

Some Aspects of The Political Modernization of Uzbekistan

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Abstract

This article reveals the content, purpose of political modernization and its methodological basis in Uzbekistan. The analysis of the main paradigms about political modernization has been carried out. The ways of Uzbekistan in modernization are considered. A brief description of the process of political modernization in Uzbekistan is considered. The studied experience of socio-political thought is necessary to address issues of political modernization in Uzbekistan.

Key words: state, Uzbekistan, political science, paradigm, political modernization, democracy, models, INGOs, pluralistic democracy, political system.

Introduction

In recent years, serious transformations have taken place in Uzbekistan in the social, legal, economic and political spheres in order to reform the political system of the state. Transformations in the political reality of our country, due to the need for new approaches to politics, legislation, the formation of a legal social state and its institutions, as well as the wide participation of INGOs in the life of the country.

Constantly changing circumstances in Uzbekistan make it necessary to update not only the policy, but also the transformation of the legal system, the degree of development of which does not correspond to the needs and dynamics of the development of society. Within the framework of the political system, tools and mechanisms have not yet been created to fully realize in social life the rights of subjects of public relations, which have been formed and reflected in positive law. The

objective needs of the development of the state and society require the modernization of the political system in order to implement the main provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In this regard, the study of theories and practices of political modernization seems relevant for domestic political science. At the present stage, intensively developing social processes need to create new political means that would allow them to quickly influence the dynamics of relations contained in the political system. One of the decisive factors that can ensure the above task is modernization. The result of the ongoing modernization transformations of public administration and public life of society should be a new quality of the political system of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Political modernization is defined by many political scientists as the process of society's transition from a traditional political system to a modern one - industrial or post-industrial. This modernization was formed in the 1950s and 1960s to substantiate the policy of the West in relation to countries freed from colonial dependence.

The term "modernization" in this period meant "simultaneously both the state of social transformations and the process of transition to modern societies. It carried normativity, for the givenness of the transition to "modernity", the embodiment of the criteria of modern society, which must be taken into account by underdeveloped countries in the process of their reform". (Soloviev, 2000)

Modernization involves the expansion and rationalization of the national identity of citizens based on or in combination with the norms of world political culture. The goal of modernization is to create a differentiated political structure with a highly specialized role of government bodies and institutions of civil society, the territorial and functional expansion of the area of central legislation, the constant expansion of the involvement in political life of social groups and individuals, the weakening of elites and their legitimacy, etc.

1. Research Methodology

The sociological concepts of O. Comte, G. Spencer, M. Weber, E. Durkheim, F. Tönnies and their approaches to the problems of social development became the methodological basis of the theory of modernization. These approaches generally boiled down to the following: social changes occur through successive stages and none can be skipped; social changes are irreversible and inevitable, carried out gradually and peacefully; these social changes are unilinear, which means that less developed countries must follow the same path that more developed countries follow; there is always the possibility of improving social life and social progress.

The article uses such methods as analysis, synthesis, generalization, systemic and comparative analysis, induction and deduction.

2. Theoretical aspects of the term “Modernization”

Ways of modernization were proposed on the one hand by the conservatives, and on the other hand by the liberals. Conservative political scientists (S. Huntington, H. Lindts, T. Tsuratani, etc.) see a great danger in the period of modernization in the fact that the growth of political participation can overtake the existing real level of preparedness of the masses for such participation. They see a danger to modernization in political instability, 2 they suggest first creating strong political institutions. At the same time, scientists do not deny democratic values and have similar views with liberals on the ultimate goals of political modernization. In general, conservatives focus on establishing political order with the help of centralized institutions. They offer a range of upgrade options.

Liberal political scientists (G. Almond, R. Dahl, L. Pai, etc.) believe that for successful political modernization it is necessary to widely involve the people in the activities of representative democracy institutions and create conditions for free competition of political elites. The American political scientist R. Dahl, in line with the liberal approach, put forward the theory of polyarchy. He emphasizes the priority of political pluralism and the ability of democratic institutions to harmonize the interests of groups and individuals without losing their autonomy. In polyarchy, the main

principle is the representative nature of power. It is realized through election. R. Dahl expanded the criteria of the democratic process. In the polyarchy, he includes seven institutions that have developed in the process of adapting democratic ideas. The shortcomings of organizational pluralism do not escape the scientist either.

