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CIVIL SOCIETY TRANSFORMATION: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

Submission Date: December 20, 2023, Accepted Date: December 25, 2023,

Published Date: December 30, 2023

Crossref doi: <https://doi.org/10.37547/ijhps/Volume03Issue12-15>

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ABSTRACT

The definitions of civil society given by well-known and classical scientists of the USA and Europe, the distortion of the concepts related to it are analyzed critically, new theoretical views that enrich the concepts of civil society are interpreted, the problems in the formation of civil society in the transitional period in Uzbekistan are defined and solutions to the problems are concluded.

The article deals with the problems of civil society formation in post-communist Central Asian countries, particularly the Republic of Uzbekistan, which are going through a transition period. It also analyzes the negative impact of the authoritarian regimes in the state administration on the formation of civil society, the problems related to the formation of the owners' stratum and the negative consequences of their solutions.

KEYWORDS

Transformation, methods of studying society, civil society, non-governmental non-profit organizations, self-governing bodies, rule of law, evaluation of the level of development of civil society, association, political culture, legal culture, communication, indicators, empirical base, consensus.

INTRODUCTION

The 20th century entered history as a period of civil society building in Europe, North America and some Asian countries. Western experience in this field created opportunities to ensure human rights and freedoms, increase people's well-being, and increase the gross domestic product of each country. Of course, the interest of most countries in the world has

increased. The goal of building a civil society has become a strategic task, especially for most transition countries.

In the last period of the 20th century, the disintegration of the USSR, as a result of which the allied republics became national independent states,



democratic changes in the former socialist countries of Eastern Europe increased the importance of civil society. The political elite of these countries chose the way to build a civil society. In particular, along with all the CIS and Eastern European countries, the state of Uzbekistan announced the construction of civil society as the main strategic goal in 1991.

However, during the past period - 1991-2015 - for almost a quarter of a century, civil society institutions were not able to be developed in Uzbekistan, problems in the field of human rights and freedoms were still problematic. Only by 2017, the election of the new head of state Sh. M. Mirziyoyev as the President created opportunities for significant changes in this area: dialogues between citizens and the government were established in the country, the judicial and legal system was thoroughly reformed to ensure human freedom and rights, the administrative system of the executive power system reforms began, initial steps were taken in the field of freedom of press and speech. The idea that "the government should serve our people and not people to the government" (Mirziyoev, 2017, 152) put forward by the President as a principle of state and society management, and the implementation of administrative reforms based on this principle created an opportunity for the formation of a civil society in the country. Because civil society could not develop under strong state power.

Therefore, studying the problems in this field and finding their solutions has become one of the most important tasks of political and social-humanities. In the first 25 years of Uzbekistan's independence, the government carried out reforms related to the construction of civil society, certain laws were adopted in this field, but these reforms did not produce results, on the contrary - the state was becoming more authoritarian year by year, human rights and freedoms

were not guaranteed. And this confirms that scientific research of problems in this field is appropriate.

RESEARCH METHODS AND LITERATURE ANALYSIS

In writing the article, evolutionary processes related to the formation of civil society in foreign countries and Uzbekistan were studied, they were summarized in a single system. Analyzes and recommendations of well-known experts on this topic were studied. The transformation of civil society in Uzbekistan was taken as the research object of the article. general scientific methods of conducting research - systematic-functional, comparative, logical, statistical analysis, as well as methods of systematization and comparison of sources and data, generalization, structure, and dynamic analysis were used in this article.

The book "Civil society and political theory" created by prominent US political scientists which includes new theories of civil society (Cohen, 2003, 563) was used for analysis of the topic as well as The analysis of the topic included, as well as it was used to enrich the imagination of civil society.

The researches of in the CIS countries, I.A. Kharichev, M.V. Evtushenko, N. Baranov, J.N. Vypriajkina, I.V. Mersyanova, K. D.Danishevsky, V.V. Elizarov, N. L. Khananashvili were used in the analysis of practical and theoretical aspects of civil society.

