how neutral countries like Uzbekistan will determine their policies. Uzbekistan's relationship with states of different economic poles has the potential to profoundly affect the security of OBOR as well as the security of the country. Today, nation-states carry out their intelligence and espionage activities in cyberspace due to their anonymous nature rather than physical. The claims of nation-states to spy and collect intelligence on each other reveal the uncertainty with which countries' neutral states, such as Uzbekistan, will establish strategic partnerships.

Because the cyber capacities of states in the cyber field are undefinable, Uzbekistan has been forced to determine independent policies in the cyber field. In this context, to eliminate

the negativities brought about by the global conjuncture, to reduce risks and seize opportunities, in addition to legal regulations, it is aimed to raise public awareness, to revise public institutions and organizations by today's conjuncture, to train qualified personnel and long-term strategy plans have been made. The continuous development of cyberspace and the rapid consumption of new technologies reveal the importance of the policies created and the early recognition of potential dangers. Although Uzbekistan's newly introduced cyber security policies are late, they will make significant contributions to Uzbekistan's security policies in the long run, as well as increase its credibility in the international arena and attract the attention of foreign investors.

At its core, the One Belt, One Road project is a significant infrastructure and investment initiative aimed at increasing the global influence of the People's Republic of China and creating new trade routes. The project connects the continents of Asia, Europe, and Africa, and Uzbekistan is one of the essential routes of this project (Sabitov 2022). With Uzbekistan's participation in this project, the Uzbek state aims to rapidly grow its economy, increase the volume of employment, develop its infrastructure, and play a more active role in regional trade (Omonkulov 2020). In Uzbekistan, significant investments have also been made in technology and digitalization in cooperation with the public and private sectors (Shen 2018). The fact that the energy sector in Uzbekistan is an essential supply for China and plays a central role in Central Asia in terms of transportation shows the importance of Uzbekistan's place in the project (Buranelli 2018). There are concerns that the partnership of companies and public institutions within the project's scope may bring some risks. Loans taken under the project may increase the country's debt burden, the project may increase Uzbekistan's economic dependence on China, large infrastructure projects may damage the environment, and China's economic power may affect Uzbekistan's domestic politics (Izimov & Muratalieva 2018; Burtsev 2021).

In conclusion, the One Belt One Road Project is a complex initiative with incredible opportunities and risks for Uzbekistan. The country's success in this project will depend on the right strategies and sustainable development goals. The main conclusion from the research is that with the public and private sector institutional cooperation in Uzbekistan, investments in technology and digitalization in the One Belt One Road project have contributed and will continue to contribute to Uzbekistan. However, Uzbekistan will likely fall under China's political, environmental, and economic influence in this development project. With Uzbekistan's public and private companies risk Chinese companies and the Chinese state being the project's primary political and economic determinants, Uzbekistan's public and private companies may risk leaving the project in debt and melting under Chinese hegemony. In this

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context, the well-established legal norms of Uzbekistan's public and private companies in the project will ensure that Uzbek institutions can effectively maintain their presence.

Uzbekistan's institutional and sectoral cooperation in the OBOR project, investment, sectoral and human resources cooperation with China create strengths and opportunities for Uzbekistan. Developing weaknesses and eliminating threats are crucial elements of the project.

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<b><i>Çıkar Çatışması:</i></b>	Çalışmada kişiler veya kurumlar arası çıkar çatışması bulunmamaktadır.	<b><i>Conflict of Interest:</i></b>	The authors declare that declare no conflict of interest.
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