As the German sociologist W. Zapf notes, modernization means "a certain type of social change that took shape in the era of the English Industrial Revolution and the French political revolution. Its essence is the sharp advancement of the pioneer societies and the subsequent movement of the laggards. Modernization theory deals with epoch-making, long-term, often violent transformations that, starting in Europe, then dragged the whole world into their dynamics. Modernization is a systematic process that poses universal problems; modernization is a historical process that produces a variety of solutions" (Zapf, 1975)

As wrote Rostow: "... in the era of modernization, if people tend to feel a sense of predominant loyalty to the political community, then only if this community is large enough to achieve some significant level of compliance with the requirements of modernity ..." (Politologiya, 2000)

It is indisputable that the Internet community is one of the most voluminous and relevant to the requirements of modernity, therefore, actors, Internet communities are extremely devoted to the political community of Internet users. Traditionally, the term "modernization" was interpreted as a process of transition from a traditional society to a modern (industrial) one. Today, the term "modernization", in our opinion, implies a transition from a modern industrial society to a new post-industrial society based not just on the service sector, but on information goods and services. Such a society in world science is best known as "informational" (Akopov, 2012)

According to the well-known scientist and researcher B. Omonov, "Modernization is a very complex political process. As a result of changes in all spheres of human and social activity, new concepts, principles and approaches are being re-formed. The fact that the structural and functional composition of the modernization structure in Uzbekistan has not been comprehensively studied as a

subject of independent scientific research increases interest in this area. (Omonov, 2018)

“Associations can achieve more than just defending or articulating the interests of their members. They are also able to sharpen and exaggerate the particular aspects of group interests as opposed to others, perhaps marked by greater attractiveness and loyalty to interests ...”. (Dal, 1997)

According to researcher B. Omonov, “Modernization means the industrialization of an agrarian (traditional) society, the transformation of the socio-economic system, while revising the socio-economic concept of the development of the state, ensuring human rights and freedoms based on new norms and norms, the individual, society, and it is supposed to form a system of relations between states on the basis of new, modern approaches. The purpose of modernization is to move from a traditional way of life to a modern society, to reach a higher level of socio-economic and political development. (Omonov, 2022)

Since the goal of modernization is the transition from a traditional way of life to a modern society, reaching a higher level of socio-economic and political development. The modernization of the country in itself is a very difficult and complex process.

The model of pluralistic democracy is characterized by competition between political parties during elections and the opportunity for interest groups to freely express their views. Thanks to the conclusion of various compromises, the balance of relations is maintained, and in this way the tension of intergroup confrontation is reduced. “Practical experience has shown that, with all the advantages of such an understanding of democracy, the application of this model of power is possible only through the spread in society of common ideals and values that are basic for all groups, the absence of which turns intergroup differences into an insurmountable obstacle to government decision-making. In the interpretation of democracy under consideration, the degree and nature of the influence of various groups on power, as

well as the role of the individual in the political process, are poorly taken into account. (Eisenstadt, 1999)

In the future, the ideological content of the theory of political pluralism has expanded significantly. A large place in it was given to criticism of totalitarian regimes. The ideologists of liberal democracy, in this regard, emphasize the advantages of a multi-party political system, strengthen the arguments in defense of ideological and ideological pluralism, the principles of tolerance towards supporters of other political views, the right of citizens to opposition.

The most important component of the process of political modernization is the transition from authoritarianism (totalitarianism) to democracy (democratic transit).

The American political scientist S.Huntington names three models of democratic transition that have become classic: the classical linear model (Sweden, Great Britain); cyclical model (in many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America); dialectical model (Greece, Portugal, Spain).

