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STAGES OF FORMATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: This article examines the stages of formation and development of political parties in Uzbekistan during the years of independence. The study analyzes the transformation of the political system from a single-party model inherited from the Soviet era to a multi-party democratic framework. Particular attention is paid to the constitutional and legal foundations of political pluralism, the establishment of major political parties, and their role in strengthening civil society and democratic governance. The article also evaluates the socio-political conditions that influenced the emergence of party institutions and discusses the challenges and prospects of the party system in contemporary Uzbekistan.

Keywords: political parties, Uzbekistan, multi-party system, democracy, political modernization, civil society, political reforms, parliament, political pluralism, independence, electoral system, democratic institutions.

The formation of political parties is one of the most important indicators of democratic development in any state. Political parties serve as a bridge between society and government, representing the interests of various social groups and ensuring citizens' participation in political processes. After gaining independence in 1991, Uzbekistan began building a new political system based on democratic principles, constitutional governance, and political pluralism. This process required the transformation of the former Soviet one-party structure into a modern multi-party system capable of reflecting the interests of the population.

The relevance of this topic is determined by the growing importance of political parties in ensuring democratic governance and strengthening civil society in Uzbekistan. Studying the stages of their formation makes it possible to understand the specific features of political modernization in the country and evaluate the effectiveness of democratic reforms carried out during the independence period.

The purpose of this research is to analyze the historical stages of the formation of political parties in Uzbekistan, identify the factors influencing their development, and assess their role in the political system of the state. The first stage of political party formation in Uzbekistan began immediately after independence. During this period, the country faced the task of creating a new statehood system and ensuring political stability. Initially, the political sphere retained many characteristics of the Soviet system, where the Communist Party had dominated all political processes.

However, democratic reforms gradually introduced political pluralism into public life. In 1991, the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan was established on the basis of the former Communist Party structures. This party became one of the first officially registered political organizations in independent Uzbekistan.

The adoption of the Constitution in 1992 played a decisive role in the development of the party system. Article provisions guaranteeing ideological diversity and freedom of association created opportunities for citizens to establish political organizations. The Law “On Public Associations” and the Law “On Political Parties” further strengthened the legal framework for party activities. This stage was characterized by the formation of the institutional and legal foundations of the multi-party system. Nevertheless, political parties at that time still had limited influence on public administration and political decision-making. The second stage involved the institutional strengthening of political parties and the expansion of their participation in parliamentary activities. During this period, several new political parties emerged, including parties representing entrepreneurs, social-democratic groups, and national-democratic movements.

The establishment of the “Adolat” Social Democratic Party, the “Milliy Tiklanish” Democratic Party, and the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan reflected the gradual diversification of political interests within society. Political parties increasingly participated in parliamentary elections and legislative processes.

At this stage, the parliament gained a more significant role in governance, and political parties became active participants in electoral campaigns. The introduction of party factions in parliament contributed to the institutionalization of political competition and policy discussions. Despite these developments, scholars often noted that ideological differences among parties remained limited and that political competition was still developing. Nevertheless, this period laid the groundwork for the future modernization of the political system.

The third stage was associated with political modernization and reforms aimed at increasing the role of parliament and political parties in state governance. Constitutional reforms adopted during this period expanded parliamentary powers and enhanced the role of political parties in nominating candidates for executive positions. One important reform was the strengthening of parliamentary oversight mechanisms and the expansion of political parties’ participation in the formation of government institutions. Political parties became more involved in addressing socio-economic issues and implementing state programs.

The electoral legislation was also improved to increase transparency and competitiveness in elections. Political parties were encouraged to develop regional structures and strengthen communication with the electorate. However, researchers observed that political parties still faced challenges related to ideological differentiation, public trust, and independent political participation. The need for broader democratization and stronger civil society institutions remained an important issue on the political agenda.

The election of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev marked a new stage in the development of political parties and democratic institutions in Uzbekistan. Large-scale reforms aimed at liberalizing political life, strengthening public dialogue, and

increasing the accountability of state institutions significantly influenced party activities.

The “Action Strategy for the Five Priority Areas of Development of Uzbekistan” and later the “New Uzbekistan Strategy” emphasized the importance of political pluralism, parliamentary effectiveness, and civil society development. Political parties began to participate more actively in public discussions, legislative initiatives, and social reforms. Electoral reforms introduced new mechanisms to ensure openness and fairness in elections. The role of the parliament and local representative bodies increased, while political parties gained broader opportunities to interact with citizens and express public interests.

At the same time, experts argue that further reforms are necessary to strengthen genuine political competition, increase ideological diversity, and enhance the independence of political institutions. The modernization of the party system continues to be an important factor in Uzbekistan’s democratic transformation.

The formation of political parties in Uzbekistan has passed through several important stages since the country gained independence in 1991. The transition from a one-party Soviet system to a multi-party democratic framework was accompanied by significant constitutional, legal, and institutional reforms. Political parties have gradually become important elements of the political system, participating in elections, parliamentary activities, and public governance. Different stages of development reflected the broader processes of political modernization and democratization taking place in the country.

Although Uzbekistan has achieved notable progress in establishing the foundations of a multi-party system, certain challenges remain, including the need to strengthen ideological diversity, political competition, and public engagement in party activities. Continued democratic reforms and the development of civil society institutions are essential for improving the effectiveness of political parties and ensuring sustainable democratic governance.

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