Tajikistan: A new member of the international community

Abstract: Tajikistan - a newly-independent republic in Central Asia is a small, landlocked, beautiful, mountainous and remote country with a rich history. It was at the crossroads of Asia and four major Silk Road routes passed through its territory, especially the Pamir and Fan mountains and the so called "Roof of the world" (Pamir Mountains) is located in Tajikistan. There are evidences of the Sogdian (Zoroastrian) civilization and as well as Buddhist, Hindu, Christian and other remains. The country's Islamic history has produced many outstanding examples of Central Asian Islamic art and architecture. Tajiks (Persians in Central Asia), have inhabited Central Asia since very early history (late Bronze Age), making them the oldest of all Central Asian people. Tajiks trace their ancestry to Bactrians, Sogdians & Parthians (or Aryans) and Tajikistan is the only Farsi (Persian)-speaking nation in Central Asia among four Turko-Mongol nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. This presentation tries to touch upon the issues on Tajikistan, its history, people, culture and international affairs.