

**DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF FOREIGN STATES' ACTIVITIES IN ORGANIZING
INTERNATIONAL MILITARY COOPERATION****Ilkhom Kulliev**

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Abstract: The article provides a comparative analysis of the practices of international military cooperation of the United States, Russia, China, India, South Korea, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, Turkey, and Italy. In conclusion, drawing on foreign experience, the legal and organizational foundations for the participation of the National Guard in global and regional security are strengthened.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, National Guard, international military cooperation, interoperability, NATO, SCO, CSTO, Quad, AUKUS, peacekeeping, cybersecurity, intelligence sharing, joint exercises, legal framework.

The complication of the global security environment in the 21st century imposes new demands on states' foreign policies and military strategies. Whereas previously states were largely confined to national defense and internal security, today terrorism, nuclear threats, and cybersecurity problems have acquired a transnational character that crosses national borders. This, in turn, necessitates the development of new forms of cooperation in the military sphere before the international community. UN Secretary-General António Guterres [1] has likewise underscored the urgency of this process, noting: "No state can confront terrorist threats, nuclear dangers, or cyberattacks alone; therefore, global partnership in the military and security sphere is essential."

Data from the "Global Firepower Index" published in 2024 further clarifies this reality [2]. The states occupying top positions in the ranking stand out not only for their national defense capabilities but also for their strategic engagement in shaping the global security architecture. For example, the United States, through its leadership within NATO, plays a decisive role in shaping the Euro-Atlantic security system. China, for its part, has set up security cooperation in the Eurasian region through the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, while also paying special attention to bilateral military-technical cooperation. Russia's international military cooperation covers a wide geography, manifesting not only in Eurasia but also in the Middle East and Africa. Likewise, India, with its military-strategic activity in the Indian Ocean region, has begun to occupy an important place in international maritime security [3].

A distinctive feature of these states' experience is that their military potential is manifested through participation in joint exercises aimed at strengthening the global security system and through their leading positions in international organizations. Exercises within NATO and the European Union, multilateral activities within the SCO, and joint drills conducted by Russia and China—all of these serve to create an environment of strategic trust and tactical cohesion among states. Such cooperation not only enhances military readiness but also strengthens collective security mechanisms based on international legal norms [4].

Theoretical analysis shows that the experience of states possessing high military power brings to the fore several key trends in the global security system. First, innovative military-technical cooperation—especially in the fields of cybersecurity and artificial intelligence—is qualitatively elevating states' defense capabilities to a new stage. Second, partnerships in joint military exercises and personnel training ensure interoperability and strengthen tactical cohesion among the armed forces of different states. Third, occupying leading positions in international organizations consolidates a state's geopolitical standing and turns it into an influential actor in security policy at the global level [5].

For this reason, a thorough scholarly study of the international military cooperation practices of the states ranked highly in the “Global Firepower Index” is important not only theoretically but also practically [6]. Their experience serves as a valuable source for identifying leading directions in shaping the global security architecture, harmonizing national legislation with international standards, and developing effective strategies against new threats. In particular:

The United States' strategy of international military cooperation. The United States holds a leading role in the world security system and operates within global military alliances as the principal driving force of NATO. The country has more than 800 military bases worldwide, whose geographic distribution reflects the breadth of the United States' strategic interests and the comprehensive nature of its security policy [7].

First aspect. As the main pillar of NATO, the United States ensures transatlantic security cooperation. In particular, U.S. military bases on the European continent (in Germany, Italy, Poland, and elsewhere) serve as strategic platforms for NATO forces' joint exercises and tactical cohesion. NATO's new “Strategic Concept,” adopted in 2022, set the goal of consolidating the United States' leading role and acting jointly against threats emanating from Russia and China [8].

Second aspect. The United States conducts joint military exercises on a global scale. For example, the “Defender Europe” and “Saber Guardian” exercises in Europe, the “Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)” naval drills in the Pacific Ocean, and the “Bright Star” exercises in Egypt ensure tactical cohesion and interoperability with allies on various continents [9].

