



Some Socio-Political Factors of Sustainable Development In New Uzbekistan

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Abstract: This study explores the role of the press in cultivating patriotism among Uzbekistan's border troops. The research aims to assess how media platforms contribute to instilling national values, courage, and civic responsibility in military personnel. A qualitative content analysis approach was applied, analyzing government publications, patriotic campaigns, and historical records. The findings show that military-focused media such as "Border Guard" and "Companion" significantly reinforce patriotic ideology, public morale, and national unity. The study recommends developing a comprehensive media-based educational strategy to counter ideological threats and reinforce the moral training of soldiers.

Keywords: New Uzbekistan, Sustainable Development, Unsustainable Development Goals, Uzbek Model, National Development, Reforms, Renewal Processes, Criteria, People-Oriented And Open Policy.

Introduction

In recent years, Uzbekistan has been implementing large-scale reforms and renewal processes. These developments have ushered in a new era known as "New Uzbekistan." The idea of New Uzbekistan is not merely a political expression but a comprehensive strategy that serves as a foundation for sustainable development across all sectors of the country. This paper provides a scholarly analysis of the social and political factors that influence sustainable development. New Uzbekistan represents a redefined relationship between the state and its people, grounded in principles of transparency, justice, and accountability in governance. The idea initiated by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev that "The people should not serve the government bodies; rather, the government bodies must serve the people" has become the core principle of the nation's political course.

"New Uzbekistan primarily means a new economic mindset and new economic relations. That is why our country's economic system is being entirely restructured. Despite all difficulties, we have begun to implement market mechanisms in practice"

(Yangi O'zbekiston demokratik o'zgarishlar, keng imkoniyatlar va amaliy ishlar mamlakatiga aylanmoqda). New Uzbekistan is a concept that reflects the wide-ranging reforms and processes of renewal taking place in Uzbekistan in recent years. This principle is associated with a new political phase under the leadership of the President of the country, aiming to shape Uzbekistan as a democratic state founded on the rule of law and social justice.

Methodology

The role of nations in the new phase of global development, and the impact of national development programs on the fate of states — including the socio-political factors of sustainable development in New Uzbekistan — have been widely discussed in numerous foreign and domestic sources, international development programs, and documents. Some notable examples include: Dresner, S. *The Principles of Sustainability* (2008) – analyzes sustainability from economic, social, and environmental perspectives; Pearce, D., Barbier, E., & Markandya, A. *Blueprint for a Green Economy* (1989) – explores the compatibility of ecological sustainability with economic models; Sachs, J. D. *The Age of Sustainable Development* (2015) – offers concrete indicators and strategic approaches for each Sustainable Development Goal (SDG); UN. *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) – defines global standards through 17 goals and 169 targets; UNESCAP, ADB, UNEP. *Green Growth, Resources and Resilience* (2012) – identifies specific criteria for sustainable development in the Asia region. In addition, the works of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev dedicated to various aspects of New Uzbekistan's development serve as key theoretical and methodological sources for this article. These works are significant in that they form the fundamental methodological basis of the article, while also establishing the normative, legal, and methodological framework of the study, alongside relevant legislation, presidential decrees, decisions, and other regulatory documents.

A review of contemporary local and foreign literature shows that issues such as national development, its driving forces and mechanisms, and the challenges of national revival have been extensively analyzed within the framework of national philosophical sciences. To address these issues, the study employs several methodological approaches:

- **Problem-Chronological Method** – focuses on addressing problems in the new phase of Uzbekistan's development, exploring the capabilities of the state and society in preventing such issues, and identifying effective forms and methods for implementing reforms; **Comparative-Historical Method** – highlights the complex processes, phases, and challenges of New Uzbekistan's developmental stages, emphasizing the increasing difficulties in overcoming them
- **Concrete-Sociological Method** – aims to identify trends and changes related to the alignment of individual, societal, and governmental interests in a renewing society

- **Logical Method** – allows for establishing clear relationships between the state's development strategies and ongoing development processes.

The integrated application of these methods has enabled a more precise and in-depth examination of the problem at hand.

