

FORMATION OF INTERETHNIC HARMONY IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING CIVIL SOCIETY IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

The article is devoted to the disclosure of the features of the current stage of the state of interethnic relations as a factor in the social stability of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the issues of improving legislation in the field of relations between nations, in particular, the need to adopt a law on the state language in a new edition, taking into account the ethnic composition of the multinational population of Uzbekistan. It is argued that the adoption of the law on language in the New Edition will contribute both to the preservation and transmission to future generations of the historical and spiritual heritage associated with the Uzbek language, as well as to the improvement of the language policy in the country, as well as further strengthening of interethnic harmony. It is emphasized that the preservation of balanced interethnic relations is possible only by deepening democratic reforms in the country, creating an atmosphere of tolerance in society, and improving the culture of interethnic communication.

Keywords: Nation, ethnic composition, language law, ethno politics, interethnic relations, social stability, interethnic harmony, state policy, democratization.

Introduction

As world experience shows, the development of any state, especially in the period of national formation, directly depends on the stability of the internal political situation and the state of the socio-economic sphere. For the multinational

Republic of Uzbekistan, which has constitutionally approved its state independence and is implementing fundamental reforms to build a civil society, taking into account the national identity of the region, issues of the domestic political situation, namely interethnic and interethnic relations, are of particular relevance.

The special significance of studying issues related to the further improvement of interethnic relations is due not only to the needs of further development of the theory of the nation and interethnic relations, but also to the requirements of society and the tasks of ethno politics, which have the goal of uniting and uniting the people, maintaining national security and stability in Uzbekistan and in the Central the Asian region as a whole. An example of the events of a certain period is the state of the Karluk-Karakhans, created at the level of the kingdom as a result of the organization, cohesion and solidarity of the Turkic tribes in that period [11].

In this regard, the need to further develop existing and develop new, scientifically based approaches to further improve national policy, overcome the deformations of the past in accordance with new socio-political conditions is becoming especially important.

2. Literature review and methodology

In Uzbekistan, according to the data of the 90s. "Along with the titular nation - the Uzbeks, there are representatives of more than 100 nationalities with their own culture and traditions. Their share in the total structure of the country's population exceeds 20%"[7]. As of July 1, 2022, the resident population of the Republic of Uzbekistan amounted to 35,603.4 thousand people[9]. The largest ethnic groups in Uzbekistan, according to the data of the State Statistics Committee of the republic, are Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kazakhs, Karakalpaks and Russians. The number of Uzbeks is more than 29 million (84.4%), since 1989 it has more than doubled, the share of representatives of other nationalities in the total population of the country is 15.6% [6].

As you can see, as a result of natural growth, as well as migration processes and other factors, the share of the titular nation in the total population of the country has increased significantly. The existing objective state in the demographic picture of the country cannot but influence such spheres of public life as the

economy, politics, and public consciousness. These changes also actualize the need to manage and make adequate decisions in the field of interethnic relations. During the years of independence, large-scale work has been done aimed at implementing one of the priorities of state policy - ensuring interethnic harmony and tolerance in society, strengthening the atmosphere of friendship and feeling of a single large multinational family, educating young people in the spirit of love and devotion to the Motherland, respect for national and universal values, expansion of cultural and educational ties with foreign countries. According to the policy pursued by the government in the field of nations and interethnic relations, the development of each nation's national specifics, national uniqueness is at the forefront in order to preserve each national community its uniqueness in the conditions of the all-consuming and leveling process of globalization.

In 2017, the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendly Relations with Foreign Countries was established under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which carries out the consistent implementation of state policy to ensure interethnic harmony and tolerance in society.

At the same time, in the context of ongoing globalization and transformation of international and regional relations, a number of topical issues in the field of interethnic relations remain that need to be addressed, including the establishment of a system and mechanisms for monitoring the state of interethnic relations on the ground relations as the basis for organizing activities for early warning and prevention of possible disagreements and conflict situations in society.

Due to the fact that “Social conflict is the result of any system in which the goals of its elements become incompatible” [5], respectively, the prevention and prevention of a possible conflict is relevant in addressing issues of social, and in our case, interethnic stability in the country.

A confirmation of the democratic policy pursued in the country in the field of interethnic relations is that today about 10 thousand general education schools operate in the republic, in 845 of which education is conducted in Russian, in 491 in Kazakh, in 259 in Tajik, in 52 - in Turkmen, 40 - in Kyrgyz, 7 - in Korean. Pedagogical institutes of the republic train teachers for respective schools. The activities of the mass media in the republic are also aimed at meeting the needs of the multinational population.

Newspapers and magazines are printed in 8 languages in Uzbekistan. Radio and TV programs are broadcast in 12 languages. This testifies to the democratic essence and humanistic orientation of the policy in the sphere of interethnic relations. In recent years, large-scale activities aimed at the implementation of one of the priorities of state policy - ensuring interethnic harmony and tolerance in society, the implementation of the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, proclaiming and guaranteeing that the people of Uzbekistan are citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, regardless of their nationality [1], marked a new level of development of the sphere of interethnic relations.

