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Uzbekistan: Modern Strategic Directions Of Development Of Ideas And Values Of Democracy

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ABSTRACT

This scientific article sets out analytical views on the intensification of international globalization and the impact of such a situation on the processes of democratic development, the need to improve the conceptual foundations of modern democracy, and the growing role of the state institution in the development of democracy, and that the effectiveness of democratic reforms largely depends on the viability of the state and its institutions for the development of more effective models of democracy.

The article focuses on new and very significant conceptual ideas and conclusions on the further development and deepening of democratic reforms, improvement of democratic institutions in the country, which were put forward in the Address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Parliament of January 24, 2020.

KEYWORDS

Globalization, Democracy, Development, Uzbekistan, Reform, Conceptual Ideas, Democratic Institutions, President's Address.

INTRODUCTION

The leading trends in the world over the past two decades of the 21st century show that the

geopolitical situation on earth, which emerged in the last centuries of the last century and is

in many respects complicated, is deepening. The conditions necessary for the sustainable development of countries and peoples, and the artificial barriers to their access, have greatly increased.

It is no secret that in many respects the formation of this international situation has been influenced by the fact that the phenomenon of globalization has intensified in modern times, the attempts of various political forces and individual states to use this process to their advantage. There is a growing tendency to influence globalization from a “vertical” rather than a “horizontal” perspective, and as a result, extreme negative factors, such as the globalization of problematic spaces, are entering international life. Moreover, the fact that the new world order has not yet taken shape, or that the scale of the difficulties in the emergence of such an order is considerable, are the leading factors that reflect the peculiarities of the modern age.

As the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted, “We all know that today the world is changing rapidly. The dangers that threaten the destiny and future of humanity are growing. Cruel competition, various conflicts and confrontations, trade wars are taking place all over the world” [4].

MATERIALS AND METHODS DISCUSSION

As the world’s scientists acknowledge, “With the beginning of the 21st century, there are more and more factors that motivate us to reconsider the concept of modernity. Indeed, the “myths of gross progress” in the philosophy of modernism did not justify themselves. ... in practice, the number of factors (threat of nuclear war, environmental threats) that could lead to the destruction of

human civilization has increased. In this regard, the world today rejects such negative factors as the use of force and war, and promotes ideas such as the equal dialogue between peoples, respect for universal values such as pluralism, based on the priority of peace and solidarity in solving world problems” [14].

The need to mobilize democracy and its values, which have maintained their uniqueness for almost two and a half thousand years, is becoming increasingly important in overcoming the factors that have hitherto accumulated on our planet and hinder the sustainable and effective development of countries and peoples.

In other words, the source that can consistently ensure the formation of modern order in the world, guarantee that development will take place effectively, fully covering the needs and aspirations of the time, is embodied in the idea of democracy. In this regard, it must be acknowledged that the leading basis for meeting the vital needs of mankind in the world and in some countries is the phenomenon of political development.

Indeed, the world experience shows that only countries that can make political progress are responding to the harsh demands of our time and moving forward.

American political scientist F.Fukuyama, thinking about the conditions and possibilities of realization of the peculiarities of modern political development, highlighted three important factors in it. “These are the state, the law, and democracy” [15]. Hence, there is a direct and inseparable link between democracy and political development. From this point of view, there is every reason to conclude that we live in a time when the

necessity to mobilize democracy, which is the fundamental basis of modern development, on a truly new scale for development in the world and separate countries is growing.

At the same time, it is very important to form some new institutions that will serve to deepen the ideas and values of democracy in the light of modern needs and thereby increase its effectiveness.

The main idea here is not that the opportunities for democracy have been reduced or exhausted in any way so far. It is about discovering the potential foundations that lie in the heart of democracy and making them manifest at a new and higher level.

It is very important to further enrich the conceptual framework of the phenomenon of democracy, and thus to substantiate and put into practice its models that are in line with the needs of the new era and have the ability to achieve the expected results. Because "democracy is not a set of values and institutions that remain unchanged for a lifetime, but a political process that is applied to social life and has a dynamic nature" [17].

Therefore, depending on the level and, most importantly, the quality of the implementation of democratic processes, it will be possible to assess the essence of the political development taking place in each country. Alternatively, in the experience of each country in the implementation of statehood and in its efforts to set and achieve the goals and objectives of creating models of democracy by the directions of strategic development, the foundations of democracy are formed that are effective for that society.

Thus, the development of democracy and the full implementation of the requirements of

democracy at the beginning of the XXI century depends in many respects on the specific attitudes and approaches of each society.

