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### ***Abstract***

This thesis examines India's strategy in Central Asia following the independence of the Central Asian Republics in terms of vital security interests, concerns, and the significance of these interests, as well as how India can safeguard its interests in the region in light of other powers' grand strategies in the Central Asian Republics (CARs), such as China. As an emerging great power, India aspires to have a significant sphere of influence in its vital geostrategic space that includes India's extended neighbourhood. India's interests have a lot to do with Central Asia's proximity to India. As a result, India formulates its strategies to establish a strong foothold in this vital geostrategic spaces that includes Central Asia. China's growing influence in India's critical geostrategic space is raising concerns to New Delhi. India's peace-oriented foreign policy distinguishes it as preferred partner of the Central Asian republics over China. Connecting the two regions would benefit both India and the CARs mainly in economic sphere. India can serve as a gateway for CARs to enter the South Asian and Southeast Asian markets. India's major disadvantage is its geographical isolation from the Central Asia. Geographical constraints have considerably hampered India's interests in Central Asia. Geographical disadvantage cannot be an excuse to neglect India's geostrategic space in the region in the modern technologically advanced and advanced means of communication world. A strong foothold in central Asia is also crucial for India's role in Afghanistan following U.S. withdrawal. The region also become crucial in the New Cold war politics where by predominantly there is rivalry between China and U.S. and in future this can pose various geostrategic and geopolitical challenges to India in the region and around. In such scenario, India's influence in the region will serve India's best interest. Central Asia is geopolitically and geo-strategically vital for India's extended foreign policy, and its operations will determine India's position in the "New Great Game" too. Indian should maintain a constructive approach to expand India's clout in the region. A successful India-Central Asia engagement will also advance India's national security interests. Close ties with CARs will promote Indian values and serve as a counterbalance to the rising influence of China and Pakistan. Finally, strong relations between India and the CARs are in India's interest to become a great power.