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# THE PRINCIPLE OF HISTORICISM AND CONTINUITY IN SHAPING THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS OF NATIONAL IDEOLOGY

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### Abstract

The spiritual foundations of national ideology encompass the rich history, national traditions, values, customs, religious beliefs (Islam), national pride, language, moral principles, and universal values of the people. These elements contribute to the nation's self-awareness, unity, and development as an independent state.

This article discusses the spiritual foundations of national ideology as well as the principles of historicism and continuity.

**Keywords:** National ideology, culture, spirituality, humanity, historicism, development, national formation, language, art, values, national idea, and security.

### Introduction

As each nation takes steps towards progress, it inevitably requires an ideology and philosophy that will guide it towards development. Without this, the nation and the state cannot achieve progress. The ideology acts as a force that unites the

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nation and its common goals, possessing both spiritual and material foundations. Furthermore, ideology can be divided into two types: societal ideology and national ideology. Both types of ideology are of great importance. Societal ideology reflects universal goals and needs, security, and, in short, expresses global development and security. National ideology, while essentially similar to societal ideology, leads a nation or people toward development, contributing to universal progress as well. In this sense, ideology and philosophy serve as the primary tools for the development of both the nation and society.

Looking back at history, we observe that various ideologies and philosophies have existed throughout the development of society and the nation, emphasizing the crucial role these concepts play in national progress. Ideology has always served particular goals and interests in every era—whether in ancient times, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and so on.

From this perspective, it can be said that, like the long history of Uzbek statehood, its ideology also has a deep historical background. This has been illustrated in the previous chapters, where we discussed the factors involved in the national formation process of our people. In the context of our nation's independence today, it is crucial to instill and shape the principles of historicism and continuity in the national ideology, which will contribute to its strengthening. This, in turn, plays a vital role in fortifying national ideology, securing its significant position in the minds of our people, and advancing national progress.

“Scholars and researchers, approaching the concept of national ideology from various perspectives, have provided definitions of this concept and shared their thoughts on its roles within society. In particular, the Russian philosopher P. Novogorodtsev states: 'The social ideal, which is a set of the highest human goals and aspirations, guides the people of society towards noble creation.’”<sup>1</sup> “With this, the philosopher acknowledges that the national ideology should be the social ideal of any healthy society. This idea sparked interest among many, and later, it was

<sup>1</sup> Novogorodtsev P. Sotsialnaya ideologiya. 2-oye izdaniye. M.: “Misl”. 1996.str 34.

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concluded that such a national ideology could be applied to the multi-ethnic people of Russia. The philosopher's above statement is also relevant. However, the national ideology should not only protect or implement the material needs of people, or in other words, their material interests. It must also serve to elevate the spiritual life of individuals within society. If we measure the national ideology solely by the social ideal, spiritual poverty might emerge within the society. In fact, several examples can be cited to support this claim. Specifically, the moral degradation prevailing in some Western countries and American society today can serve as an example. Therefore, in realizing the national ideology, a spiritual environment must first be established. In order for the social ideal to guide the people and the nation towards a prosperous life, it must initially have spiritual foundations."

"The difference between ideology and ideal is primarily seen in practice, says the Chinese researcher Shri Chinmoy. That is, in the life of individuals and humanity, ideas serve as a spiritual condition that prepares the people and the nation for a specific activity, while the ideal is the realization of these ideas. The English philosopher A. Toynbee, in interpreting the formation of national ideology in relation to history, states: 'Every nation has its magnificent and unique history, and understanding it unites the people towards creation.' Toynbee's idea has especially gained widespread acceptance in the last two decades, and countries that have adopted this idea as true not only began forming a national ideology, but also promoting self-awareness, celebrating nationalism, and engaging in a national identification process, making it a means of distinguishing themselves from other peoples and nations. Furthermore, this idea has become a primary ideology for Western countries today. In this framework, not only national history is studied, but also world history is deeply analyzed, which helps in understanding the strengths and weaknesses of different nations. The national ideology, in the views of English scholar K. Popper, aligns with the concept of the open society. According to him, any society should be open to every individual, and each

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person should live where they wish. Popper evaluates human freedom as the highest value, yet he also emphasizes that every citizen must abide by the laws and regulations of the society in which they live."