Thus, on May 23, 2017, a Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted on organizing the activities of the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendly Relations with Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in the Regulation on which, among the many functions, it is determined that the Committee “ensures the careful preservation of the noble traditions of interethnic harmony, atmosphere of friendship and cohesion in society, strengthening in the minds of every citizen, regardless of his nationality, race and religious beliefs, the feeling of a single multinational family”[3].

On November 15, 2019, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved the Concept of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of interethnic relations, one of the main directions of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of interethnic relations is: “further strengthening the feeling of a multinational large family in society, friendship and harmony between representatives of different nations and nationalities living in the republic, educating the younger generation in the spirit of love and devotion to the Motherland, ensuring the equality of citizens, preventing the infringement of their constitutional rights and freedoms” [15].

The concept is aimed at ensuring the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of a person and a citizen, strengthening the unity and integrity of Uzbekistan, preserving the ethno cultural identity of the nations and nationalities living on its territory, maintaining interethnic tolerance, harmony and peace in society. One of the main goals of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of interethnic relations is to ensure the equal rights and freedoms of citizens, their

equality before the law without distinction of gender, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, beliefs, personal and social status.

3. Discussion

The national-linguistic factor has a special influence on the state of interethnic relations. Acting as a national sign of the people, the language defines and characterizes its psychology, traditions, customs and culture and is the subject of national pride [14]. Therefore, in the conditions of national revival, the problem of national languages is in the focus of public consciousness and practical policy. National languages have always performed a consolidating function, and this role became especially important during periods of national upsurge.

Before the independence of Uzbekistan, the growing process of national revival resulted mainly in demands to give the Uzbek language the status of a state language. These requirements were due to the fact that the Uzbek language was actually forced out into the sphere of fiction and everyday life, while office work, scientific, technical and other specialized literature were predominantly in Russian.

The situation, in which the use of the national language is reduced to the everyday sphere, poses a real threat to the very existence of the language. Indeed, if any national language is confined to the everyday framework, withdrawn from the main spheres of life, it is ultimately doomed to gradual or rapid degeneration. Quite right is the opinion of K. Khanazarov, who believes that “the policy of Russification, which began in tsarist times and continued by the Communist Party with its inherent Bolshevik-proletarian pressure, managed to gnaw through and perforate the linguistic integrity of the Uzbeks, and, above all, the intelligentsia” [8].

It is characteristic that where the national language has a developed literary form, is widely represented in socially significant areas, actively functions in the education system, the vast majority of the population relies primarily on their native language for national identification. With the growth of national self-consciousness, the negative consequences of the national language policy being pursued are eliminated. The adoption by the republic of the Law on the state language contributes to its more active use in the system of public education,

education, scientific activity and other areas, and also aims to increase its social role, expand the social base of its application.

As K.R. Rasulov noted, “The law on the state language returned half a century later to the Uzbek language, the language of the indigenous majority of the population of the republic, the status, without which it was increasingly pushed to the periphery of economic, socio-political and industrial activity” [12].

The implementation of the language law in practice is fraught with many difficulties. In a multinational state, granting the status of a state language to one of the languages, naturally, meets with an inadequate reaction from those nations that are not its carrier. However, in our situation, when a policy of Russification of the way of life has been pursued for several decades, and given that this the period is characterized by violence against national languages, the imposition of many artificial changes on them, and, finally, the fact that the status of the state language is given to the language of the indigenous nationality, the language of the indigenous majority of the population of the republic, therefore, the acquisition of such a status is: firstly, the primordial right of the nation; secondly, as a way to overcome the neglect of the development of the language, and, finally, thirdly, as the only real means of its restoration and further development. Inadequate attitude manifested itself to a greater extent among the Russian-speaking population.

The fact is that in Uzbekistan the representation of the Russian nation at the time of the adoption of the Law on Language was 1 million 652 thousand people (8.3% of the total population in the republic).

Therefore, to a certain extent, we can state the fact that this group of the population is confused in the face of such transformations as the adoption of the Law on the state language.

These circumstances left a certain imprint on the situation in interethnic relations in the Republic of Uzbekistan, where a significant number of representatives of non-indigenous nationality live.

The new version of the Law “On the State Language”, approved by senators in June 2021, fixes in detail the issues of using the state language in the activities of state bodies and organizations, when applying to individuals and legal entities, office work, at events, in regulatory documents. It was developed in pursuance of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan UP-6084 of October 20, 2020 “On measures to further develop the Uzbek language and improve the

language policy in the country”, which approved the Concept for the development of the Uzbek language and the improvement of language policy in 2020-2030 , which also provides for the creation of broad and equal opportunities for the development of the languages of all nations and nationalities living on the territory of our country, as well as favorable conditions for them to study the state language[2]. It follows from this that fears about the fate of other national languages, and even more so, their infringement, are groundless, moreover, speaking at the inauguration, the head of state Sh.M. Mirziyoyev state policy, we will continue to give priority to strengthening and developing the national identity of those living in the republic representatives of different nations and nationalities, their language and culture, religion, customs and traditions [13].

