

Issues Of International Relations in A Multinational Country: Solutions And Progress (Experience Of Uzbekistan).

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ABSTRACT

The article highlights the issues of preservation of language, customs, traditions and culture, unique values, further development of interethnic relations of more than 130 nations and peoples living in multi-ethnic Uzbekistan during the years of independence. The reasons for the arrival of people of other nationalities in Uzbekistan, hospitality and tolerance of the Uzbek people are revealed. The article also notes that equal conditions have been created in Uzbekistan for the preservation of the national identity of ethnic groups, with 138 national cultural centers coordinated by a State organization, the International National Centre, eight languages are taught in schools, and the media are published in 12 languages. All this is explained by the fact that there is mutual understanding in inter-ethnic relations in Uzbekistan and that all the nations and peoples living in the country live in peace and harmony on the basis of the idea that "Uzbekistan is our common home".

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Introduction. The Uzbek land has long been inhabited by people of different civilizations, cultural backgrounds, different faiths and worldviews. People who live here are not people who migrated from other places and settled here. This land is an ancient and sacred land where our ancestors lived. Located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, where the ancient past and the great future meet, the heart of Central Asia is one of the oldest centers of human thought, science and culture. It is on this soil that the roots of the civilization that shook the world were formed, and the religious and philosophical traditions of the most ancient periods of human history were formed. It is worth noting that the pursuit of inherent nobility, humanity and interethnic harmony is one of the highest qualities of our civilization. These traditions have been handed down from generation to generation.

Uzbekistan is a multi-ethnic State, and its multi-ethnic roots go back centuries. Repeated migrations of peoples living on the territory of our country at different stages of historical development, devastating wars, battles of different rulers - all this is reflected in demographic processes.

Throughout the centuries, Iranian rulers, Alexander the Great, the Arab invasion, the plunder of Genghis Khan, colonial invasions in Tsarist Russia, the arrival of people of different nationalities and races, the permanent residence of some of them and artisans from different cities and countries during the reign of Amir Temur the Great The resettlement of people here led to a sharp change in the national composition of the population.

Main part. Our country is located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, has fertile lands, favorable natural and climatic conditions, hospitality of the indigenous people, broad-mindedness.

In addition, after the colonization of Turkestan by the Russian Empire, landless and sparsely populated peasants began to move from Russia. For example, in 1989-1891, 28,911 families or more than 100,000 people were resettled to Turkestan. There are also those who emigrated from Russia arbitrarily. By 1896, their number amounted to 178,400 people [1].

During the period of industrialization carried out by the former Soviet authorities in Uzbekistan in the late 1920s and early 1930s, 300 weavers were initially sent to Uzbekistan. In 1930, 15,000 skilled workers were resettled from Russia to Uzbekistan. In 1933, 3,062 workers were sent, 3,500 in 1934, and 300 in 1935. In 1933-1938, 650,000 workers were resettled to Uzbekistan for permanent work and residence, including 94,300 workers from Russia.

On the eve of World War II and in the last years of the war, the national composition of Uzbekistan's population changed dramatically at the expense of deported peoples. In October and November 1937, 16,307 families or 74,500 Koreans were deported from the Far East to Uzbekistan [2].

By 1944, Crimean Tatars, Meskhetian Turks, Kalmyks, Greeks, Poles and other nationalities had been deported to Uzbekistan. As of July 1, 1951, 184,122 people had been deported to Uzbekistan. On April 1, 1953, there were 188,689 people [3].

After the Nazi invasion of the USSR, about 100 factories with workers were evacuated from the center to Uzbekistan from the first days of the war. After the end of the war, some of the workers who came with the factories remained in Uzbekistan for permanent residence.

In the 60-70s of the last century, foreign labor force was brought to Uzbekistan for construction and operation of chemical enterprises and development of specially protected lands. In 1961-1975, about 400 thousand skilled workers were resettled from abroad.