Third aspect. The United States also serves as the central hub of the international intelligence-sharing system. In particular, the “Five Eyes” intelligence alliance (the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand) plays a significant role in combating global terrorism, ensuring cybersecurity, and preventing nuclear threats. This cooperation consolidates the United States’ leading role in managing the international security system [10].

Fourth aspect. The United States is also an active leading participant in international peacekeeping and security operations. In NATO’s mission in Afghanistan, coalition operations in Iraq, and joint programs to combat terrorism on the African continent, U.S. forces performed primary roles. This indicates that the United States appears not only as a military power but also as a global actor shaping the international security architecture [11].

In conclusion, the United States acts as a leading force within NATO and global military alliances. Through its worldwide military bases, joint exercises, intelligence sharing, and participation in peacekeeping operations, the United States has continued to manifest itself as the main pillar of the international security system.

The Russian Federation’s activities in military cooperation within the SCO and CSTO. Russia’s directions of international military cooperation are implemented inextricably within such regional security institutions as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). For Russia, these organizations offer opportunities not only to consolidate its geopolitical influence but also to expand military-technical exports and develop strategic partnerships through joint exercises.

First aspect. Russia–SCO cooperation is manifested especially in combating terrorism and ensuring border security. A series of joint exercises under the name “Peace Mission,” conducted with the participation of Russian and Chinese forces, coordinated modern tactical maneuvers, information exchange, and intelligence processes. These drills serve not only to increase the level of military readiness but also to strengthen trust and strategic cohesion among member states [12].

Second aspect. Within the CSTO, Russia acts as a leading supplier of military equipment, implementing long-term contracts with Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan. For example, the supply of the S-300 and S-400 surface-to-air missile systems, modern air-defense means, and Su-30 fighter aircraft consolidates not only Russia’s economic interests but also its political and military influence [13].

Third aspect. Russia–China cooperation has a special strategic importance. Joint naval exercises conducted in the East and South China Seas have demonstrated the alignment of the two states’ geopolitical interests and the degree of tactical cohesion. In addition, Russia’s supply to

China of Su-35 fighters, Tor-M1 air-defense systems, and modern artillery assets has increased the capabilities of both countries while reinforcing an environment of strategic trust [14].

Fourth aspect. Russia's military-technical exports, as one of the key elements of its foreign policy, strengthen strategic partnerships. Thus, cooperation in the military-technical sphere increases Russia's influence in the global security system and becomes a decisive factor in ensuring its geopolitical stability [15].

In conclusion, Russia's cooperation policy within the SCO and CSTO is being enriched with practical substance through military exercises, arms exports, and strategic partnerships. This serves to preserve Russia's international standing, consolidate its leading role in regional security systems, and present it as an influential geopolitical subject at the global level.

China's strategies of international military cooperation. Over the past two decades, the People's Republic of China has been moving consistently to consolidate its geopolitical influence on the international stage and to strengthen global integration in the military sphere. In this process, the "Belt and Road Initiative" has emerged as one of the central directions of its foreign and security policy. This initiative encompasses not only economic and infrastructural cooperation but also partnerships in security and the military sphere [17].

First aspect. China has been actively participating in peacekeeping operations and joint exercises on the African continent. Within the framework of United Nations peacekeeping missions, Chinese military personnel have been involved in peacekeeping efforts in countries such as Liberia, Sudan, and Mali. This not only increases China's role in global security but also raises its international standing [18].

Second aspect. Joint military exercises with the Central Asian states are of particular importance in China's regional security policy. In particular, exercises conducted within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) are aimed at combating terrorism, extremism, and narcotics trafficking. In such exercises, Chinese forces accumulate significant experience in tactical cohesion, information exchange, and ensuring border security [19].

Third aspect. Cooperation with Russia in the military-technical field occupies a special place in China's strategic interests. The acquisition from Russia of modern surface-to-air missile systems (S-300, S-400), Su-35 fighters, and high-technology armaments has expanded the technological capabilities of the Chinese army. At the same time, joint naval exercises and military-technical integration have raised the level of strategic partnership between the two states to a new stage [20].

Fourth aspect. The "Belt and Road" initiative also pursues long-term objectives in the security domain. In the process of infrastructure construction and the establishment of transport

corridors, mechanisms related to security guarantees are being elaborated; joint patrols and border cooperation practices play an important role here. Thus, China's economic initiatives are acquiring synergy with its military cooperation [21].