Moreover, as a result of the failure of traditional models of democracy formed during the twentieth century to fully meet the requirements and needs of the XXI century, scholars in various parts of the world, as well as in Europe, are concluding the crisis of democracy. At the same time, the main idea is not that democracy is "weakened" and dead, but that it is necessary to focus on the consistent and comprehensive realization of the new institutional capabilities and theoretical foundations of democracy, which are in line with the times.

It is no exaggeration to say that democracy is like the ocean, which is a huge source of human development, and to this day only a few drops of it have been used by societies and peoples. Thus, the implementation and acceleration of a new democratic transit within the framework of some of the countries that have emerged in the XXI century has become the leading task of our time.

For example, the new stage of democratic development in Uzbekistan fully reflects the idea of "transition from national revival to national progress." Strategic State Programs are being implemented to strengthen the future of New Uzbekistan on a democratic basis and develop its conceptual framework.

In this regard, the political development of our country is carried out based on the "Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021." The conceptual, institutional bases and principles of modern democracy are being introduced based on the most pressing

requirements and needs of the country's development.

The new ideas put forward in the Address of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Oliy Majlis on January 24, 2020, are based on the tasks of deep democratization of the society and the widespread introduction of new democratic rules and mechanisms to ensure the development of the country.

As the President said: "I would like to appeal to all deputies and senators, and in their person to the people of Uzbekistan: the path of democratic reforms is the only and most correct way for us. In this regard, we are researching every day, deeply studying the best practices abroad, trying to update our lives, our way of working.

We have set ourselves the glorious goal of building a new Uzbekistan together with our people. In this regard, the new idea of "Society - the initiator of reforms" is becoming more and more deeply ingrained in our daily activities" [9].

The President's Address to the Oliy Majlis on January 24, 2020 sets out the positive results achieved in Uzbekistan today and the modern principles of developing democratic reforms in the new political environment.

To ensure the continuity of modern democratic development, as the world experience proves, the principles of statehood, as well as the high coefficient of factors effective for democracy in the institutions and mechanisms of state and society are crucial.

The main idea here is that democracy in the 21st century has in many respects become more and more connected with modern

political ideas and their consequences, which are put forward by the state institution. Indeed, as world scholars unanimously acknowledge today, the basis of democratic development of countries lies in the fact that the rules of the political system of society are based on new ideas arising from the need to develop political democracy.

As many major theorists of democracy acknowledge, the leading causes of this situation are the growing number of factors contributing to the consolidation of democracy in society and, at the same time, the need to enrich democracy in essence.

At the same time, these factors make it urgent to define the main components of the democratization phenomenon, which is becoming even more complex today, in light of the new era.

If we remember that the state of the direct link between democracy and political development is growing, we will be more and more convinced of the importance of the task of constantly and consistently exploring the most modern mechanisms of democracy.

Thus, at a time when democracy has become the main criterion and goal of the development of societies in the XXI century, the expansion of the state and its institutions and democratic mechanisms for the exercise of political power based on them has become very important as the most decisive means of ensuring effective coherence of democratic development.

At the same time, in the system of relations between democracy and the state, the growing demand for quality indicators of the state factor has become the leading trend of the XXI century. Indeed, in the conditions of a

constructive state, not only new opportunities for the development of democracy are opened, but also the most favourable political, social and legal conditions for the implementation of effective models of democracy are created.

State institutions and their effectiveness in the governance process expand as new aspects of democracy are explored. The reason is that the principles and ideas of democracy serve as a leading source for the continuous improvement of the process of exercising political power based on new aspects of ensuring the interests of the people.

Therefore, at present, the idea of assessing the potential of the state with the results of its activities for the development of democracy is gaining priority. In particular, Western scholars such as Menaldo (2012), Mazzuca, Munck (2014), Carbone, Memoli (2015), Banholzer (2017), and Russian scholars such as Melville, Petrov (2016), Efimov (2016) have strongly acknowledged the link between the state's potential and democracy [13].

In this regard, it should be noted that at a modern qualitative stage of deepening democratic reforms, our country pays great attention to improving all levels of public administration based on the principles of consistent democracy. The order of activity, powers of all institutions involved in public administration are determined by the needs of the development of democratic norms in our society.

The Address of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Parliament of the country on January 24, 2020, outlined the most urgent grounds for further democratization of public administration in the country, as well as

increasing the democratic potential of state institutions.

As the head of our state concluded: "Creating a comprehensive and effective system of governance is a prerequisite for fulfilling the huge tasks ahead of us" [9].