Many relief forces came from Moscow, Leningrad and the union republics of the former Soviet Union to deal with the aftermath of the April 26, 1966 earthquake in Tashkent. Among them were Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Armenians, Azerbaijanis, Georgians, Moldovans and representatives of the brother republics of Central Asia. When Tashkent was rebuilt, some of them settled here permanently.

The period of colonization of Uzbekistan, which lasted almost 150 years, had a significant impact on demographic processes in the country, including the ethnic composition of the population. It is known that complete information on the population, its total number, distribution by region, age, sex, social and ethnic composition, natural increase and migration is obtained through censuses. The population census in Uzbekistan has been conducted eight times in the last 100 years (in 1897, 1920, 1926, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989).

По данным переписи 1989 г., абсолютная численность узбеков значительно увеличилась за последнее десятилетие. За тот же период они увеличились на 3,6 миллиона и достигло 14,1 миллиона. В результате численность коренных узбеков в 1989 г. составила 71,4% от общей численности населения.

За этот же период численность русских осталась на прежнем уровне 1,7 миллиона, их количество в национальном населении Узбекистана снизилось с 10,8% до 8,3%. Количество таджиков значительно увеличилось с 594,6 тысячи до 933,6 тысячи, а количество казахов с 620,1 тысячи до 808,2 тысячи [4].

Since Uzbekistan gained independence, not only for the country's indigenous population, the Uzbek people, but special attention has been paid to creating equal conditions and opportunities for people of different nationalities and ethnic groups living in the Republic to preserve their language, culture, values and traditions as a nation.

The country's leadership has taken steps to resolve the issue legislatively. In this regard, our country proceeded primarily from the requirements of the Constitution.

The attention of all strata of the population and representatives of different nationalities was focused on ensuring peace, tranquility and inter-ethnic harmony, strengthening the most important value facing the country - independence. Equality before the law was ensured. This has strengthened in the hearts of every

citizen a sense of responsibility for a single land, a single place, a single homeland, which serves the idea that “Uzbekistan is our common home”.

Article 4 of the Constitution states that “the Republic of Uzbekistan ensures respect for the languages, customs and traditions of all nations and peoples living in its territory and creates conditions for their development”. Article 8 states that “the people of Uzbekistan, irrespective of their nationality, are citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan”. This norm defines the concept of “the people of Uzbekistan”. Everyone who was born, lives and works in Uzbekistan, regardless of ethnicity, race or religion, is an equal citizen of our country.

The citizens of Uzbekistan, irrespective of their origin, race, social background or other circumstances, constitute the people of Uzbekistan. Article 19 states that “in the Republic of Uzbekistan, all citizens have the same rights and freedoms and are equal before the law, regardless of sex, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, beliefs, or personal or social status” [5]. [5]. The principle of national equality of the people of Uzbekistan, enshrined in these articles, fully complies with the requirements of all international human rights treaties, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, to which the Republic of Uzbekistan has acceded [6].

It is known from world experience that in multinational countries the protection of the rights and freedoms, national and cultural interests of their citizens is one of the most important areas of state policy. This requires the creation of the necessary conditions for peoples living outside their historical homeland to meet their national needs. This requirement is particularly important for peoples without national-territorial organization.

In the post-Soviet period, national policy was considered one-sided. The national question was not resolved in any of the union republics. This policy had a negative impact on the socio-economic development of the union republics, including Uzbekistan.

Although the Constitution of the former Soviet Union enshrined the national question and constitutional provisions on the development of national cultures, in practice a policy of Russification and the formation of a single nation that had lost its national identity on the basis of the rapprochement of all nations and peoples as “Soviet people” were pursued.

Since the first years of independence, shortcomings and deficiencies in inter-ethnic relations have been gradually eliminated. Measures have been taken to ensure peace among peoples in a multi-ethnic country.

