

# DEVELOPMENT TRENDS OF UZBEKISTAN-KYRGYZ CULTURAL RELATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN UZBEKISTAN

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## Abstract

This article provides a comprehensive analysis of interethnic relations in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the reforms implemented in this regard in the country, in particular, legislative initiatives, and the development trends of intercultural relations, in particular, Uzbek-Kyrgyz cultural relations, based on them.

**Keywords:** Culture, interethnic relations, cultural ties, ethnoculture, identity, traditionalism, cultural transformation.

## Introduction

The processes of globalization taking place all over the world are increasingly relevant in the desire of the world's population to preserve and ensure the continuity of its national culture on the basis of universal and national values. This is primarily closely related to the social space in which the people exist, the legal regulation of interethnic and intercultural relations in the country and its practice. In particular, the Republic of Uzbekistan is a unique ethnic, cultural and historical territory located at the crossroads of different cultures, uniting various ethnic and cultural groups. The reforms being implemented in the country is awakening a sense of belonging to the future of the country in the citizen of Uzbekistan, regardless of their nationality. Whereas, as the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev emphasized, “our greatest wealth is our great multinational people who consider Uzbekistan their only hometown. It is the supreme duty of all of us to preserve and cherish this invaluable treasure, the interethnic friendship and harmony that have established themselves in our beloved country.”[1.]

“The fact that today in the Republic of Uzbekistan more than 130 nationalities and ethnic groups live in an atmosphere of mutual tolerance is one of our main achievements during the period of independence” [2.]. This title indicates the need to create conditions for the development of the national culture of minority ethnic groups, along with ethnos.

Uzbekistan In the Republic residence doing various nation and people representatives also today's on the day in the country created international harmony and interfaith tolerance in the environment own national cultures developing are going . Uzbekistan Republic of as stated in Article 4 of the Constitution , “ Uzbekistan Republic own in the territory residence doer nation and of the people’s languages , customs and traditions respect to be done provides , their

development for conditions creates ”[3.]. This provides representatives of minority nationalities with a process of self-awareness of ethnicity and national identity.

The issue of interethnic relations in the Republic of Uzbekistan is currently being recognized on a global scale. In particular, in April 2018, the High Commissioner for Minorities and Local Cultures of Diasporas of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Lamberto Zaner, visited our country. The High Commissioner's trip to Fergana, Andijan and Namangan regions was organized, and meetings were held on the spot. The interethnic harmony, tolerance, and local cultures of minorities and diasporas prevailing in our country have been recognized worldwide.

An international conference dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the OSCE Bolsan Recommendations was held in Udine, Italy, on July 14-15, 2018. In his speech at the conference, Lamberto Zaner highly appreciated the experience of Uzbekistan, emphasizing its practical importance for the OSCE.

Since ancient times, representatives of different tribes and religions have lived in our country based on the principle of tolerance. In interethnic relations, special attention is paid not only to the titular ethnos, but also to the characteristics of local ethno-cultures of minority peoples, nations and diasporas living in the Republic: ethno-culture, cultural heritage, national values and traditions.

At the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Republican International Cultural Center, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. M. Mirziyoyev noted that “ another urgent task is to organize scientific research dedicated to the further development and harmonization of interethnic relations in cooperation with the institutes of the Academy of Sciences” [4.] It was specifically pointed out that

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, many ethnic groups, speaking different languages, representing different religious beliefs and cultures, live in harmony, including the Kyrgyz people. In such a multinational environment, active cultural exchange takes place, which leads to a change in the ethnoculture and identity of the Kyrgyz people. In the modern world, globalization and the development of information technologies have a significant impact on cultural processes. The Fergana Valley is no exception to these tendency, and the processes of change in the ethnoculture and identity of the Kyrgyz people have arisen under the influence of global cultural flows.

