

## The National Interest (27 March 2023)

## **Alex LITTLE**

Americans should prioritize commercial engagement with Central Asia partners and avoid establishing security commitments.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently finished his first tour of Central Asia. His visit began in Astana, Kazakhstan, where he met with the C5+1 Foreign Ministers during a C5 Ministerial Meeting and ended in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on March 1. In Uzbekistan, in response to a self-imposed question regarding Russias disregard for other countries sovereignty, Blinken stated, Thats exactly why we remain committed to standing for the sovereignty, the territorial integrity, the independence not only of Ukraine, but for countries across Central Asia and, indeed, around the world.

Although Blinkens visit may be characterized as a refresh in relations between the United States and Central Asian countries, his rhetoric of pledging support for Central Asias sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence is beating a dead horse.

To read the rest of the article, please click: https://nationalinterest.org/blog/blinken%E2%80%99s-central-asia-visit-reinforces-us-blunders-region-206351



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