Result and Discussion

Sustainable development is a developmental path that ensures economic growth, social stability, and ecological balance while taking into account the interests of future generations. It represents a balance between economic progress, social equity, and environmental protection. These principles are also reflected in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the period up to 2030. Adopted by the UN in 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development outlines 17 core goals and 169 targets designed for all countries worldwide. These goals aim to ensure social, economic, and environmental sustainability (uzbekistan.un.org). The SDGs encompass the following primary objectives: Eradicating poverty, ending hunger, ensuring health and well-being, providing quality education, achieving gender equality, access to clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, building resilient infrastructure, reducing inequalities, creating sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, combating climate change, protecting oceans and water resources, preserving life on land, promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions, and strengthening global partnerships.

The significance of these goals lies in their role as developmental drivers for nations, such as:

- **Human Capital Development** – Goals related to health and education (SDGs 3 and 4) aim to enhance individuals' intellectual and physical potential.
- **Social Equity** – Goals addressing gender equality (SDG 5) and poverty eradication (SDG 1) help strengthen the foundations of justice and equality in society.
- **Economic Growth and Innovation** – Industrial development, infrastructure improvement, and labor market expansion (SDGs 8 and 9) provide a foundation for economic resilience.
- **Environmental Balance and Protection** – Goals concerning climate change (SDG 13), water resources (SDGs 6 and 14), and life on land (SDG 15) ensure the harmony between human life and nature.
- **Peace and Effective Governance** – SDG 16 supports the development of fair judicial systems, protection of human rights, and efficiency of state institutions.

The SDGs serve as strategic development guidelines for countries. Their implementation is seen as a key factor in achieving social stability, economic growth, and ecological balance. Uzbekistan has aligned its national strategies with these goals within the framework of the "New Uzbekistan" vision. For instance, Uzbekistan issued its first SDG bond in July 2021—a sovereign SDG bond worth \$235 million. The proceeds were

allocated to projects in education (SDG 4), water management (SDG 6), healthcare (SDG 3), green transportation (SDG 11), pollution control (SDG 11), natural resource management (SDG 15), and renewable energy (SDG 7) (sdgfinance.undp.org).

1. The Rapid Integrated Assessment for SDG Integration was carried out by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to assist the Government of Uzbekistan in aligning national development plans with the SDGs. The assessment covered 22 strategic documents and revealed a stronger emphasis on the areas of “People” and “Prosperity,” while areas such as “Planet” and “Partnership” received comparatively less attention. In September 2023, the Center for Economic Research and Reforms (CERR), in cooperation with UNDP, organized an international roundtable on the topic *“Uzbekistan’s National Sustainable Development Goals: Progress and Challenges.”* The event focused on both the successes and challenges in the implementation of the SDGs. President Mirziyoyev reaffirmed the country’s commitment, stating, *“We will continue our cooperation with UN structures in a consistent manner”* (Mirziyoev, 2021). In 2020, Uzbekistan submitted its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the United Nations. The report presented 16 nationalized SDGs and 125 corresponding targets adopted in 2018, along with actions taken toward their implementation (hlpf.un.org).

The Development Finance Assessment (DFA) provided an overview of the financing landscape for the SDGs in Uzbekistan. According to the report, the country requires an additional \$6 billion annually in investments to meet its goals. In line with these objectives, several key socio-political factors contributing to sustainable development in New Uzbekistan must be highlighted. Chief among them is a people-centered and transparent political approach that has strengthened dialogue between the state and society. The implementation of the principle, *“The people should not serve government bodies; rather, government bodies must serve the people,”* has become a foundational aspect of governance.

People-Centered and Transparent Policy. A people-centered policy is a governance approach that places the individual and their interests at the core of state policy, ensuring that state decisions align with the actual needs of the population. Such a policy is directed at safeguarding human dignity, social justice, and equal opportunities. It fosters open dialogue and mutual trust between the state and society. The essence of this concept is encapsulated in principles such as “Human dignity is paramount,” “Continuous dialogue with the people,” and “The state serves the citizen”. A transparent policy refers to a governance model in which the state ensures transparency, accountability, and public oversight in its activities. In such a policy framework, the state is open and responsive to citizens, the media, civil society, and the international community. Its fundamental features include government accountability, access to information, and consideration of public opinion.