The establishment of national cultural centers in the country has opened a wide path for the development of the national language, culture and other unique values and traditions of the non-indigenous population of the country. Even before independence, in 1989, inter-ethnic cultural centers were established under the Ministry of Culture. Initially, these centers included 12 cultural centers, including Kazakh, Korean, Armenian, Azerbaijani and Tajik. Over time, the number of such centers increased. By 1995, their number had grown to more than 80. The increase in the number of centers required coordination of their activities. For this purpose, the Republican International Cultural Center was established on January 13, 1992. Its main task is to implement a unified State policy on inter-ethnic relations, involving ministries, departments, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, provincial, city and district khokimiyats, and public organizations, in particular:

- Provide practical and methodical assistance to national cultural centers and coordinate their activities;
- assist in the restoration and development of national traditions, customs and rituals of the peoples, comprehensive development of culture and spiritual values of the peoples and national groups living in the territory of the Republic;
- Establishment and development of relations and cooperation with national centers of foreign countries;
- promotion of international integration of nations and peoples living in the Republic of Uzbekistan, harmonization of interethnic relations [7].

The 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Republican International Cultural Center was widely celebrated in 2017. In his speech at the meeting dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Republican International Cultural Center, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, assessing the activities of the center, said: “*It is noteworthy that the Republican International Cultural Center coordinates the activities of national cultural centers, provides practical and methodological assistance.*”

On the basis of vivid events held in all regions of the country, the Center enriches our cultural and social life with deeper meaning, strengthens the bonds of friendship and tolerance among people of different nationalities and ethnic groups living in Uzbekistan. It is noteworthy that among the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) only Uzbekistan has such a structure” [8].

There are currently 138 ethnic cultural centers in the country, which operate effectively as non-governmental non-profit organizations. Azerbaijanis in Uzbekistan respect and preserve the traditions and customs of the people. The Azerbaijani national cultural center in Uzbekistan - “Gardashlyk” (“Brotherhood”) was one of the first to be established in 1989 in Tashkent. Later, Azerbaijani national cultural centers were established in Samarkand and Bukhara. In 2003, the Republican Association of National Cultural Centers of Azerbaijan was established.

The Center offers Azerbaijani language courses, Azerbaijani dance and national embroidery clubs, as well as computer literacy lessons for everyone, regardless of nationality. It has become a tradition to organize exhibitions of applied arts and national cuisine, during which the ensemble “Azerbaijan gyzlari” (Azerbaijani Girls) under the direction of Honored Artist of Azerbaijan Kokab Aliyeva (Tashkent) glorifies Azerbaijani folk songs and dances. Besides, “Gardashlik”, “Ochag” creative collectives stand out with their unique performances at mass events in Tashkent and other cities of the country. Azerbaijani artists regularly take part in events dedicated to Uzbekistan's national holidays - Independence Day and Navruz. Concerts of Azerbaijani artists will be organized in cooperation with the Embassy of Azerbaijan [9].

Activists of the center, striving to strengthen and develop interethnic relations, make a worthy contribution to the exchange and enrichment of Uzbek and Azerbaijani cultures, further strengthening the bonds of friendship between the peoples.

Exhibits of the Museum of Uzbek-Azerbaijani friendship in the building of the Center tell the history of friendly relations between the two nations since ancient times. One of the exhibits of the museum - a stone tumor in the form of two snakes of the II millennium BC, found in the Fergana Valley, is very similar to the tumor found in Azerbaijan, which confirms the closeness of our peoples. Today, the Center and its branches in Bukhara, Navoi, Samarkand, Syr Darya, Tashkent region and the city of Tashkent work effectively to achieve a common goal.

An important area of activity of the International National Centre is active participation in the preparation and holding of national holidays. In particular, the traditional holidays “Independence Day” and “Navruz” are attended by Uzbeks and people of all nationalities living in the country take an active part in the festivities.

Another area of work of the International National Center during the years of independence is the festival “Folk Art”, which has been held every two years since 1994. In particular, our people welcome with great interest the performances of professional and amateur artists of the Armenian, Azerbaijani, Tajik, Kazakh, Tatar, German and Korean peoples, who actively participate in this festival. Festivals of each national-cultural center serve to truly celebrate the national holiday, to show the bright future of this nation, to strengthen the sense of responsibility for the fate of the country in which they live. The final performances of the national cultural centers take place on the eve of Independence Day on August 20 at the Peoples' Friendship Palace and on the day of the holiday, September 1.

