

RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR BALANCE IN SOCIETY

Kudratova Umida

Associate Professor of the Department of "Philosophy"
Tashkent State University of Economics Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Zokirova Asaloy Azamat qizi

Student of the Faculty of Tourism
Tashkent State University of Economics Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Abstract

The article explores the significance of religious and secular balance in society. It analyzes the historical development of religious and secular values, their role in modern society, and the importance of their harmony in preventing extremism and radicalism. The example of Uzbekistan illustrates the integration of these principles.

Keywords: Religious balance, secularism, spirituality, harmony, extremism, radicalism, globalization, Uzbekistan, religious freedom.

Introduction

As a result of the systemic reforms being carried out in our country, important life principles are clearly expressing their essence. In particular, the first article of our Constitution defines "Uzbekistan is a sovereign democratic, legal, social and secular state with a republican form of government"¹. Accordingly, the analysis of the concepts of "secular" and "religious" proportionality, the study of their interrelationships and differences is of great importance.

Secularism is a principle in the organization of political power and administrative governance, the historical roots of which go back to tolerance. In order to ensure social peace, democratic states under the rule of law assume the responsibility to simultaneously fulfill two main tasks: to guarantee freedom of conscience and religion to each individual and, at the same time, to ensure the equality of all².

It is not correct to completely contrast the concept of secularism with religiosity³, emphasizes Nuriddin Hoji Holiqnazarov. In a certain sense, religiosity and secularism are not completely contradictory concepts. They are different ways of looking at the essence of the world and human life. The concept of secularism includes the principle of separating religious organizations from political organizations and not making religiosity the basis for everything. Religiosity is a feeling that depends on the heart. Forcibly instilling it in everyone does not correspond to any religious principles. In countries that have followed the path of secular development, although religion is

¹ The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Internet source: <https://lex.uz/docs/6451070> Reference date: 01.05.2023

² Rabbimov K. Дунёвийлик нима ва у Ўзбекистон учун нега муҳим? Internet source: <https://kun.uz/kr/news/2023/03/03/dunyoviylik-nima-va-u-ozbekiston-uchun-nega-muhim#> Reference date: 03.03.2023

³ Ҳолиқназаров Н. Динийлик ва дунёвийлик ислом нигоҳида. Internet source: <https://sammuslim.uz/articles/actual/diniylik-va-dunyoviylik-islom-nigohida?print=on> Reference date: 17.12.2019



separated from the state, it is not separated from society. National and religious values are important parts of the spiritual image of peoples.

In Islam, secularism is not considered a concept alien to religion. We can also see the basis of the principles of secularism in the sacred sources of Islam - the Holy Quran and the Sunnah. For example, in Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 201: "Our Lord, give us good in this world and good in the Hereafter, and save us from the punishment of the Fire."

This verse indicates that a person should also work for this world. The verse in the Holy Quran, "There is no compulsion in religion" (Al-Baqarah, 256), embodies one of the most important foundations of secularism. According to it, it is impossible to force a religious lifestyle. It is also noteworthy that this verse is one of the last verses to be revealed.

Also, the verse in Surah Al-Qasas, which states: "And seek the Hereafter with what Allah has given you, and do not forget your share of this world" (Qasas, 77), was interpreted by Abu Layth Samarkandi as "Do not abandon your share of this world, so that it may serve you in the Hereafter."

This verse says that while remembering the Hereafter, do not forget the blessings of this world. Because you have the rights of your body, your family, your neighbors, society, and those under your control, and you must fulfill the rights of everyone who has the right⁴.

Indeed, religious tolerance is based on the respect of individuals for different religious beliefs and traditions. This principle serves to build tolerance and harmony in society. All religions in the world promote moral and spiritual principles that are accepted by their followers. These values are recognized as moral standards in personal and social life. By supporting religious tolerance, mutual respect and cooperation between different faiths in society are strengthened. For example, in European countries, special laws and regulations have been introduced for the coexistence of representatives of different religions. Such procedures create favorable conditions for all groups to protect their rights and practice their faith in collective and social life.

The need for religious tolerance: Religious tolerance means that all citizens in society have equal rights and opportunities. This principle requires that the state does not support any religion or belief and is neutral towards all beliefs. Secularism ensures respect for diversity in society, equality before the law for all citizens, and the prevention of discrimination based on religion or belief. Many countries adhere to the principle of a secular state. For example, in France, religion and state are separated, and all citizens have equal rights before the law. This type of approach protects the state from the influence of any religious organization or group, while guaranteeing religious freedom and belief.