The classical linear model is characterized by the gradual limitation of monarchical power and the expansion of the rights of the parliament and citizens of the country. The cyclic model is characterized by the alternation of authoritarian and democratic forms of government. The dialectical model is characterized by the instability of transitional political regimes.

American political scientists F. Schmitter, G. O'Donnell believe that the democratization of society goes through three stages: liberalization, democratization, re-socialization of citizens (their assimilation of new norms and values of democracy). This model is valuable in that it points to the possibility of non-democratic development alternatives and focuses on the fact that an essential condition and content of one of the stages is the consent of the elites. One of the fundamental categories in the theory of political modernization is the category of rationalization, since it characterizes the system-wide properties of political transit (here: differentiation and evaluation of the activities of political institutions; national integration; social mobilization).

3. Features of the Processes of Political Modernization in Uzbekistan

Thus, in the process of political modernization in Uzbekistan, we can see the following:

- a continuous process of organizing a differentiated political structure with highly specialized political roles and institutions has begun;
- a legal basis has been created for the creation of competing political organizations that extend political influence to different functional areas;
- the ability of the political system to successfully adapt to new models of social goals, the creation of new types of institutions that could provide both control over resources, as well as channels for effective dialogue between the population and the government, is growing;
- an impartial legislative system in the country, political and legal technologies for resolving conflicts are being strengthened and ensured;
- the level of mobilization of the social periphery and the growth of the level of political participation of citizens of Uzbekistan due to the expansion of the subjects of the electoral right are reported;
- improvement of e-government in the country in order to simplify government functions and get closer to the people, as well as to remove bureaucratic barriers;
- providing guarantees for the activities of INGOs, the mandatory presence of civil society institutions, NGOs, voluntary associations and a free press; (Ernazarov, 2000)
- diversity of political elites and their participation in the socio-political life of society;

We believe that the formation of the ability of the political system in Uzbekistan accumulates the demands and claims of various social groups to create political and legal mechanisms for the institutionalization of conflict resolution in the country.

We believe that the following factors contribute to successful modernization in Uzbekistan: the internal readiness of the modernizing society for deep political reforms that limit the power of the bureaucracy and establish adequate “rules of the game” for the main political actors and civil society institutions. In this issue, the role

and participation of INGOs are very important, as well as their desire to contribute to our country effective economic and political assistance, mitigating the severity of ongoing reforms. (Ernazarov, 2020).

The process of political modernization in Uzbekistan can be hampered by the following main reasons: lagging behind changes in other spheres of society. Such backwardness can cause a social crisis. Therefore, the rapidly developing democratization of civil society and its institutions, as well as the political culture of society, must be ready for the rapid pace of development processes and transformations.

4. Participation of NGOs in the Processes of Modernization of Public Life

In our country, the state and bureaucracy often acted as conductors of modernization ideas. This was both the strength and the weakness of modernization in our country. Today, political modernization in Uzbekistan is carried out in more favorable conditions: “sustainable economic growth, political stability, gradual improvement in living standards, constructive cooperation with international organizations, INGOs, etc.

We believe that for the further development of political modernization in Uzbekistan, it is necessary not only to realize the need for reforms, the political will of the reformer, but also a deep transformation of the mentality of our society, associated with the experience of the developed countries of the world.

Increasing the role of NGOs in the life of the state and society, strengthening the protection of the rights and legal interests of citizens, increasing the legal literacy and culture of the population, ensuring the openness and transparency of the activities of state executive bodies, especially their active participation in modernization processes, has become the demand of today.

In this regard, we propose two mechanisms for strengthening the participation of NGOs in the processes of modernization of the life of our society.

The first mechanism is to increase the social mobility of civil society institutions.

The second mechanism is a (hybrid) form of implementation of political education and civic education by state and civil society institutions.

Social mobility can be cited as the first mechanism. In our opinion, a new type of social mobility of citizens has appeared in Uzbekistan today. This mobility is based on communication and establishment of various relations between the executive power of the state and civil society institutions. This, in turn, gives a new impetus to the development of social mobility of civil society institutions.