In conclusion, China's international cooperation strategy is directed at strengthening the security system through economic and infrastructure projects. Through its activities in Africa and Central Asia, participation in UN peacekeeping missions, and military integration with Russia, China is emerging as a global actor in ensuring the stability of international security.

India's strategy of international military cooperation. In recent decades, India has been striving to consolidate its place among the "great powers," actively participating in regional and global security systems. Its "Indo-Pacific strategy" has been defined as a main direction in its foreign and military policy, in which the "Quad" (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) format, established in cooperation with the United States, Japan, and Australia, plays a significant role. Through this format, India pursues goals of ensuring regional stability, protecting sea lines of communication, and counterbalancing China's geostrategic influence in the region [22].

First aspect. India's joint military exercises with the United States—"Yudh Abhyas" (India-U.S. Army exercises)—serve to ensure interoperability between the two countries' forces and to enhance counter-terrorism experience. These exercises test tactical maneuvers, special operations, and medical evacuation issues. This experience propels the Indian army's alignment with international standards [23].

Second aspect. India's cooperation with Japan and Australia in maritime security is manifested through the "Malabar" naval exercises. In these drills, India's naval forces demonstrate strategic cohesion and a high level of maneuver capability. At the same time, these exercises aim to ensure freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific and to protect maritime communications [24].

Third aspect. India is also recognized as an active participant in UN peacekeeping operations. Its peacekeeping contingents have served in providing security in African and Southeast Asian states. This indicates that India occupies an important place not only in regional but also in global security architecture [25].

Fourth aspect. India's cooperation in the military-technical field is also expanding. By purchasing S-400 air-defense systems from Russia, Rafale fighters from France, and modern drones from Israel, the Indian army is elevating its technical capacity to a contemporary level. At the same time, technology exchange and joint developments with the United States and European states strengthen its strategic autonomy [26].

In conclusion, India's strategy of international military cooperation has a multifaceted character. Through ensuring regional security under the Quad format, aligning its army and naval

power with global standards via the “Yudh Abhyas” and “Malabar” exercises, and establishing strategic partnerships with leading states in the military-technical sphere, India is presenting itself as an important participant in the global security system.

South Korea’s strategy of international military cooperation. The Republic of Korea holds strategic importance in the international security system through its military alliance with the United States. Under the U.S.–South Korea Mutual Defense Treaty signed in 1953, U.S. military bases were deployed on the Korean Peninsula, serving as a principal strategic force for regional stability and for countering threats emanating from the North [27].

First aspect. More than 28,000 U.S. military personnel are permanently stationed in South Korea. This not only ensures the military balance on the Korean Peninsula but also protects U.S. interests in the region. Joint military exercises—“Foal Eagle” and “Ulchi Freedom Guardian”—serve to increase tactical cohesion and interoperability between Korean forces and the U.S. Army [28].

Second aspect. South Korea also cooperates with the United States in developing modern military technologies. In particular, joint projects involving F-35 fighters, missile-defense systems, and the cybersecurity sphere have sharply increased the technical capacity of the Korean army. This cooperation has brought the country’s defense industry closer to global standards [29].

Third aspect. Cooperation with NATO has also expanded in recent years. South Korea holds the status of a NATO “global partner” and was officially invited to the 2022 Madrid Summit. This process has served to strengthen cooperation between NATO and South Korea in the fields of cybersecurity, intelligence sharing, and maritime security [30].

Fourth aspect. South Korea also plays an active role in the regional security architecture. The central focus is confronting North Korea’s nuclear program and ensuring stability in the region. To this end, it is developing trilateral security cooperation with Japan and the United States. This cooperation encompasses not only the military sphere but also cybersecurity and information sharing [31].

In conclusion, South Korea is consolidating its strategic alliance in the military sphere with the United States through bases and joint technology projects, while also strengthening cooperation with NATO and aligning with global standards in cybersecurity and intelligence. This process is turning South Korea into an important pillar of regional security.