The practical expressions of people-centered and transparent policy in New Uzbekistan are evident in the following initiatives: Dialogue with the people – The President’s virtual reception (pm.gov.uz), resolution of issues through “People’s Reception

Offices,” and the “My Opinion” platform. Transparency in legislation – The updated Constitution enshrines the principle “Human dignity is the highest value”; draft laws are submitted for public discussion. Access to information – Government agencies publish reports on their websites, and information services actively engage with the media. Cooperation with civil society – Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participate in state programs; public councils and surveys are held. International openness – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the President’s international initiatives (including the SDGs, cooperation with the EAEU and ADB).

The new people-centered and transparent policy represents a modern governance model in Uzbekistan that ensures the protection of human interests, openness, accountability, and civic engagement. This policy is a crucial factor in strengthening social justice, economic efficiency, and public trust. The political reforms initiated in Uzbekistan aim to enhance the activity of political parties, increase the authority and oversight functions of parliament, and implement reforms in the judiciary system, including a fair judicial process and stricter measures against legal violations. In “New Uzbekistan,” political reforms play a vital role in steering the country toward a democratic, legal, and civic society. These reforms are aimed not only at improving the internal political system but also at building a governance model that protects human rights, ensures freedom of speech, and serves the interests of the people. The following are key aspects of this process: The priority directions of political reforms in New Uzbekistan include: Ensuring the will and participation of the people, Developing a democratic electoral system, and Actively reforming the judicial and legal system.

These efforts are being carried out under the guiding principle: “It is not the people who serve state bodies, but the state bodies that must serve the people.” To that end, e-government mechanisms and transparency policies are being widely implemented. In the development of a democratic electoral system, a new Election Code has been adopted, and transparency and compliance with international standards in the electoral process are being ensured. In New Uzbekistan, the achievement of sustainable development relies on the interconnected and proportional development of social and political factors. The core priorities of this process are human interests, justice, transparency, and an active civil society.

The concept of sustainable development has received numerous scholarly definitions. The term was first scientifically defined in the 1987 report of the Brundtland Commission (WCED – World Commission on Environment and Development) as: “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (WCED, 1987). The key criteria of sustainable development are typically categorized as follows: A. Economic criteria – These include sustained economic growth, developed infrastructure, budget balance and financial stability, as well as levels of innovation and technology. B. Social criteria – These encompass poverty levels, access to education and healthcare, employment, income equality, demographic stability, and migration control. C.

Environmental criteria – These refer to the rational use of natural resources, environmental protection, reduction of carbon emissions, biodiversity conservation, and adaptation to climate change. D. Institutional criteria – These include the rule of law, legal governance, social justice, anti-corruption efforts, and the effectiveness of public institutions.

The concept of “New Uzbekistan” generally refers to the elevation of the country’s social, economic, and political reforms to a new stage. The theoretical foundations and practical examples of such reforms are closely interlinked. As President Shavkat Mirziyoyev stated: “Today, Uzbekistan is stepping into a new, higher stage of development. We have made it our most important and priority task to move from national revival to national progress. We fully understand that this great goal can be achieved by living in harmony and cooperation with the international community, building an open and democratic society, and further instilling respect for national and universal values in our daily lives” (Mirziyoev, 2019).

A Legal State and Democratic Development: One of the main goals of New Uzbekistan is to establish a legal state and protect human rights. Practical examples of this include constitutional amendments and legislative updates regarding human rights. For instance, new laws have been adopted to protect the rights of victims of human trafficking, corruption, and abuse.

Theoretical Basis of Economic Reforms. The theoretical basis of economic reforms is rooted in the transition to a market economy and the protection of private property. For instance, granting more privileges to farmers and easing the taxation system to support the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. In addition, privatization of state-owned enterprises and measures aimed at creating a free competitive environment are being implemented. **Social Development** In New Uzbekistan, significant attention is being paid to the social sphere. This includes reforms in healthcare, education, and social protection. The modernization of the education system and alignment of medical services with international standards are notable developments.