Every year the Russian Ethnic Cultural Center together with the Russian Embassy in Uzbekistan has become a tradition to celebrate the birthday of the great Russian poets A. S. Pushkin and S. Ya. Я. This strengthens our fraternal ties with the Russian people. It is also worth noting such cultural events as the anniversary of the great Kazakh poet Abay with our Kazakh brothers and sisters living in Uzbekistan and the celebration of the 1000th anniversary of the Kyrgyz folk epic Manas with our Kyrgyz brothers.

Another positive aspect of the development of inter-ethnic relations in the country is the establishment of an education system that corresponds to the ethnic composition of the population. Today, 845 schools in the country provide instruction in Russian, 491 in Kazakh, 259 in Tajik, 52 in Turkmen, 40 in Kyrgyz and 7 in Korean. In addition to Uzbek, teachers at pedagogical institutes under the Ministry of National Education train teachers for Russian, Tajik, Turkmen, Kazakh and Karakalpak language schools.

The mass media serving the diverse needs of the national composition of the country are published in 8 languages: Uzbek, Karakalpak, Russian, Kazakh, Tajik, Turkmen, English and Korean. Television and radio

are broadcast in 12 languages (Uzbek, Karakalpak, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Azerbaijani, Russian, Tatar, Bashkir, Korean, Uighur). It is obvious that Uzbekistan's interethnic state policy is based on humanity and democracy [10].

Uzbekistan has accumulated a unique experience in establishing inter-ethnic relations. It adheres to the principle not only of understanding national identity, fostering a sense of national pride, preserving the language, culture and traditions of the nations, but also of achieving the overall unity of all nations in the country.

It should not be forgotten that where the importance of the idea of inter-ethnic harmony is not realized, various contradictions and problems arise in the life of society, which threaten peace and stability. This is evidenced by the national conflicts that are taking place today in some countries of the world.

In order to consistently implement and further improve the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of further development of interethnic relations, the main directions of the Concept of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of interethnic relations are developed in accordance with the Action Strategy for 2017-2021:

- Improving mechanisms for interaction between State bodies and organizations and local executive authorities and civil society institutions, including the media, in the implementation of Uzbekistan's State policy on inter-ethnic relations;

- Creating additional socio-economic conditions for the further development of inter-ethnic relations and the effective implementation of Uzbekistan's State policy on the preservation and development of the language, culture, traditions and customs of the various nationalities and ethnic groups living in the country;

- Ensuring a sense of a large multi-ethnic family in society, in the country, to prevent discrimination against their constitutional rights and freedoms;

- strengthening inter-ethnic relations and protecting the freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens inside and outside the country;

- improving the organizational and legal basis of interethnic relations, taking into account the priorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the development of the state and society, advanced foreign experience [11].

The Concept of the state policy in the field of interethnic relations and the Roadmap for its implementation for 2019-2021 have been approved. The Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendship with Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Concept and the Road Map. The Center for Scientific and Practical Research on Interethnic Relations was established under the Committee to conduct scientific and social research in the field of interethnic relations, preparation and publication of scientific articles, books, research materials, information and analytical reviews [12].

Conclusion. During the years of independence, one of the priorities of State policy has been to ensure inter-ethnic harmony in society, strengthen the atmosphere of friendship and the multi-ethnic family, and educate young people in the spirit of love and devotion to the Fatherland and respect for national and universal values. The provisions of the Constitution on the equal rights of all citizens are being implemented.

Today, representatives of more than 130 nationalities and ethnic groups living in the country, enjoying the equal rights and opportunities enshrined in the Constitution and laws of Uzbekistan, work effectively in various branches of the economy and social sphere, science and culture. They make a worthy contribution to the prosperity of the country and the strengthening of its independence.

Analysis of the large-scale democratic reforms under way, the further liberalization of the political, economic, social and cultural spheres and significant creative work in other areas of society show that representatives of all nationalities and ethnic groups living in Uzbekistan are united for a common goal, such as building a bright future for a new Uzbekistan.

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