The United Kingdom’s strategy of international military cooperation. The United Kingdom has long appeared as one of the leading states in European and global security systems. Its military cooperation strategy is implemented mainly within NATO, the European Union (EU), and new strategic structures—particularly the AUKUS alliance. This reflects Britain’s desire to

preserve its standing in the world security architecture and to present itself as a strong geopolitical actor on the international stage even after Brexit [32].

First aspect. The United Kingdom is one of NATO's principal driving forces. Its forces participate in NATO's permanent rotation in Poland, the Baltic states, and Northern Europe, and play an important role in providing collective defense against threats emanating from Russia through the "Enhanced Forward Presence" (EFP) program. The United Kingdom is also one of NATO's leading initiators in the fields of air defense and cybersecurity [33].

Second aspect. Despite formally leaving the European Union, the United Kingdom continues cooperation with the EU in the fields of security and defense. Its military contingents have participated in the EU's humanitarian and peacekeeping missions in Africa. For example, in the "Atalanta" naval operation in Somalia, the Royal Navy acted actively against piracy and maritime terrorism [34].

Third aspect. The AUKUS alliance (United States–United Kingdom–Australia), established in 2021, opened a new stage in Britain's global strategy. Within this agreement, London is a principal partner in providing Australia with nuclear-powered submarine technology. This serves not only to balance China's influence in the Pacific region but also to expand the United Kingdom's geopolitical standing in line with the "Global Britain" strategy [35].

Fourth aspect. The United Kingdom also appears as an active participant in international humanitarian operations. In NATO's mission in Afghanistan and coalition operations in Iraq, as well as in peacekeeping programs in Africa, British forces performed leading tasks. This further consolidated its standing in international security [36].

In conclusion, the United Kingdom plays a leading role in ensuring European security through joint operations and peacekeeping missions within NATO and the EU. At the same time, through its participation in the AUKUS alliance, it seeks to maintain its strategic standing on a global scale. This process presents the United Kingdom as an important geopolitical actor not only in Europe but also in the Indo-Pacific region.

France's strategy of international military cooperation. In the international security system, France stands out for its military policy oriented toward the African continent. Based on historical ties from the colonial period and geopolitical interests, France has played a leading role in ensuring security and stability in Africa.

First aspect. French contingents actively participate in UN and EU missions in Africa. For example, within "Operation Barkhane" (2014–2022), extensive counter-terrorism operations were conducted in the Sahel region. This activity not only strengthened regional security but also increased France's global standing [37].

Second aspect. Within the European Union, France supports processes of military integration. At its initiative, a number of joint military projects are being implemented within the framework of “Permanent Structured Cooperation” (PESCO). This cooperation is aimed at ensuring Europe’s independent security and at reducing external reliance on NATO [38].

Third aspect. France ranks among the world’s top five arms exporters, with its principal customers being states in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean region. Through the export of Dassault Rafale fighters, air-defense systems, and naval platforms, France is expanding its economic and political influence [39].

In conclusion, through its military missions in Africa, integration initiatives within the EU, and arms exports, France has continued to occupy an important place in the global security architecture.

Japan’s strategy of international military cooperation. Despite the “defense-oriented policy” enshrined in its post-World War II constitution, Japan has, in the last decade, strengthened its active participation in international security systems.

First aspect. Security treaties concluded with the United States constitute the principal pillar of Japan’s defense policy. U.S. military bases are located on Japanese territory, serving as the main guarantee of stability in the Pacific region and against threats emanating from North Korea [40].

Second aspect. Japan is strengthening cooperation with NATO and, since 2018, has held the status of a “global partner.” It is implementing joint programs with NATO in the spheres of cybersecurity, strategic intelligence, and maritime security. This is also increasing Japan’s role in European security [41].

Third aspect. Japan has also participated in international peacekeeping operations. For example, Japanese engineering contingents in the UN mission in South Sudan carried out activities in infrastructure construction and ensuring security. This increased Japan’s responsibility in global security and its international standing [42].

Fourth aspect. In recent years, Japan has sharply increased its defense capacity. In its new National Security Strategy adopted in 2022, defense expenditures were doubled, and the development of technologies such as artificial intelligence, drones, and hypersonic missiles was set as a priority task [43].