In the study of problems related to civil society in Central Asia, especially in Uzbekistan, the works of local scientists - A.Shovkatov, A.Akramov, D.Kurbanova, M.Sharifkhodjaev, A.R.Rakhmanov, I.Ergashev, A.Kholbekov, M.Jakbarov, N. Umarova were studied. In their researches, linking the formation of civil society to the activity of one person - the head of state, interpretation of civil society as a human unit

under the state was studied from a critical point of view.

Also, materials from three scientific articles published by the author of the article - M. Kyrgyzboev in scientific journals of foreign countries were used.

RESEARCH RESULTS

As a result of the disintegration and disappearance of the USSR on the world map, a number of independent states were formed in its territory in the early 90s of the 20th century. Now it is customary to call them "CIS countries". Among them, the country located in the middle of Central Asia - this is the Republic of Uzbekistan - is undergoing a period of transformation to build a civil society during its past 30 years of independence.

European classical political philosophers Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Charles Montesquieu, Immanuel Kant, Georg Wilhelm Hegel, John Stuart Mill, and scientists living in the 20th century clarified all the foundations of civil society. At the same time, the more this society develops, the more the other aspects of it are being studied.

The state and level of development of civil society in the 20th century was researched by famous US political scientists D. L. Cohen and E. Arato. D.L.Cohen and E.Arato prioritize factors such as institutionalization, legal relationship, social integration, socialization as the basis of civil society (Cohen, 2003, 501). In the current period, those factors are missing or not working in the countries that are going through the transition period.

The economic basis of the civil society is the multi-level market economy, the basis of which is private property. Non-governmental organizations, cooperative associations and other voluntary

associations of citizens guarantee the economic rights of citizens as the economic basis of civil society.

The social base of the civil society is considered to be the middle social stratum, which corresponds to up to 60 percent of the population in developed countries. The middle class includes scientific and scientific-technical employees, managers, middle-level administrative employees, intellectuals, farmers, small property owners, highly skilled workers, and service industry employees. The main sign of the middle class is income, lifestyle and social prestige (Kharichev, 2011, 97). Political parties, self-government bodies, non-governmental non-commercial organizations, family, religious organizations and various foundations are considered as institutions of civil society.

The fact that the political and legal culture of the population in Uzbekistan has not yet completely freed itself from the previous traditions, the processes such as the manifestation of human rights and freedoms and democratic values in the worldview of citizens are also slow due to economic and political factors, is also manifesting itself as one of the major problems of the transition period.

Also, the process of uniting the economic and social basis of the civil society - the layer of owners into a specific class - has not yet come to an end. They are far behind the level of developed countries, their development is slow. They mainly started to develop rapidly from 2017.

In general, in 1991-2016, there was very little chance of forming a civil society in Uzbekistan. The result of the state reforms based on the principle of "The state is the main reformer" led to the excessive strengthening of the executive power and the emergence of the experience of special bodies to control citizens. The leadership structure of political parties and NGOs

consisted of executive authorities, and local political party organizations and NGOs consisted of personnel selected and recommended by governors.

Since the state authorities and social institutions did not conduct activities related to civil society among the population, they did not form such a community-specific imagination. The population understood the civil society as a human unit subject to the state and managed by the state. On November 12, 2010, the "Concept of further deepening of democratic reforms and development of civil society" was adopted. This concept has been propagated among the population for almost more than a decade. However, this concept was not directly related to the formation of civil society, it was mainly aimed at the development of legislation

Even after the laws envisaged in the concept were adopted by the parliament, the reforms to build civil society did not advance. The leadership of political parties, NGOs, self-management bodies, mass media could not get out of the control of the executive power. In almost all books on civil society, building this society began to be glorified as the "service" of the head of state. The hypocrisy grew.