The adoption of the Law "On the State Language" will give a significant impetus to the use of the state language in all spheres of public life, its development and popularization, as a result, it will radically increase the role and authority of the Uzbek language as the state language, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, will serve further democratization of language policy, determination of the status of other languages in the Republic of Uzbekistan, inadmissibility of language discrimination.

The current state of interethnic relations in the Republic of Uzbekistan is one of the factors affecting national security and is characterized by dynamism and transience. If in the mid 90's. the last century, i.e. in the first years of national independence, a high level of migration from the country of representatives of the non-indigenous population was a kind of indicator of the state of interethnic relations in the republic [17], now there is an actualization of the language factor of interethnic relations, the culture of interethnic communication, the growth of national self-consciousness, as well as the creation of social legal mechanisms regulation, management of interethnic relations. The particular relevance of the issues under study is determined by the fact that the future of our state and its stability are directly dependent on the solution of issues in the field of interethnic relations, which permeate not only the state-political, but also the socio-economic, as well as the spiritual and moral spheres of public life. Their solution largely determines the direction, pace of reforms, the possibility of dynamizing the trends of social and national progress, the state of spiritual and moral well-being of national and ethnic groups.

The humanism of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as the decrees of the President of the country adopted on its basis, government decrees and other state documents, lies in the fact that they approve and further develop and improve the principle of equality of all nations and nationalities that make up the people of Uzbekistan.[18]

At present, more than 35 million people of the Republic of Uzbekistan are representatives of more than 100 nations and nationalities. The diversity of the ethnic composition of the republic's population is determined by its historical development.

It should be especially noted - this is the principle of determining the boundaries between individual national-territorial entities. When carrying out the national-territorial demarcation, attention was paid to such factors as economic gravity, approximate national borders, administrative conveniences of management, ethnographic-territorial regions, the geographical position of the republic, etc., which subsequently affected interethnic relations.

Despite the artificial drawing of borders and the conflict genic nature of the current situation, thanks to a balanced and democratic policy in the field of interethnic relations, the republic managed to create a favorable interethnic climate in which all nations are in an equal position to meet national needs.

The leadership of the republic, implementing a policy of ethnic and confessional tolerance, seeks to cultivate in the minds of every citizen of Uzbekistan a friendly attitude towards a neighbor of other nationalities, to avoid confrontation between “we” and “they”, to overcome alienation, humanize relationships between people. Ethnic cultural centers created in the country contribute to the establishment of interethnic accord in the country.

Currently, 138 national cultural centers and 6 societies of friendship with foreign countries operate in the republic. According to historical information, a hundred years ago, representatives of about seventy nations lived on the territory of the present republic, after 30 years this figure increased to 91, in 1959 - to 113, in 1979 reached 123. According to the 1989 census, in our republic representatives of 136 nations lived [10].

Thus, each national cultural center and other public organizations carry out activities aimed at strengthening peace and stability in the republic. One of the main principles in their work is the principle of civil consent.

The revival of national culture, the promotion and preservation of the best moral, ethical and moral values of all peoples living in Uzbekistan, the strengthening and development of ties with the historical homeland of all national diasporas became possible thanks to the ongoing national policy.

Its essence lies in ensuring the equality of all nations and nationalities living in our republic, creating conditions for meeting the specific national and spiritual needs of the multinational population and strengthening international peace, friendship and harmony [16].

4. Conclusion

The sustainable development of society is largely due to the internal coordinated development of its constituent elements, among which the social sphere is of particular importance. In it, in turn, the area of interethnic relations is quite subtle and requires special attention and careful study. The complexity of this area of social life is due to the deep, fundamental mechanisms of identification and self-identification of a person, in which biological, psychological, political, economic and socio-historical factors are intertwined. Managing this area in order to establish the harmonious development of its parts is an art that requires careful study and timely adoption of adequate political and legal decisions [4].

Thus, the adoption of the Law on the State Language in the New Edition will contribute to its more active use in the system of public education, education, scientific activity and other areas, as well as to increase its social role, expand the social base of its application.

The national language is the most unique phenomenon in the cultural arsenal of any ethnic group. Respect for the language is a specific form of showing respect for the national culture. Moreover, it contains one of the ways to establish interethnic harmony. Thus, the approved Concept for the development of the Uzbek language and the improvement of language policy in 2020-2030 provides for the creation of broad and equal opportunities for the development of the languages of all nations and nationalities living in our country, as well as favorable conditions for them to study the state language. Further improvement of the legislative basis of national development, in our case, the adoption of the law "On the State Language of the Republic of Uzbekistan" in a new edition, will contribute to the preservation and transmission to future generations of the historical and spiritual heritage associated with the Uzbek language. At the same

time, the improvement of the language policy in the country serves to further strengthen interethnic harmony.

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