

PRINCIPLES OF BUILDING LEGAL STATE IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

This scientific article analyzes the theoretical foundations, constitutional principles and their socio-philosophical essence of the process of building legal state in Uzbekistan. The inextricable connection of the concept of a social state with a legal state, its role in ensuring human rights and freedoms, issues of social justice and sustainable development are revealed. Also, the specific aspects and prospects of building legal state in the national development model are highlighted.

Keywords: Rule of law, Constitution, social justice, civil society, social philosophy.

Introduction

One of the most pressing and forward-looking tasks of modern state development is the formation and improvement of the rule-of-law state model. The Republic of Uzbekistan has taken a number of important steps to strengthen its constitutional system and advance democratic reforms. As a result of the nationwide referendum held on April 30, 2023, a new version of the Constitution was adopted. Notably, the provisions related to the socio-legal model of the state were tripled. This article analyzes the fundamental principles of building a social rule-of-law state in Uzbekistan and its socio-philosophical essence.

A **rule-of-law state** is a model in which the economic, social, and political rights of individuals and citizens are constitutionally guaranteed, and where the state carries out its activities in a democratic organizational and legal form based on the supremacy of law and legality[2].

The philosophical foundation of this model is the concept of human dignity, recognizing that every individual possesses high moral and ethical value.

Literature Review

The human-centered paradigm implies that the primary goal of state activity is to ensure human well-being. As emphasized by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, “human dignity means ensuring a peaceful and safe life for every citizen of the

country, fundamental rights and freedoms, qualified medical services, quality education, strong and targeted social protection, as well as a healthy ecological environment.”

The principle of **social justice** ensures the fair distribution of resources in society, equality of opportunities, and balance between rights and responsibilities.

In John Rawls’s work “*A Theory of Justice*,” two main principles of social justice are highlighted: every individual should have the widest possible set of basic freedoms, and social and economic inequalities should be arranged to benefit the least advantaged members of society[3].

The institution of a **rule-of-law state** includes the supremacy of law, separation of powers, independence of the judiciary, and constitutionalism.

Research Methodology

The study employed methods such as historicity, logical analysis, systematic approach, comparison, observation, induction, and deduction.

Civil society is formed gradually. When the state takes on an external structural role, this concept may be replaced by explicit or latent forms of protectionism. The development of civil society worldwide is multidirectional. The key issue is that the creation of modern civil society involves the emergence and functioning of self-expression values, realized through citizens’ participation in various political movements. The level of development of these values determines the maturity of civic culture in a given society[5].

Analysis and Results

After gaining independence, Uzbekistan chose a path of harmonizing ancient historical traditions with modern democratic values in state-building. While the first version of the Constitution (1992) defined the concept of a “democratic rule-of-law state,” the 2023 revised version added the term “social”: “Uzbekistan is a sovereign, democratic, rule-of-law, social, and secular state with a republican form of governance.”

This change reflects the importance of a strategic direction aimed at strengthening the concept of a social state in Uzbekistan. A social state is a model that guarantees a certain minimum level of welfare to its citizens, even under conditions of a strict market economy and various pandemics and epidemics.

In the referendum on constitutional amendments in 2023, 90.21% of participating citizens supported the new version. These changes tripled the state’s social obligations and introduced the following key provisions:

- **Priority of human rights:** According to Article 14 of the Constitution, the state carries out its activities based on the principles of legality, social justice, and solidarity to ensure human well-being and sustainable development of society[1].
- **Social protection mechanisms:** The state is obliged to protect citizens’ labor and health, establish a minimum wage, support families, motherhood, fatherhood and

childhood, assist persons with disabilities and the elderly, and guarantee state pensions and allowances.

- **Ecological justice:** The new Constitution expands the state’s social responsibilities in environmental protection.

The principle of social justice is one of the core values of modern democratic societies and a fundamental principle of the constitutional-legal system. In Uzbekistan, its implementation is reflected in the following areas:

- **Economic justice:** reducing poverty, ensuring employment, and providing a decent standard of living. For this purpose, the Ministry of Poverty Reduction and Employment and the system of “monocenters” were established.

- **Social protection:** special mechanisms have been introduced for socially vulnerable groups such as youth, women, and those included in targeted social support registries.

- **Solidarity:** mutual support and cooperation among different social strata based on a social contract[4].

In the book “*New Uzbekistan Development Strategy*” by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the priority directions of the social state are described in detail. The key principles of this strategy include:

- **Human capital development:** ensuring quality education, qualified healthcare, and a healthy environment. This reflects placing the individual at the center of public policy.

- **Economic stability:** defining the consumer basket, ensuring employment, and providing decent wages.

- **Legal reforms:** strengthening the independence of laws, combating corruption, improving the judicial system, and digitalizing public services.

The philosophical features of the rule-of-law state in Uzbekistan are closely linked with its traditional values. These include:

- **Youth policy:** providing quality education and creating достойные working conditions for young people.

- **Social welfare:** ensuring a decent standard of living, protecting against unemployment, and providing targeted assistance to low-income families.

- **Ecological justice:** creating a healthy environment and guaranteeing environmental rights.

- **Digital justice:** developing new approaches to ensuring social justice in the context of advancing information technologies[6].

Conclusion and Recommendations

The fundamental principles of building a rule-of-law state in Uzbekistan are reflected in the Constitution, policy documents, and practical reforms. The 2023 revised Constitution legally закрепляет the status of a “social state,” with human dignity, social justice, and solidarity becoming central directions of state activity. The “New Uzbekistan” strategy provides effective mechanisms for implementing the philosophical foundations of the rule-

of-law state in practice. In the future, reforms in this direction will contribute to reducing social inequality, improving the standard of living of citizens, and strengthening a democratic society.

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