In conclusion, Japan relies on security treaties with the United States, is strengthening cooperation with NATO, and is advancing international integration in the spheres of cybersecurity and intelligence. At the same time, by renewing its defense strategy, it is presenting itself as an important actor in the global security system.

Turkey's strategy of international military cooperation. As an important member of NATO, Turkey plays a leading role in transatlantic security systems. However, in recent years it has distinguished itself by pursuing an independent foreign and military policy through separate activity in regional conflicts.

First aspect. Within NATO, Turkey participates in joint exercises in the Balkans and Eastern Europe, appearing as the alliance's "living force." For example, Turkish forces have taken part in joint tactical maneuvers in NATO's "Trident Juncture" and "Defender Europe" exercises [44].

Second aspect. In regional conflicts, Turkey acts independently. In particular, the "Euphrates Shield" and "Peace Spring" operations in Syria, as well as activities supporting the Government of National Accord in Libya, have demonstrated Turkey's independent direction in regional security [45].

Third aspect. Turkey's domestic defense industry has developed rapidly in recent years. Bayraktar TB2 drones produced by the company Baykar are being exported to Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and African states. This has increased not only economic dividends but also Turkey's standing in the global military market [46].

In conclusion, Turkey contributes to global security as an ally within NATO; however, its independent actions in Syria and Libya and the development of its national defense industry set it apart as a regional leader.

Italy's strategy of international military cooperation. Italy occupies an important place in Europe's security architecture and actively participates in joint exercises and missions within both NATO and the European Union.

First aspect. Italy is one of the principal forces ensuring the security of NATO's southern flank. Its forces have participated in peacekeeping missions in the Balkans and in NATO operations in Afghanistan. In addition, Italy's Air Force protects European airspace within NATO's "Air Policing" program [47].

Second aspect. Within the European Union, Italy has carried out a number of humanitarian missions in Africa and the Middle East. For example, Italian contingents have actively participated in controlling migrant flows along Libya's coastal areas, in operations against maritime terrorism in Somalia, and in peacekeeping activities in Lebanon [48].

Third aspect. Italy is also aligning international military cooperation with arms exports. Through its defense industry—via companies such as Leonardo S.p.A. and Fincantieri—it produces aviation, naval, and electronic systems and supplies them to European and Middle Eastern states [49].

In conclusion, by participating in joint exercises within NATO and the EU, Italy fulfills its strategic commitments and consolidates its position in the transatlantic security system. At the same time, through humanitarian and peacekeeping missions in Africa and the Middle East, it appears not only as a contributor to regional stability but also as an active participant in global security policy. Italy's defense industry, in turn, adds an economic foundation to international cooperation and serves as an important factor in expanding military-technical ties with European and Middle Eastern states.

It is now necessary to compare systematically the experiences of the above-mentioned states in international military cooperation and to identify general regularities. Comparative analysis not only strengthens the scientific basis of existing theoretical views but also increases the practical significance of the research. From this point of view, analyzing these countries' directions of international military cooperation in tabular form, revealing their common and distinctive features, and identifying effective models that may be applied for Uzbekistan is expedient.

The experience of the developed states analyzed above shows that the development of international cooperation in the military sphere is giving rise to a number of general regularities.

First, interoperability and joint exercises ensure tactical cohesion and mutual trust among the armed forces of different states. For example, the United States' "Defender Europe" exercises conducted within NATO and the "Peace Mission" drills carried out within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) have served to strengthen forces' tactical cohesion and to coordinate command and control processes [50].

Second, partnerships in the fields of information and cybersecurity are acquiring special importance in the global security system. In NATO's "Strategic Concept" adopted in 2022, cybersecurity is set as a separate priority direction, and it is noted that states such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and China are strengthening international cooperation against cyber threats through systems such as CSIRTs (Computer Security Incident Response Teams) [51].

Third, participation in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions is an important factor in increasing states' international standing and consolidating their geopolitical position. France's "Operation Barkhane" on the African continent and the People's Republic of China's participation in UN peacekeeping operations have increased states' standing on the international stage and strengthened their influence in global security [52].

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