The importance of religious and secular balance in the life of society is incomparable. While religion serves to satisfy the spiritual needs of people, secularism plays an important role in the development of social progress, science, and technology. These two principles, complementing each other, have played a major role in human history. Religious values help to strengthen social cohesion and set moral standards, while secular values are aimed at ensuring the material needs, development and stability of society.

The balance between religion and the secular plays an important role in ensuring peace, stability and mutual respect in society. Secularism, that is, the separation of religion and state, is accepted

⁴Холиқназаров Н. Динийлик ва дунёвийлик ислом нигоҳида. Internet source: <https://sammuslim.uz/articles/actual/diniylik-va-dunyoviylik-islom-nigohida?print=on> Reference date: 17.12.2019



as a fundamental principle in many countries, but the misinterpretation or unclear implementation of this principle can lead to contradictions in many societies. It is at this point that the need to maintain a balance between religious and secular values arises.

In today's era of globalization, coexistence of representatives of different cultures and religions is required, which requires the creation of a society based on the harmony of religious and secular values and mutual respect. It is also necessary to understand the importance of the balance between religious and secular principles in order to effectively combat social threats such as extremism and radicalism in this society.

This article sheds light on the interrelationship between religious and secular principles, their historical development and their place in modern society. The article considers the harmony of religious and secular values as an important factor in maintaining peace in society and ensuring the sustainable development of society. Using the example of Uzbekistan, the role of harmony between religious and secular principles in the country's politics, law and social life is analyzed.

MAIN PART

Balance between religious and secular values. By maintaining a balance between religious and secular values, it is possible to ensure the stability of the state and society. Religious beliefs have a positive effect on the internal spirituality and moral concepts of people. At the same time, secular values serve to maintain social order on a legal and political basis. These two directions complement each other, helping citizens achieve stability in their social life. States develop various laws and policies to support this balance. For example, constitutional articles that provide for the preservation of religious freedom and secularism, legal documents aimed at protecting the religious and legal freedoms of citizens, are among them.

Religious and secular education plays an important role in this process. The importance of religious education, in particular, in the formation of moral values, and secular education is necessary for the development of science and technology. Both can complement each other and develop society. For this reason, it is appropriate to analyze the principles of religion and secularism on the basis of a number of factors:

First, regarding the essence of religious and secular values:

Religious values serve to satisfy human spiritual needs, give meaning to life, and form moral principles. Major religions such as Islam, Christianity, and Buddhism teach humanity mutual respect, justice, and tolerance. Religion is not just a belief, but also a means of developing spirituality. In particular, religious values play an important role in strengthening family life, maintaining social cohesion, and increasing the spiritual well-being of people⁵.

Secular values, on the other hand, are associated with the development of scientific thinking, innovation, and technological progress. The main goal of secularism is to ensure equal rights for all citizens in society, regardless of religious beliefs. Due to this principle, personal rights, freedoms and equality of people become fundamental values. Secular principles serve stability and development in the economic, legal and social spheres.

Secondly, in relation to examples of religious and secular harmony in history:

There are many successful examples in history that ensured the harmony of religious and secular values. They ensured the stability of society in different eras and regions:

⁵ Alimov, R. (2021). O'zbekiston va globallashuv: diniy va dunyoviy qadriyatlar uyg'unligi. Toshkent: Ma'naviyat.



In the Islamic world: In the Middle Ages, Muslim scientists made many discoveries by combining religion and science. Individuals such as Ibn Sina, Al-Khwarizmi, Al-Biruni made a great contribution to world civilization by combining religious and secular knowledge.

During the Renaissance: In the Western world, the harmony of religion and secularism was felt in the development of art, philosophy and science. Artists such as Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo created great works on both religious and secular themes.

The connection of East and West: Religious and secular harmony has existed in Central Asia since ancient times, and this principle has played an important role in the development of cultural heritage and science.

Third, regarding the balance between religion and the world in the modern world:

In today's era of globalization, ensuring the harmony of religious and secular values has become an urgent issue. Different cultures and beliefs are increasingly approaching each other. At the same time, this process can cause social and political conflicts. Some countries strongly support secularism and try to limit the role of religion in society (for example, France). Other countries pay more attention to religious values (for example, Saudi Arabia).

Countries such as Turkey have managed to harmonize religious and secular values. This approach is seen as an important model in the development of modern society.

