

POLITICAL ELITE CHANGE IN UZBEKISTAN AND ITS IMPACT ON POLITICAL STABILITY

Gadayeva Mohigul Mukhamedovna

mohigulgadayeva@gmail.com

*Assistant, Department of Foreign Languages and
Social Sciences, Asia International University.*

Umedov Amirbek Umar oglu

amirbekk.007@icloud.com

*Student, Department of Political Science,
Asia International University*

Annotation. This article analyzes the processes of political elite change in Uzbekistan, their historical stages and their impact on political stability. Elite change is considered as a process inextricably linked to the effectiveness of state governance, the development of political institutions and social stability in society. The article covers the post-independence period, the stage of political reforms after 2016 and the features of the current period on the basis of a comparative analysis. The development of political processes in Uzbekistan, which had a significant impact on the general situation in Central Asia, and its specific features are analyzed based on institutional and organizational-functional approaches. Since the scope of the issues raised in the article is wide, the main attention was paid to the analysis of the current issues of the transformation of political power in Uzbekistan in recent years, factors affecting sustainable development. From this perspective, the strategic directions of the new stage of political processes in Uzbekistan were analyzed.

Keywords. political elite, elite turnover, political stability, political reforms, public administration, democratization processes, legitimacy of power, modernization, social partnership.

INTRODUCTION. The term "elite" is derived from the French language and means "selected, elected". The political elite refers to membership in large social groups that have special social qualities, a certain level of political influence and are the main source of leading personnel for the institutions of power of a particular state. Political elites, which occupy an important place among political subjects, include top management personnel, managers, ideological workers with great authority, as well as prominent representatives of economic and administrative circles, the media, and educational institutions. The political elite occupies a leading position in the political system of any state. It is the main social group that forms state policy, makes decisions, and determines the directions of development of society. The change of political elites is an important process that directly affects the legitimacy of power,

political stability, and social progress. In the process of forming a political system in Uzbekistan after independence, the elite change acquired its own characteristics. These processes are characterized by the fact that they are evolutionary in nature and are carried out without sharp political instability. During the years of independence, Uzbekistan has gone through periods of development associated with the formation of new democratic foundations of national statehood, more active democratic renewal and modernization of our country. At the current stage of the democratization processes taking place in our society, its conceptual foundations are also being continuously developed based on the interests and needs of the people. As a result, the processes of creating modern sources of ensuring the consistency of democratic reforms are continuously taking place in our country. This concept, which embodies the ideas of Uzbekistan's development strategy for the 21st century, served as the basis for deepening democratic reforms as a model for building a modern civil society. However, it is worth noting that in the context of globalization, the development processes taking place on all fronts around the world and, accordingly, the sharp changes in the external environment are placing new demands on our country today.

RELEVANCE OF THE TOPIC. The concept of political elite is widely covered in the works of Italian scientists G. Mosca, V. Pareto and R. Michel. According to their theories, in any society there is a minority ruling group - the elite, which exercises political power.

The change of political elite is manifested in two main forms:

- Revolutionary change - through a sharp change of power;
- Evolutionary change - gradual, legal and through institutions.

In the experience of Uzbekistan, evolutionary elite change has been the main priority.

After Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991, the political elite of the former Soviet Union adapted to the conditions of the new national statehood. During this period:

- the centralized management model was preserved;
- political stability was identified as a priority task;
- there was not a sharp change in the composition of the elite, but a process of adaptation.

This situation served to prevent socio-political instability in the country, but the level of political competition and openness was limited.

Since 2016, a new stage in the political system in Uzbekistan has begun. Reforms aimed at increasing openness, accountability and efficiency in public administration have been implemented. During this period:

- new political cadres and young specialists have been attracted to public administration;
- the process of rotation and renewal within the elite has become more active;

- public control over the activities of state bodies has increased.

As a result, a partial renewal of the political elite took place, which strengthened political stability and accelerated the modernization processes.

The exchange of political elites, if properly managed, serves to ensure political stability. In the experience of Uzbekistan:

- the exchange of elites was carried out without sharp contradictions;
- state institutions functioned uninterruptedly;
- social discontent was prevented.

At the same time, the renewal of the elite increased the flexibility of the political system and made it possible to quickly respond to the demands of society.

Today, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, is advancing the processes of further deepening democratic reforms and implementing the concept of civil society development in our country to a higher level, and fundamentally new political ideas are being put forward and consistently implemented. In particular, the “Strategy of Actions on Five Priority Areas of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021”, adopted by our President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev by decree of February 7, 2017, was a vivid example of this. The Strategy of Actions approved five priority areas to further enhance the effectiveness of the reforms being carried out in our country, create conditions for the comprehensive and accelerated development of the state and society, modernize our country, and liberalize all spheres of public life. In accordance with it, specific tasks were set in such important areas as “Improving the construction of the state and society”, “Ensuring the rule of law and further reforming the judicial system”, “Further development and liberalization of the economy”, “Development of the social sphere”, “Ensuring security, interethnic harmony and religious tolerance, conducting a well-thought-out and practical foreign policy”. Today, in our country, a practice of organizing public discussions has been established to increase awareness among broad segments of the population of regulatory and legal documents being adopted in accordance with the priority areas of the Action Strategy and to ensure the openness and transparency of the measures being implemented.

Since 2017, our country has been consistently continuing the reform strategy, raising it to a new qualitative level. That is, the next strategic foundations are being created, which are important for the development of our country, deepening the processes of democratization, strengthening the foundations of a prosperous life for the population of our country. As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev noted in his first historic Address to the Oliy Majlis: “our people want to see positive changes in their lives not tomorrow, not in the distant future, but today.” Indeed, achieving a life of satisfaction for every person in our country has now become the main goal of state policy. It is precisely on the creative potential of our multinational people that our country is moving towards high goals. In this regard,

the conceptual ideas put forward by President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev are becoming the main principles of reforms in our country. In particular, based on the principle of “We will build our great future together with our brave and noble people,” large-scale work is being carried out to modernize our country, deepen democratic reforms, further increase the role of parliament and political parties, the quality and effectiveness of the state administration system, and strengthen the role of civil society institutions and the media to improve state and public governance. Based on the principle that “the people should serve the state bodies, not the state bodies,” a system of open and effective dialogue with the people is being established by state and non-state organizations in the regions, as a result of which many appeals and problems of citizens are being resolved legally. As a result, the methodology and working methods of state structures are being radically changed. People began to consider the state as the most reliable institution in finding solutions to their problems. Trust in the state among representatives of different strata of the population is growing. A human approach in the governance system is becoming a priority requirement. Dialogue with the people has begun to work systematically, the practice of going door-to-door, house-to-house to solve people's problems, offering cooperation and real assistance has been established. In this regard, the issues of realizing human interests in our country occupy an important place in the targeted programs developed annually. In recent years, all the forces and capabilities of our state and society have been mobilized to gradually implement the goals and objectives set out in the Strategy of Actions within the framework of state programs. In our country, the solution of social issues such as satisfying people and ensuring a further increase in their standard of living and quality of life is on the agenda. The growth of the pace of development and economic potential in our country directly affects the development of the social sphere. The strategy of actions provides for increasing the role of the Oliy Majlis in the system of state power, radically improving the quality of lawmaking activities, and strengthening the role of political parties. In particular, at the suggestion of the Head of State and in accordance with the joint resolution of the Councils of the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis, a mechanism has been introduced for deputies and senators to study the activities of state authorities in their elected regions for 10-12 days every month and discuss the reports of the relevant leaders at the sessions of the Councils of People's Deputies. As is known, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 28, 2016 “On measures to radically improve the system of working with appeals from individuals and legal entities” was an important step in ensuring the openness of the activities of state authorities and management bodies in our country. This decree serves to introduce modern democratic forms of ensuring the rights and freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens through direct dialogue. According to the decree, on the basis of the Citizens' Reception Office of the Department of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan,

Presidential People's Reception Offices were established in all regions of our republic, and a virtual reception office of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was launched on the website. In short, listening to people's grievances, openly communicating with them, and alleviating their suffering certainly serve to strengthen the population's trust in the state and society. "Our main goal is to create a system in which no appeal to the "People's Reception Offices" will remain ignored," the head of our state emphasizes. It is worth noting that the first priority area is the implementation of modern forms of public control, raising social partnership to a qualitatively new level, increasing the capacity of civil society institutions, strengthening the socio-political activity of the mahalla in public life, the role of non-governmental non-profit organizations and the media, and protecting the professional activities of journalists. The laws "On the openness of the activities of state authorities" and "On social partnership" are being improved with new norms regulating the broad involvement of civil society institutions in discussing important issues of the activities of state authorities and administration bodies, and the direct issuance of social orders by state administration bodies to non-governmental non-profit organizations in addition to the Public Fund under the Oliy Majlis for the implementation of socially useful tasks. In addition, the activities of public councils under law enforcement and state administration bodies are being established.

CONCLUSION. In conclusion, the change of the political elite in Uzbekistan is mainly evolutionary and stable in nature and is an important factor in maintaining political stability in the country. The gradual renewal of the elite increases the efficiency of state administration and creates favorable conditions for the development of society. The Strategy of Actions for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 is an important program document aimed at strengthening the economic power of our country, its position in the international community, and raising the consistent reforms to a new level in the next five years. This strategy demonstrates its tasks by achieving new heights in the development of our society, liberalizing and modernizing many areas of socio-political life. At the same time, these changes have a positive impact on the formation of an environment of close neighborly relations in Central Asia. In this regard, the following conclusions can be drawn: 1. Since 2017, qualitatively new political development processes have been taking place in Uzbekistan. Today, the reforms implemented in our country on the basis of the Action Strategy are gaining momentum, and a high level of transparency is observed in active democratic renewal. This indicates that a modern political system with a democratic essence is being formed in our country, aimed at ensuring the openness of the activities of state power and administration bodies, solving the most pressing problems of direct communication with the people, protecting and realizing their rights and freedoms and legitimate interests, and forming the image of a new Uzbekistan that strives for open, practical cooperation

with the world community. 2. As a result of the consistent implementation of the conceptual ideas, goals and objectives set out in the Action Strategy, incomparably greater conditions and opportunities are being created to ensure the development, stability and security of our country. 3. These processes will undoubtedly serve to build a state that meets high democratic requirements in the future, a society in which human interests, rights and freedoms are the highest value, and the rule of law is practically ensured. 4. The path of gradual democratic development chosen by Uzbekistan, located in the “heart” of Central Asia, is consistent with the political culture of our people, and also plays an important role as a stabilizing factor in the region. 5. Uzbekistan, in the era of its modern development, is directly interested in the transformation of the Central Asian region into a region of stability, consistent development and good neighborliness.

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