



THE POLICY OF INDEPENDENT UZBEKISTAN ON THE RESTORATION OF HISTORICAL VALUES

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Abstract; This article analyzes the state policy of Uzbekistan in restoring national historical values after gaining independence in 1991. The collapse of the Soviet Union allowed Uzbekistan to rediscover its cultural heritage and reinforce national identity through reforms in education, culture, religion, and historical memory. The study examines institutional and legislative measures aimed at reviving historical monuments, reinterpreting history, and promoting national figures. The research highlights the importance of this policy in nation-building and ideological independence.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, historical memory, national identity, cultural heritage, independence, restoration policy.

The independence of Uzbekistan in 1991 opened a new chapter in the country's history, allowing the people to reclaim their cultural and spiritual identity. For decades under Soviet rule, many aspects of Uzbek history, including religion, historical figures, and cultural traditions, were marginalized or repressed. Following independence, one of the key priorities of the Uzbek government was to revive these suppressed historical values and reestablish a strong sense of national pride rooted in the country's rich past.

Efforts to restore historical justice were not only symbolic but served as a foundation for ideological independence, the development of patriotism, and the spiritual unity of the people. Uzbekistan's policy in this area has focused on reviving the legacy of great historical personalities such as Amir Temur, Alisher



Navoi, and Imam Bukhari, as well as the reconstruction of cultural heritage sites, religious freedom, and curriculum reforms.

This research is based on qualitative analysis using primary and secondary sources, including official state documents, presidential decrees, scholarly publications, and reports from cultural institutions. Comparative historical analysis is applied to evaluate the transition from Soviet historiography to the post-independence narrative, while content analysis is used to study key reforms in education and cultural preservation.

Following Uzbekistan's declaration of independence in 1991, the restoration of historical values became a core element of the country's national policy. A series of coordinated efforts were initiated at the state level to reassess historical narratives, rehabilitate national figures, and promote cultural heritage as a symbol of sovereignty and identity. The outcomes of these initiatives can be summarized as follows:

1. Rehabilitation of National Historical Figures

One of the most significant outcomes of Uzbekistan's post-independence policy has been the re-evaluation and official recognition of prominent historical personalities. Figures such as Amir Temur, Mirzo Ulugbek, Alisher Navoi, Ahmad Yassawi, Bahauddin Naqshband, and Imam Bukhari were reinstated in the public consciousness through educational curricula, cultural programs, and international symposia. The year 1996 was declared the "Year of Amir Temur" in celebration of his 660th birth anniversary, accompanied by international conferences and the construction of the Amir Temur Museum in Tashkent. These actions marked a turning point in the ideological transformation from Soviet historiography to a nationally centered historical outlook.



2. **Restoration and Preservation of Cultural Heritage Sites**

A vast program of restoration was undertaken to conserve Uzbekistan's architectural and archaeological heritage. Historical sites in cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Shakhrisabz, and Termez were restored, often in cooperation with international organizations like UNESCO. This included the renovation of religious complexes, mausoleums, madrasas, minarets, and ancient fortresses. These efforts not only contributed to cultural revival but also enhanced Uzbekistan's tourism industry and global cultural profile.

3. **Institutional and Legislative Reforms**

To support historical restoration, the Uzbek government established key institutions, such as the Academy of Sciences' Institute of History, the International Amir Temur Foundation, and the Center for Islamic Civilization. Legislative acts and presidential decrees were issued to protect cultural heritage, promote academic research, and encourage public participation in national memory projects. New laws on cultural preservation, religious freedom, and education reform reflected the importance of historical identity in nation-building.

4. **Integration of History into National Education and Ideology**

School and university textbooks were revised to reflect a more accurate and nationally proud version of Uzbek history. Pre-Soviet and Islamic periods, previously underrepresented or negatively portrayed, were reintroduced and contextualized as essential parts of the Uzbek national identity. Educational programs emphasized respect for ancestors, national unity, and cultural pride, aligning historical consciousness with patriotic education.

5. **Religious Revival and Tolerance**

The re-establishment of religious identity played a crucial role in restoring historical values. Numerous mosques and Islamic schools that were closed during the Soviet era were reopened and renovated. Celebrations of religious



holidays, as well as the repatriation of religious relics and manuscripts, fostered greater awareness of the spiritual legacy of Uzbekistan. The restoration of the mausoleums of figures like Imam Bukhari and the promotion of Islamic scholarship are integral to this process.

6. International Recognition and Cultural Diplomacy

Uzbekistan's efforts to restore its historical values have not remained domestic. The country actively promotes its historical heritage abroad through exhibitions, academic exchange, and participation in global cultural programs. These initiatives have helped Uzbekistan to establish a unique cultural identity on the international stage, strengthening ties with Turkic, Islamic, and Eastern civilizations.

The restoration of historical values in Uzbekistan must be seen not merely as cultural revival but as a strategic policy for building a cohesive and sovereign national identity. By reasserting its historical narrative, Uzbekistan has positioned itself as a modern state deeply connected to its civilizational roots. These reforms have also played a role in foreign policy, allowing Uzbekistan to engage in cultural diplomacy, particularly with Islamic countries and Turkic nations.

However, the process has not been without challenges. Balancing modern development with the preservation of ancient traditions requires a nuanced approach. There is also an ongoing need to ensure that history is not idealized or politicized, but rather approached through critical, academic perspectives.

Uzbekistan's independence marked the beginning of a deliberate and structured policy to restore historical values that were neglected or distorted during the Soviet era. These efforts have strengthened national consciousness, contributed to ideological sovereignty, and provided a strong foundation for the country's future. Continued investment in historical education, heritage preservation, and



cultural dialogue will ensure that Uzbekistan remains connected to its past while confidently moving toward modernization.

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