The President focused on the following topical issues.

First, it is necessary to further increase the role and responsibility of the local executive and representative bodies in public administration.

"At this point, a legitimate question arises: why should all members of the government, starting with the Prime Minister, governor's report to parliament, while provincial and district leaders do not report to local councils? Therefore, a system will be introduced in which regional and district governors will report to regional councils on their programs and their implementation ... To increase the efficiency of work, I propose to introduce the Institute of Council Inquiry in the activities of local representative bodies" [9].

Second, NGOs and other civil society institutions need to draw the attention of government agencies to the issues facing the population today and make their sound proposals.

It should be noted that it is in this process that the institutional foundations of democratic governance operate by the criteria of democracy. In this regard, the President's Address put forward an important new proposal for the establishment of new democratic institutions, which will serve to strengthen the activities of state institutions

aimed at ensuring the deepening of the ideas of democracy in society.

As the President noted: “It is necessary to establish practical cooperation between parliament, government, and civil society institutions in the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and to organize regular parliamentary and public hearings on this issue” [9].

In this regard, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 16, 2020 “On the establishment of the Public Chamber under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan” played an important role in further strengthening the effectiveness of institutions serving modern political development in our country.

According to the presidential decree, the following are the main activities of the Public Chamber:

To Establish a modern, formal, systematic, and effective dialogue that combines the efforts of the state, citizens, and civil society institutions for the more rapid and comprehensive development of the country and ensure the harmony of their social interests;

To promote the participation of citizens in the affairs of the state and society and the introduction of modern mechanisms of public-private partnership” [2].

With the launch of the Public Chamber in our country, strong opportunities are being created for the improvement of the institutional capacity of our country and its growth in the interests of democracy.

The increase in the number of democratic rules in the system of public administration at

the same time serves as a basis for strengthening all the foundations of the political system of our society to ensure modern political development.

The State Program for the implementation of the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021 in the “Year of Science, Enlightenment and Digital Economy” identifies important measures to further democratize public administration in our country. In particular, starting from 2020, the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan have introduced the “Electronic Parliament” system.

By the end of 2020, how each law adopted by the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis was evaluated by the people, and its level of effectiveness was monitored. From July 1, 2020, the procedure for regular hearings of the heads of state bodies and economic management bodies on several issues at the meetings of the Legislative Chamber was introduced.

From June 1, 2020, the mobile application of the web portal “Mening fikrim” (“My opinion”) was launched.

It should be noted that the Address of President Sh. Mirziyoyev to the Oliy Majlis on December 29, 2020, identified important conceptual and institutional bases and principles for further development of democratic reforms in the modern political environment and the great positive results achieved in our country.

As stated in the President’s Address, “... no matter how difficult and complicated, we will never back down from the path of democratic

reforms. We are moving forward, only forward, and we are capable of it in every way.

Because our people today are not the people of yesterday. Today's Uzbekistan is not the same as yesterday's." [10-16].

The President proposed to implement the following tasks in 2021 to ensure that the reforms are reflected in the daily lives of our people.

First, to radically improve the work of public administration. Decision-making is overly centralized in the activities of many ministries and agencies. There are cases of duplication in their activities because their tasks are not clearly and completely defined.

Second, to strengthen the responsibility and accountability of government agencies in resolving territorial issues. From the beginning of 2021, each ministry began to plan and organize its work at the district, city, village, and mahalla level. A system of evaluating the activities of ministers and their deputies based on what has changed in practice in districts, cities, villages, and mahallas has been introduced.

CONCLUSIONS

The effectiveness of the state institution in our country is gradually increasing with the widespread introduction of democratic mechanisms. At the same time, as a result of this, the scale of potential opportunities for the introduction of the most effective, new foundations of democracy in Uzbekistan is expanding. This approach, as recognized by world scientists and politicians, is the most acceptable and correct way of modern political development.

It should be noted that the coronavirus pandemic, which has appeared on our planet since March 2020 and threatens the peoples of the world, certainly negatively impacts the development plans and directions of the world.

At the same time, the consistent policy of democratic development pursued in our country, by its very nature, includes powerful opportunities to eliminate such threats and their consequences. Due to this, political and social stability in our society, the solidarity of our people in the fight against this disaster, a rational attitude has been ensured. Undoubtedly, the consequences of the pandemic will be eliminated in our country, and Uzbekistan will be stronger than this situation and will not deviate from its chosen path of development. Indeed, our society has so far achieved solid results in terms of democratic development, and this process will continue more rapidly.

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