

## THE NATIONAL IDEOLOGY OF INDEPENDENT UZBEKISTAN: FOUNDATIONS AND SIGNIFICANCE

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### Abstract

This article examines the key aspects of the ideology of independent Uzbekistan and its main principles and objectives. Special attention is paid to the factors influencing the formation of this ideology and its significance for the spiritual, socio-economic, and political development of the country. The mechanisms of educating the younger generation in the spirit of patriotism and national self-awareness are analyzed, as well as the influence of ideology on Uzbekistan's foreign policy and international cooperation.

**Keywords:** Ideology of national independence, Uzbekistan, patriotism, statehood, spiritual values, democracy, national self-awareness, international cooperation.

### Introduction

The ideology of national independence of Uzbekistan is a fundamental element in the development of the state and society. In the conditions of sovereignty, a system of ideas has been formed that unites the past, present, and future of the country, contributing to social cohesion and strengthening national self-awareness. This paper is dedicated to analyzing the essence, principles, and significance of national ideology, as well as its impact on state development and international cooperation.

The ideology of national independence is based on the centuries-old aspirations of the multinational people of Uzbekistan to create a free, prosperous state and a dignified life for all its citizens. This ideology represents a dynamic and evolving system of views aimed at uniting all residents of the country. It reflects the aspirations of the Uzbek people, is based on the chosen path of development, and takes into account its historical traditions, mentality, and key interests.[1]

The fundamental ideas and principles of this ideology are reflected in the works of the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, I.A. Karimov, such as: "Uzbekistan – Its Own Path of Renewal and Progress," "Uzbekistan Aspiring to the 21st Century," "Our Highest Goal – Independence and Prosperity of the Homeland, Freedom and Well-Being of the People," and other works.[2]

These writings emphasize that the main task is to unite the people for a common future, cultivate a sense of responsibility for the country's fate in every citizen, foster respect for the cultural heritage of ancestors, and develop high moral values.

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National ideology should contribute to each individual's awareness of their role in the modern world, strengthen generational ties, and preserve and enrich cultural traditions while considering universal values and achievements of global progress.[1]

The ideology of independence represents a system of ideas that unites the past and future of the Uzbek people and facilitates the realization of their historical aspirations. It is based on the Constitution of Uzbekistan, democratic principles, national and universal values, incorporating the country's centuries-old spiritual and cultural heritage.[3]

Since gaining independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan recognized the need to formulate an ideology that reflects the sovereignty of the state and supports its socio-economic and political transformations. One of the primary tasks of the newly independent state, as noted by I.A. Karimov, was the development of national self-awareness as a key element in shaping the ideology of national independence. He emphasized that without new thinking, it is impossible to build a stable and prosperous country.[4]

Historical experience shows that without a unified goal and idea, any society becomes vulnerable to external and internal threats. The ideology of national independence plays the role of a unifying link between Uzbekistan's centuries-old history and its future. It brings together representatives of various nationalities and faiths living in the country in the pursuit of strengthening independence and the prosperity of the homeland. In modern conditions, where threats of extremism and fundamentalism arise, the idea of national independence becomes particularly significant.

The stability of Uzbekistan's sovereignty largely depends on the stability of the socio-economic, political, and spiritual-moral life of society. One of the key tasks of national ideology remains the education of the younger generation in the spirit of patriotism, devotion to their country, and respect for its traditions. Uzbekistan pays great attention to the spiritual and ideological development of its citizens, especially the youth. Throughout the history of Uzbek statehood, moral education has occupied a central place, as confirmed by the poet's words: "Uzbek spirituality is one of the bright flowers adorning world culture." [6] The modern generation bears responsibility for preserving this rich spiritual heritage.

In the context of market reforms and the formation of civil society, specialized centers carry out significant work in the field of spiritual and educational upbringing. Their main task is to promote the ideas of "enlightenment against ignorance" and to eliminate outdated notions of ideological dependence, fear, and the lack of independent thinking from public consciousness.

A high level of national culture plays an important role in strengthening national identity and shaping the ideology of national independence. One of the main goals of ideology is to mobilize society to achieve sustainable development and prosperity. It fosters in citizens, regardless of their nationality, language, and religion, a sense of pride, patriotism, and commitment to democratic principles, shaping public consciousness through education and respect for diverse perspectives.

As one of the most developed countries in Central Asia, Uzbekistan possesses significant intellectual, cultural, and spiritual potential, making it an important partner in regional cooperation.[2] Thanks to a stable foreign policy based on the principles of non-interference, mutual benefit, and adherence to international law, the republic plays a significant role in ensuring regional stability. The legal foundations of foreign policy activities are enshrined in the country's Constitution and a number of legislative acts regulating international cooperation and investment attraction.

The main principles of foreign policy, outlined in the works of I.A. Karimov, include:

- Recognition of national interests while considering mutual benefits;
- Maintenance of peace and security, resolution of conflicts through peaceful means;
- Adherence to human rights and renunciation of the use of force;
- Openness of foreign policy independent of ideological preferences;
- Priority of international law over domestic legislation.[5]

Thus, the ideology of national independence is an important factor in uniting society, developing the country, and strengthening its position in the international arena.

## Conclusion

The ideology of national independence of Uzbekistan plays a crucial role in the formation and development of the state. It contributes to social consolidation, the formation of national pride, and a sense of responsibility for the country's future. In the conditions of globalization and modern challenges, national ideology remains a solid foundation for the spiritual and socio-economic development of the republic. A policy based on the principles of independence, non-interference, and openness makes Uzbekistan an important participant in international processes and contributes to its sustainable development.

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