In multinational Uzbekistan, not only the Kyrgyz, Kazakh, Tajik, Turkmen and Karakalpak people's, who have lived for centuries, but also the ethnogenesis, ethnoculture and history of the indigenous Uzbek people, have been interpreted according to the ideology of the former Soviet Union. The Fergana Valley is distinguished from other regions not only by its natural and geographical features, but also by its ethnocultural phenomena. As a result of the emergence of interethnic relations in the region over many centuries, the Kyrgyz also settled in the valley along with the Uzbek, Tajik, Uyghur and Karakalpak people's. The Kyrgyz living in the Fergana Valley have been closely connected with the Uzbeks for many centuries. They participated in the formation of a local culture characteristic of the inhabitants of the Fergana Valley. For this reason, the study of an important feature of the participation of the Fergana Valley Kyrgyz in the ethnocultural processes that took place in the region: ethnocultural



identity, traditionalism, and the process of transformation inherent in ethnoculture is of great scientific importance. It is necessary to analyze in more depth the existing theoretical concepts of these ethnocultural identity, integration, and transformation processes. Such ethnocultural processes are understudied, urgent problems in cultural studies.

“It should be noted that during the former Soviet Union, cultural studies and sociology were considered bourgeois sciences, and the teaching of these sciences was discouraged. During the years of independence, cultural studies, ethnoculture, and sociology were introduced. However, since little research has been conducted in the field of ethnoculture, it is one of the least studied areas. In the field of cultural studies and ethnoculture, ethnocultural processes specific to a nation are evaluated, from the study of human art, material and spiritual wealth, language, knowledge, demographic and ethnic processes. [5.]

Ethnoculture, an important component of cultural studies, is not only a set of material and spiritual wealth created by the creative activity of people, but also determines the level of development of society. That is, the sum of knowledge, criteria, and values in society is manifested in ethnocultural processes.

Due to the similarities and closeness in the research process of ethnoculture and ethnology, which are components of cultural studies, many innovations occur in the field of science, based on language, writing, knowledge, demographic, ethnic processes and social relations. The reason is that the phenomenon of cultural assimilation often occurs as a result of socio-cultural phenomena between different ethnic groups. According to the scientific basis, ethnology, as a sociological direction of anthropological research, includes the social aspect of comparing the existence of ethnic groups and societies, folk oral creativity, beliefs, cultural and historical development. [6.]

An attempt was made to frighten the multinational people living in the former Soviet Union and to divert the nation from the path of justice and truth. There were threats to national traditions and values, and this process also had a significant negative impact on the socio-cultural life of the Kyrgyz of the Fergana Valley. After Uzbekistan gained independence, there were development trends in the country not only in the titular ethnos, but also in the culture of representatives of minority nationalities.

When studying Uzbek-Kyrgyz cultural relations in the Republic of Uzbekistan, it is first necessary to analyze the social environment in which this process takes place, the existing conditions of interethnic relations in the country.

If we look at the ethnic landscape of the world today, while interethnic conflicts and bloody wars are taking place in many parts of the world, in the Republic of Uzbekistan, attention is being paid to the issue of interethnic relations at the level of state policy, based on the ideas of interethnic harmony and interreligious tolerance. State policy in the field of interethnic relations in the Republic of Uzbekistan consists of the systematic activities of the state in the field of improving and regulating interethnic relations in society, aimed at ensuring the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens, their equality before the law, regardless of their gender, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, beliefs, and social status.

Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 15, 2019 “On approval of the Concept of State Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Field of Interethnic



Relations” [7.] Decree No. PF-5876 The adoption of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan marked the beginning of a new period in interethnic relations in the Republic of Uzbekistan. In particular, based on this law, the Concept of the State Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of interethnic relations in the country was approved. This Concept defines the goals, principles and main directions of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of interethnic relations in the country. The main principles of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of interethnic relations are the equality of citizens in the country, social justice, the rule of law, mutual respect for the cultural, linguistic and religious values, traditions and customs of nations and peoples, protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, including citizens living abroad, state sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

This issue was also addressed in the "New Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2022-2026". Good work is being done to instill in the minds of the population, especially young people, a sense of humanity, values, and mutual understanding with representatives of the multinational population, and to strengthen friendly relations between close neighbors. In particular, the issue of strengthening the atmosphere of interethnic harmony and interreligious tolerance in society is included as the 74th goal of this development strategy. This includes further improving the system of state support for national cultural centers, ensuring the consistent implementation of the Concept of State Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of interethnic relations, creating additional favorable conditions for young people of different nationalities, raising their awareness of civic duty, patriotism, and a culture of interethnic communication based on tolerance, taking measures to provide additional state support for mass media operating in foreign languages and covering state policy in the field of interethnic relations, and improving the activities of friendship societies in order to develop friendly relations with foreign countries. [8.] tasks have been defined.

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