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NEW SECURITY CHALLENGES AS CHALLENGES TO PEACE RESEARCH

Paper Title: Political Implications of the Trans-boundary Distribution of the Tajik and Uzbek Populations in Central Asia

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The republics of the region have not succeeded during the first decade of independence in achieving the desired levels of inter-state cooperation. Significant changes in the policy environment following the events of 9/11 have placed new emphasis on the importance of efforts to promote prosperity, enhance equity and improve standards of governance in Central Asia through greater inter-state economic cooperation and policy coordination. The defeat of the Taliban government in Afghanistan, recent discoveries of energy resources in the Caspian Basin, a new level of competition over access to fuel resources in the Middle East, and the greater presence of foreign military involvement in Central Asia have combined to focus greater international attention on Central Asia. The Central Asian states are now undertaking new initiatives to derive benefit from the changes in the region. Normalization in Afghanistan promises to open new access to markets for the Central Asian states by creating new opportunities for infrastructure development. However, if regional development strategy is not carefully coordinated, conflicts over water, energy, and investment could divide the countries. This paper analyzes the political implications of the distribution of Tajik and Uzbek populations in Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan.