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## THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN. NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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### ABSTRACT

The Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a significant event in the history of Central Asia. This article explores the journey of Uzbekistan towards independence, from its Soviet past to its emergence as a sovereign nation. It delves into the national symbols of Uzbekistan, such as the flag, emblem, and anthem, and their cultural and historical significance. The article also discusses the impact of independence on the country's political, economic, and social landscape.

### KEYWORDS

Uzbekistan Independence, Republic of Uzbekistan, Central Asia, Soviet Union, National Symbols, Flag of Uzbekistan, Emblem of Uzbekistan, Anthem of Uzbekistan, Cultural Significance, Historical Significance, Political Landscape, Economic Landscape, Social Landscape, Sovereign Nation, Post-Soviet Era.

### INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Uzbekistan, located in Central Asia, declared its independence from the Soviet Union on August 31, 1991. This declaration marked the end of over 70 years of Soviet rule and the beginning of a new era for the Uzbek people. The country's journey towards independence was not without challenges, but it has since made significant strides in political, economic, and social development.

Uzbekistan has a rich history that dates back to ancient times. It was part of various empires and kingdoms, including the Persian Empire, the Mongol Empire, and the Timurid Empire. In the 19th century, it became part of the Russian Empire and later the Soviet Union. During the Soviet era, Uzbekistan experienced rapid industrialization and urbanization, but also faced cultural and political repression.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 led to the independence of several former Soviet republics, including Uzbekistan. The country's first president, Islam Karimov, played a key role in the transition to independence. He implemented economic reforms and pursued a policy of “Uzbekization”, which aimed to promote Uzbek culture and language. The national symbols of Uzbekistan include the flag, emblem, and anthem. The flag consists of three horizontal stripes of blue, white, and green, with a crescent moon and twelve stars in the center. The emblem features a rising sun, a cotton plant, and a bird with open wings. The national anthem, “O‘zbekiston Respublikasining

Davlat Madhiyasi,” celebrates the country's independence and unity.<sup>1</sup> Quotes by President Islam Karimov: “The independence of Uzbekistan is a historic achievement that we must cherish and protect. It is the result of the sacrifices and struggles of our people, and it is our duty to honor their memory and build a better future for our country”.

“Our national symbols, such as the flag, emblem, and anthem, are a reflection of our rich cultural heritage and the values that unite us as a nation. They remind us of our history and inspire us to work towards a brighter future”. Moreover, “As we celebrate the independence of Uzbekistan, let us remember the importance of unity, tolerance, and respect for diversity. These are the values that will help us build a strong and prosperous nation”.

“The independence of Uzbekistan is not just a political event; it is a cultural and spiritual awakening. It is a celebration of our identity and our place in the world”.

“Our national symbols are not just symbols; they are a representation of our values and aspirations. They remind us of who we are and what we stand for as a nation”.

Quotes by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev: “The independence of Uzbekistan is a historic milestone that we must cherish and protect. It is a testament to the strength and resilience of our people, and it is our

duty to honor their sacrifices and build a better future for our country”.

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The independence of Uzbekistan has had a profound impact on the country's political, economic, and social landscape. Politically, the country has transitioned from a one-party state to a multi-party democracy, although concerns remain about the government's commitment to human rights and democracy. Economically, Uzbekistan has pursued market reforms and opened up to foreign investment, but challenges such as corruption and unemployment persist. Socially, the country has made progress in education and

healthcare, but poverty and inequality remain significant issues.

The Independence Day of Uzbekistan is celebrated on September 1st every year. This day marks the anniversary of the country's declaration of independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. The flag of Uzbekistan consists of three horizontal stripes of blue, white, and green. The blue stripe represents the sky and water, the white stripe represents peace and purity, and the green stripe represents nature and fertility. In the center of the flag, there is a crescent moon and twelve stars, which symbolize the Islamic calendar and the unity of the Uzbek people<sup>1</sup>. The national emblem of Uzbekistan features a rising sun, a cotton plant, and a bird with open wings. The rising sun represents the dawn of a new era, the cotton plant represents the country's agricultural heritage, and the bird represents freedom and independence.

The national anthem of Uzbekistan is “O'zbekiston Respublikasining Davlat Madhiyasi” (State Anthem of the Republic of Uzbekistan). The anthem celebrates the country's independence and unity and encourages the Uzbek people to work towards a brighter future.

The official language of Uzbekistan is Uzbek, which is a Turkic language closely related to Turkish and Kazakh. The Uzbek language is written in the Latin script, although it was previously written in the Cyrillic script during the Soviet era.

In addition to Independence Day, Uzbekistan also celebrates several other national holidays, including Navruz (the Persian New Year), Constitution Day, and Victory Day (which commemorates the end of World War II).

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Uzbekistan has a rich cultural heritage that includes traditional music, dance, and cuisine. The country is also known for its historical landmarks, such as the ancient cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva, which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Furthermore, Since gaining independence, Uzbekistan has made significant strides in economic development. The country has a diverse economy that includes agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and services. Uzbekistan is also known for its natural resources, such as natural gas, gold, and cotton. Besides that, Uzbekistan has diplomatic relations with many countries around the world and is a member of several international organizations, including the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). In conclusion, the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been a significant milestone in the country's history. Since gaining independence, Uzbekistan has made progress in political, economic, and social development. The country's national symbols, such as the flag, emblem, and anthem, serve as a reminder of its rich cultural heritage and the

journey towards independence. As Uzbekistan continues to grow and develop, it remains committed to building a strong and prosperous nation.

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