The problems of building a civil society in the country were not solved only in the sphere of society, but also the issue of changing the worldview of the person himself remained unsettled. Citizens could not fully use their rights and freedoms set down by the law. In addition, the underdevelopment of the civil society created a number of problems for economic freedom and became a barrier to the growth of economic potential. Expanding opportunities for the development of the middle social layers, which create the socio-economic basis of the civil society, remained an urgent task.

The need to further deepen the civil society building reforms started in 2017 in the Republic of Uzbekistan, which has started the path of rapid development in Central Asia, puts a wider study of foreign experiences as an urgent task on the agenda of life. The main problems in building a civil society in Central Asia, especially in the countries of Uzbekistan, are as follows:

in these countries, the processes of abandoning national traditions in the management of society and the state are still taking place slowly;

in proportion to the socio-economic situation in the society, social layers are passive in providing financial aspects to the non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs) they participate in;

since the country is going through a period of transition, the population has not yet fully acquired the experience of satisfying their interests through NGOs;

demographic trends are going strong in the country. This process allows the development of the economic and financial potential of the state. For example, in Uzbekistan, the population grows by 1.4-1.5% every year, while the gross domestic product grows by 5-6%;

the legal and political culture of citizens, characteristic of democratic principles, has now begun its development phase (Kirgizbayev, Transition, 2019, 24-25).

The number of NGOs in Uzbekistan was 200 in 1991, but now it has exceeded 10,000. Previously, the country was dominated by a one-party system, but now there are 5 political parties operating in the country. In 16 large industries, trade unions are trying to meet the social interests of citizens. About 10,000 self-governing bodies, 1,500 mass media (most of them private and independent) are operating. However, there is a

shortage of NGOs compared to the population, and they have not yet started the process of fully fulfilling their functions (Kirgizbayev M. Problems, 2020, 65)

The development of civil society in Uzbekistan began to manifest itself significantly since 2017. At the end of 2016, with the election of Sh.M. Mirziyoyev as the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, changes equivalent to several decades were implemented in the field of civil society building. At first, important importance was attached to the reform of the executive power system based on the requirements of the legal state, which is an obstacle to the development of the civil society. After all, civil society can develop only under the conditions of a state operating on the basis of democratic principles

At the beginning, the main obstacle to building a civil society, the state implemented reforms to turn the system of executive power into a body of public service to citizens, not just a management body. Reforms in this area were based on the principle that "the people should serve our people, not the public agencies, but the public agencies should serve our people." 2017 was announced as the "Year of Communication with the People and Human Interests". In accordance with the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to radically improve the system of working with appeals of natural and legal entities" adopted on December 28, 2016, the People's Reception Hall of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions and the city of Tashkent, as well as in each district and city Virtual receptions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan have been created (except for cities subordinate to the district). On the basis of the results of the receptions, citizens face bureaucratic obstacles in various fields, canceling many departmental instructions that are against the law,

allocating optimal bank loans, ending illegal inspections on entrepreneurship, and fundamentally changing the activities of law enforcement agencies. In one year, more than 1.5 million appeals were received at public receptions.

The experience of the past period showed that civil society going through the stages of building civil society like the countries of the new and old world of Europe requires a very difficult and difficult transition period. The experience of the past period showed that civil society going through the stages of building civil society like the countries of the new and old world of Europe requires a very difficult and difficult transition period. The experience of the past period showed that civil society going through the stages of building civil society like the countries of the new and old world of Europe requires a very difficult and difficult transition period. In particular, it should be noted that in the history of the Central Asian region, the experience and capitalistic relations based on the market economy have not been followed, and the single national market characteristic of the market economy has not been developed in each of the countries of this region, which is a reason for the rapid development of civil society reforms (Bisenbaev, 2003, 18). In addition, the fact that the national mentality of the majority of citizens is not yet ready to adopt democratic values, as a result of which "citizen activism" or the initiatives of non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs) are not very noticeable, have a negative impact on transitional reforms.