"With this, the scholar strives to make the model present in today's American society a model for others. It is well known that the spiritual and moral degradation present in today's American society is being raised as a social issue by the greatest Western researchers. In this regard, S. Huntington states: 'Historically, the essence of American identity has been defined by race, culture (primarily language and religion), and ideology. Racial America no longer exists as it once did. Cultural America is at risk. The Soviet experience shows that ideology cannot unite people who are deprived of racial, ethnic, and cultural unity. Yes, as Robert Kaplan put it: 'America is exactly the kind of destiny that is born to perish' – and there is a reason behind these thoughts. Nevertheless, S. Huntington continues, stating that when distinct societies face serious threats to their existence, they have been able to take measures to delay the crisis and prevent their disintegration. This possibility hinges on the existence of national identity, national goals, and shared cultural wealth."<sup>2</sup>

"The researcher has correctly interpreted the issues of national identity and nationalism currently unfolding in American society. Huntington's views are relevant here, as in reality, a people and nation with historical experience and certain characteristics can unite around an ideology. On the contrary, a people or nation lacking cultural and ethnic unity cannot unite around a national ideology. Our nation's long-standing historical experience shows that uniting around a national ideology has always held a significant place in the social-political and cultural-spiritual worldview of our people. These views are inherently related to the fact that national ideology is fundamentally a spiritual phenomenon, and it is directly connected to the national awareness of one's own spiritual identity. The reason for this is that when a nation goes through certain historical processes and

<sup>2</sup> S.Xantington. Кто мы? Вызов американской национальной идентичности.-М.: AST, 2004.s- 230-231.

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later recovers, or achieves national development relying on national ideology and ideology, its spiritual identity plays a crucial role. For example, when a nation goes through periods of dependency and colonization in its social-political life, the factors that protect it are culture, values, language, traditions, and others. Later, when the nation achieves national independence, understanding and restoring these characteristics represents not only national but also spiritual self-awareness. Therefore, the rich spiritual heritage of our people is of great significance in our independent life today, not only in understanding our own identity but also in shaping the spiritual foundations of national ideology. As V. Qo‘chqorov states, with the formation of the people and nation, the understanding of national identity is also shaped. Without a nation, there is no national identity; and without the understanding of national (spiritual) identity, the existence of the nation is questionable."<sup>3</sup>

"Indeed, if a nation does not have spiritual foundations (national) during its formation and after its formation, it has no future in its development. Moreover, this is also demanded by the process of globalization happening today. Spirituality is such a force that, by expressing the inner world of a nation, it plays a key role in national development. In today's world, in some developed countries, although the national ideology exists in essence, the lack of strong spiritual foundations undermines its stability.

The principle of inheritance in the development of society leads to the existence of different ideologies among various social systems, classes, and strata, which is, of course, natural. As mentioned earlier, the understanding of national identity, nationalism, national ideology, and spirituality are characteristics inherent in our national history and, in short, are features that exist within our national identity. Based on this, it can be said that inheritance plays a strong role in shaping the spiritual foundations of national ideology, understanding national identity, and fostering national identification. It connects the representatives of the nation with

<sup>3</sup> V.Qo‘chqorov. Milliy o‘zlikni anglash va ijtimoiy-siyosiy jarayonlar. “Akademiya”, Toshkent 2007 111 bet.

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their ancestors. It allows the future generations to benefit from the national and spiritual wealth created by their ancestors. In turn, this influences the development and continuous improvement of national uniqueness."

"Furthermore, today, ideology can be divided into types such as societal ideology and national ideology. The earliest human civilization was based on a societal ideology that expressed common goals and interests, something that was shared universally. Later, as the formation and development of nations and peoples continued, national ideologies began to emerge, expressing the goals and interests of a single nation or people. In this sense, in countries that aim to establish a society based on social cooperation and free democracy, national ideology encourages the unity of all layers of society and calls for unification in the pursuit of common benefits and a singular goal. In such ideologies, the focus is not on conflicting aspects, but rather on universal human principles.

In the development of society, new ideologies do not form suddenly; rather, the historical and inherited nature of the existing ideology is preserved. Furthermore, before the formation of an ideology, certain systems of ideas emerge, which then, through the course of development and social change, become materialized into the social and material power of those individuals or societies."

"The principle of historicity encompasses all the factors that played a significant role in the national formation of our people. Specifically, the great state-building traditions in our nation's historical experience, and the unification around a certain ideology that led to significant achievements, serve as examples of this. Similarly, this national uniqueness is one of the features that emerged during the national formation of our people. Today, in the independent life of our nation, the historical impact of this uniqueness holds a special place. It shapes the spiritual heritage, morality, worldview, and mentality of the nation. Therefore, the potential to influence the representatives of the nation is immense. It plays a spiritual role in shaping a sense of belonging to one's nation, especially among individuals who have self-awareness.

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In conclusion, it can be said that, staying true to national values and traditions while integrating into global civilization is one of the key tasks of today. If we deeply feel this truth and unite in action, we are capable of conquering any great heights, and no force can divert us from our path. If we stand together as one people, as one nation, and strive forward, we will undoubtedly achieve our great goals!" – The thoughts of our national leader are noteworthy.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti Shavkat Mirziyoyevning Oliy Majlis va O‘zbekiston xalqiga Murojaatnomasi // <https://president.uz/oz/lists/view/8834>