In general, we believe that another type of social structure has emerged in Uzbekistan during the modernization period. In it, not only the functions and forms of communication of representatives of the public and private spheres were divided into specific directions, but also new channels were opened for ensuring their participation in solving problems in economic, social, political and cultural processes and for their mobilization on a large scale and for their autonomous or heterogeneous activity. Social mobility of our citizens has increased, especially on the Internet. The means of social mobility of citizens can include: Internet, social networks, mass media. It is through these means that their divination gives many results. In particular: the abuse of power and wrong decisions by the executive power and authorized officials are the cause of public discontent.

Social mobility of civil society institutions in Uzbekistan is manifested in: social groups; in social institutions; horizontal, i.e., local NGOs and INGOs; vertical, that is, in the relationship between the state executive power and civil society institutions.

To date, in the period of modernization, our citizens' knowledge of their civil and political rights has led to further strengthening of the fundamental foundations of civil society. In turn, it forms the legal basis of social mobility, and all relations are built on the basis of legal relations.

Of course, significant work is being done to further develop the legal literacy of the population in the new Uzbekistan. Legal literacy is a primary factor in the development of a free civil society. Only then the state and citizens can argue within the framework of legal relations. As a result, the principles of the legal state will be

decided. Of course, in this regard, it is one of the tasks of NGOs to further improve the legal literacy and culture of citizens.

Conclusion

It should be noted that the analysis of the development of political modernization in Uzbekistan is not perfect, there are some problems and difficulties. Political modernization is a difficult and long process. This process, in its initial positions, often intersects and complements other processes, which makes it possible to build integrative models of political participation that take into account the interaction of factors that are basic for the selected models.

In our opinion, there are certain models, and we propose to consider the following:

- a model of expanded political participation, which provides a real comprehensive impact of citizens on power structures, involves the active work of political institutions, has a broad system of representation of interests, a developed institution of civil control;

- a model of limited political participation associated with the restriction of forms and methods of political expression of will;

- the mobilization model of political participation, which is characterized by the centralized influence of political institutions in order to enhance social and political activity.

The models of political participation that we have identified make it possible to clarify, as it seems, little-studied substantive aspects of participation in politics, the degree of dependence of this phenomenon on socio-demographic factors, value orientations of subjects of political actions, their cognitive capabilities, motivational attitudes, the level of development of political culture, the nature of the functioning of democratic institutions, other conditions and factors.

The well-known researcher B. Omonov in his monograph, known as "The Conceptual Foundations of the Modernization of Society", gives the correct definition. "Modernization is the destruction of old social phenomena; implementation of socio-

cultural changes; the transition from a traditional society to an industrial society; transformation of the socio-economic system; this means changing the socio-economic paradigm of development and changing all spheres of public life." Therefore, the role and importance of civil society institutions is great in transforming the socio-economic system, changing the socio-economic development paradigm and making changes in all spheres of public life. (Omonov, 2022)

In general, the theoretical analysis of political modernization in Uzbekistan shows that political modernization, being the most important type of political development, is designed to form modern structures of motivational mechanisms for political activity, to ensure the diversity of forms of socio-political participation of our citizens. The most important conditions for the effectiveness of political modernization are the involvement of citizens in the system of representative democracy, open competition between elites, the existence of the necessary institutionalized structures and mechanisms for articulating and aggregating public interests.

Uzbekistan has chosen a gradual and gradual way of modernizing society. We deliberately abandoned the revolutionary version of reforms through "shock therapy" in favor of evolutionary stage-by-stage development, thereby saving our people from severe economic and social upheavals.

The modernization and decentralization of the country is a long and gradual process that requires a systematic and focused approach. The ultimate goal of democratic transformation and modernization of each country is to create favorable conditions for life and development for every citizen of the country. However, these transformations cannot be carried out without the active and conscious participation of the citizens themselves. The issue of raising the socio-political, legal, economic and cultural consciousness of the population has always been and remains the most decisive moment in the development of society. Today, the Republic of Uzbekistan, realizing the importance of the higher tasks, boldly follows the path of renewal and building a new civil society based on its own model of transformation.

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