

ATHENA

FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

MSc Course

"The EU and the Post-Soviet Space"

Benjamin
Galbraith

AS

Nursultan Nazarbayev

First President of
Kazakhstan, 1991-2019



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Foreign Policy Speech

Premise:

Nursultan Nazarbayev speaking to the Kazakh Mäjilis (Lower House), alongside or on behalf of the plotters, whilst being broadcasted live, on the night of a successful coup against President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. The machinations of the plot, as yet, are unknown, and the extent to which Nazarbayev is responsible or merely a figurehead remains to be seen. This coup is suspected to be a populist response to the encroachment of foreign influences into Kazakhstan, and characterises a purported change in policy towards one that is more Western-facing .

Key:

Italics – Kazakh sayings

Bold – Inspired / derived from Nazarbayev speeches

Speech (around 3min45-55):

[Nursultan walks into the Mäjilis through applause]

My people. My countrymen.

It has been five years of slumber through this eternal night beneath the yoke of kleptocrats and oligarchs, that have reached deeply into the heart, and pockets, of our Kazakhstan.

You will have been led to believe that my departure in 2019 was one of choice, this was not the case. I stand before you now, a penitent beggar. Under threat of death, and torture, of both myself and you, the children of our state, I was obliged to concede to Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the Russian parasite.

I lay bare my responsibility in not talking arms against the violators of our ‘Golden Cradle’. For this reason, myself, and a union of patriots, sought repentance by deposing the puppet of our Northern neighbour. No longer shall the Kazakh people, progenitors of the Golden Horde, quiver beneath the raised arm of the Russian bear. We, the embodiments of our fierce golden eagle, stand beneath the standard of our blue banner and say ‘nay’ to those who encroach upon our steppe. [look around audience]

For long has it been said amongst our peoples, from our yurts to the Beket Ata Mosque, that *‘a crow from your land is better than a hawk from a foreign land’*.

Indeed, what have we in common with those look upon our borders, and peoples, and salivate like dogs? We share nought but the taste of Stalin’s boot. Who are we, thus, as a peoples?

[small pause]

We, are Kazakhs. [pronounced pause]

Let the degenerates from the North look upon our unsullied lands, our Oyu, our seas and rivers, for they crave the domination of others to quell their lack of life. For we are no longer colonial subjects, we are no longer communities to be trampled on by barbarity, we are the creation of **West and East**, North and South, wealth and weakness.

For us, my people, for us, our future lies beyond Central Asia. [pause]

The key to emancipating us from the wretched that have clamped us down as peoples, that have stretched their tentacles into our beloved country, is to look West.

As our proverb goes, '*nothing is more remote as yesterday, nothing is more close than tomorrow*'. I first said this in 1997, and promised you that we would become an **auspicious state, emerging from chaos to become a truly sovereign state**. Today, it now seems that only closer collaboration with the European Union will permit this.

Indeed, our Western brothers and sisters perhaps share more with us than the Russians ever will, for our common heritage of subjugation beneath authoritarianism renders unto us a camaraderie we could never share with our oppressors. Our interests, our culture, our attitudes, we share far more with Hungarians, than any Muscovite!

To achieve this, we shall reinstate control over our institutions. No longer shall the greasy paws of Russia besmirch our Senate and Mäjilis. We shall purge all those who grasp towards the past, for they are but pawns to Moscow. This will resolve all our corruption, emancipating us from the shackles of poverty and bringing wealth to the rightful owners, the Kazakh people.

My deputies, as you sit before me now, I am sure that you will agree that such streamlining of our political system is necessary, and that it would only be in the interests of our nemeses to dally on this matter? I thus know that I may depend on you to act in the best interests of our citizenry.

We encourage our Central Asian brothers, who remain confined to the annals of Sovietisms and Russophilia to follow us. Of course, our armed forces stand ready to support you if there is any [pause and smirk] domestic Russian interference. Together, we may drive towards the wealth and prosperity enshrined within Europe.

I leave you, my people, my deputies, with one final ode in honour of our heritage. We say that '*it is better to be a servant to six people than to be a leader of five*'.

I do not agree.

For I am servant of twenty-million, and leader of peace, prosperity and liberation.

Notable Sources of Inspiration:

<https://www.orexca.com/kazakhstan/culture/proverbs.htm>

<https://www.orexca.com/kazakhstan/culture/customs.htm>

<https://www.gov.kz/article/64576?lang=en>

<https://intl.hkbu.edu.hk/page/detail/3335>

<https://www.eurasian-research.org/publication/kazakhstan-responds-to-recent-territorial-claims/>

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https://www.akorda.kz/en/addresses/addresses_of_president/address-of-the-president-of-the-republic-of-kazakhstan-nursultan-nazarbayev-to-the-people-of-kazakhstan-october-10-1997

<https://newsline.kz/article/1182039/>