Education and Human Resources Policy. Reforms in the education sector of New Uzbekistan are based on modern and inclusive educational concepts. For example, the introduction of advanced teaching methods and a focus on training highly qualified professionals. Most state universities and educational institutions have adopted modern education standards and conduct specialized training accordingly. **Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Measures.** New Uzbekistan has implemented a range of measures to combat corruption and ensure the transparency of state institutions. For instance, the introduction of e-government services aims to improve the transparency of public administration and reduce corruption. These examples illustrate the practical implementation of the theoretical foundations of social reforms, aimed at resolving past issues and building a more trustworthy and sustainable state.

Spiritual Reforms. In New Uzbekistan, spiritual reforms primarily aim to restore the nation’s unique values, traditions, and moral principles, and to raise the younger generation to be spiritually and ethically mature individuals. The theoretical foundations

of these reforms are based on numerous factors, including national history, culture, religious values, and contemporary needs. A key focus is placed on reviving national spirituality and traditions. The theoretical basis of spiritual development lies in the understanding that every nation is responsible for preserving its historical and cultural heritage and transmitting it to future generations. Accordingly, various programs have been developed to promote spiritual thinking and national identity. One example includes the processes involved in “National Revival” and the creation of the “Uzbek Model.”

Special attention is being given to the ethical and spiritual upbringing of the youth. The theoretical foundation here stems from the need for individuals to demonstrate moral and ethical behavior in relation to themselves and others. It involves explaining the importance of spiritual values to the youth and teaching them to approach life’s challenges with dignity. Moral education is based on national values, religion, and the unique spiritual identity of the Uzbek nation. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev’s focus on creating a new spiritual space and fostering a new mindset among the people reflects a broader commitment to studying geopolitical and ideological trends, combating threats such as terrorism, extremism, radicalism, human trafficking, and narcotics, and promoting international cooperation in these areas (Mirziyoev, 2021).

One of the theoretical foundations of spiritual reforms is the emphasis on individual spiritual and moral development. In Uzbekistan, one of the main directions of state policy is to focus on the inner world of individuals and their spiritual growth. A practical example of this is the implementation of programs that help young people understand religion and choose a life path based on human values and national culture.

In New Uzbekistan, there is growing respect for religious and educational values. This reflects not only the right of every individual to practice their religion and uphold religious values but also the recognition of cultural diversity. The theoretical foundation of spiritual reforms is based on religious freedom and its role in human life, which has become one of the key aspects of the emerging spiritual space. “What is the new spiritual space? In my view, it is an enlightened society in which the spiritual face of the New Uzbekistan we aspire to is clearly reflected—a society our people strive for, where they live happily and harmoniously” (Mirziyoev, 2021).

Recently, reforms have been introduced to enhance moral consciousness, including anti-corruption measures, ensuring transparency in state and societal affairs, and restoring justice. The theoretical basis for strengthening moral integrity lies in fostering mutual trust, justice, and harmony among spiritual values. Practical outcomes include measures aimed at guiding youth toward a life based on truth and justice. At the same time, these reforms contribute to ensuring stability, peace, and social cohesion in the development of society.

Conclusion

The sustainable development of New Uzbekistan is a complex process that demands profound political reforms, broad social transformations, and active public participation. At the core of this process are human interests, the rule of law, civil society, and the harmony of national and universal values. Through progressive political decisions and effective social programs, Uzbekistan is confidently moving toward a stable and prosperous future.

Uzbekistan is actively pursuing several key initiatives in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the issuance of sovereign SDG bonds, the revision of national strategies, and the strengthening of international cooperation. These efforts reflect the country's commitment to the path of sustainable development.

In scholarly literature, sustainable development is considered a complex concept that is assessed based on various criteria across multiple fields. Each criterion serves the purpose of improving the well-being of the population, safeguarding the interests of future generations, and ensuring harmonious development with nature.

Sustainable development is a comprehensive development concept that encompasses multiple sectors. It is assessed through interrelated economic, social, environmental, and institutional indicators. In academic literature, these criteria are substantiated by different theoretical approaches and serve as guiding principles for governments, scholars, and policy analysts.

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