At the same time, it began to be felt that the economic support of civil society, the fact that the middle social layer, which is the main economic and political force in the transition to civil society, has not yet been formed does not allow the development of civil society. The lack of social and political activity of the social strata in

the society started to cause political parties to not be able to operate on the basis of democratic principles. These conditions in the society in the current period have begun to demand that the way of development of civil society in each country is different and with different criteria. Experiences such as the fact that the countries of North America and Europe established an industrial society before building a civil society, developed industry and technology to a high level, and raised private ownership to the main level of the economy (Koka, 2003, 21). The fact that the societies of the Central Asian countries are now experiencing the stage of formation also causes various problems in the implementation of current reforms. Also, the fact that the political and legal culture of the population has not completely freed itself from the previous traditions, the processes such as the manifestation of human rights and freedoms and democratic values in the worldview of citizens are also slow due to economic and political factors, is also manifesting itself as one of the major problems of the transition period.

RESEARCH DISCUSSION

Most political scientists associate the development of civil society with the formation of the class of owners. In the society and political life of the developed countries, all conditions have been created for the development and effective operation of small enterprises. In our opinion, the development of small business in these countries can be evaluated as a result of the positive influence of a developed civil society.

The number of registrations of business enterprises of the Republic of Uzbekistan, their lending indicators have increased significantly over the next five years. According to the "Disposal of Business" index, Uzbekistan rose from 146th place in 2015 to 69th place in 2020 (Uzbekistan v Index, 2021, 1-2). However, the production of quality goods at the level of export

requirements has not yet risen. The most controversial situation in this area - can the middle class in the country be the economic and social basis of the civil society?

The experience of civil society development in developed countries shows that the formation of the ownership class plays an important role in the formation of civil society. Therefore, a number of problems have arisen due to the fact that the ownership class is going through a period of formation and development in Uzbekistan.

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Experiences such as the fact that the countries of North America and Europe built an industrial society before building a civil society, developed industry and technology at a high level, and raised private ownership to the main level of the economy is raising different dilemmas.

There is a need to study the experience of the USA, Japan and the EU countries in the development of small business in the country deeply. One of the biggest problems in the formation of civil society in Uzbekistan is that mistakes are being made not only in the citizens' worldview, but also in their conception and analysis from theoretical aspects. At the same time, in the countries of Central Asia, especially in Uzbekistan, the vision of civil society is still in its infancy.

Also, in the past 30 years of independence, the theoretical views on what kind of society civil society is has not improved. According to the most scholars of social and humanitarian sciences, "civil society" is interpreted as a human unit governed by the state or under the control of the state. Of course, this situation is the causing of many discussions.

In the CIS, Central Asia, especially in Uzbekistan, there have been no serious changes in the field of civil society formation in the next decade. Wide participation of the population in social and political processes of the society is not felt, primary organizations of most political parties are not formalized, NGOs are not independent from the executive power, activity of self-government bodies and participation in social life is not felt, the old traditional political culture prevails.

CONCLUSION

The experience of civil society building in European and North American countries has shown that this process requires a very difficult and difficult transition period. In particular, it should be noted that in the history of the Central Asian region, the experience and capitalist relations based on the market economy have not been followed, and the single national market characteristic of the market economy has not been developed in each of the countries of this region, which is an obstacle to the rapid development of civil society reforms.

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each of the countries of this region, which is an obstacle to the rapid development of civil society reforms.

In order to speed up this process, it is necessary to put an end to the current authoritarian regime and implement administrative reforms in the executive power system. That's how the executive power weakens in relation to the society, the system of state and society management is decentralized, and finally, conditions are created for the formation of a civil society. Another important factor in this area is the formation of the ownership class. At the same time, increasing the political culture of citizens, expanding their participation in social and political processes, ensuring human rights and freedoms, expanding freedom of speech and the press is one of the important guarantees of building a civil society. In general, a civil society is a human unity where the highest values of humanity are a priority and human dignity is respected.

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