
CENTRAL ASIA BECOMES MIDDLE POWER CONTENDER IN NEW TRUMP ERA

- 30.01.2025

Responsible Statecraft (21 January 2025)

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President Donald Trump has caused quite a stir in the media in recent months with his bold statements on a diplomatic solution to the military conflict in and around Ukraine. One of his moves in this direction at the beginning of December was a phone call with Kazakhstans president Kassym-Jomart Tokayev asking the latter for his opinion on the issue.

The fact that Trump would pick up the phone to talk to Tokayev suggests that Kazakhstan could play a role as an actor in the search for a diplomatic solution in Ukraine. Furthermore, it underscores Central Asias potential to shape the peace and security architecture in Eurasia and beyond. In view of the aspirations of the new Trump administration, it is likely that U.S. policy towards Central Asia may be in line for an upgrade.

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