Fourth, in the case of Uzbekistan, regarding religious and secular harmony:

The state policy of Uzbekistan is aimed at ensuring the harmony of religious and secular principles. Although the Constitution strictly stipulates the principle of separation of state and religion, religious freedom is guaranteed in the country. Uzbekistan's approach in this regard is distinguished by the following aspects:

Religious enlightenment: Great attention is paid to the development of religion and spirituality in the country. The humanistic principles of Islam are promoted in the education system and in social life⁶.

Combating extremism and radicalism: Uzbekistan uses an approach that harmonizes religious and secular values in combating extremist and radical ideas. Effective measures have been developed to combat this issue through special legislation, propaganda and education.

Tolerance policy: Uzbekistan, as a multinational and multi-religious state, seeks to strengthen religious tolerance. Conditions have been created for peaceful coexistence of people of different faiths.

Indeed, according to K. Rabbimov, "It is necessary to explain freedom of conscience and religion to the society and people of Uzbekistan. Because freedom of conscience and religion does not mean harmony in the religious sphere. It guarantees the free living and activity of agnostics, atheists, and representatives of other religions in society. This may not please everyone. In other words, if people want to be free in matters of conscience and religion, they must recognize that there are other views and that they also have rights, be patient, and treat them with respect. Freedom of conscience and religion does not deny dialogue and debate. Because religions and views of conscience always argue about the highest truth. Freedom of conscience and religion only requires that people be free, equal before the law, that state institutions and officials be

⁶ Saifnazarov, I., & Umarjonov, S. (2022). State and religion relations in New Uzbekistan. *Oriental renaissance: Innovative, educational, natural and social sciences*, 2, 414-424.



neutral, and that people communicate with others in a civilized manner - without oppression”⁷. Fifth, according to the importance of religious and secular balance in modern life: The balance between religious and secular values in modern society is a key factor of stability. The harmony of these principles gives the following positive results:

- ensuring peace and social cohesion;
- forming spiritual and intellectual education among young people;
- preventing extremism and radicalism;
- strengthening mutual respect between representatives of different cultures and religions.

The example of Uzbekistan shows that the harmony of religious and secular principles plays an important role in social stability, national unity and the development of the country.

Maintaining religious and secular balance in society is important for ensuring social stability and peace. Each citizen has the right to live according to his own beliefs, but must also respect the beliefs of others. The harmonious development of religious and secular values has a positive impact on all spheres of social life and contributes to stability. By striving for religious and secular balance, the state and society can achieve great success in the path of social stability, peace and development. This is achieved by respecting the rights and freedoms of all individuals in society, being open to different beliefs and worldviews.

Ensuring religious and secular balance in the life of society is gaining urgent importance in today's era of globalization. While religious values play an important role in the formation of human spiritual well-being and social solidarity, secular principles are the main foundation of social development, science and technological progress. By harmonizing these principles, it is possible to ensure the stability, peace and development of society.

CONCLUSION

Historical experience shows that the balance between religious and secular values has been an important factor for the development of society. In the modern world, this balance is also of great importance in the fight against threats such as extremism and radicalism. Especially in multinational and multi-religious countries like Uzbekistan, the harmony of religious and secular principles is manifested as a guarantee of social cohesion, national unity and stability.

Currently, political and social reforms being implemented in Uzbekistan are aimed at ensuring the harmony of religious and secular values. The strategy of ensuring national harmony and stability in the country is being effectively implemented by educating the younger generation in the spirit of religious tolerance and spirituality based on secular knowledge.

In conclusion, the balance between religious and secular values is necessary not only to ensure social peace, but also to ensure the long-term sustainable development of society. Ensuring the harmony of these two principles is an urgent task of every society and one of the important criteria determining its future.

⁷ Rabbimov K. Дунёвийлик нима ва у Ўзбекистон учун нега муҳим? <https://kun.uz/kr/news/2023/03/03/dunyoviylik-nima-va-u-ozbekiston-uchun-nega-muhim#/> 03.03.2023

Internet source:
Reference date:



REFERENCES

1. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Internet source: <https://lex.uz/docs/6451070>
Reference date: 01.05.2023
2. Rabbimov K. Дунёвийлик нима ва у Ўзбекистон учун нега муҳим? [What is secularism and why is it important for Uzbekistan? In Uzbek] Internet source: <https://kun.uz/kr/news/2023/03/03/dunyoviylik-nima-va-u-ozbekiston-uchun-nega-muhim#!>
Reference date: 03.03.2023
3. Ҳоликназаров Н. Динийлик ва дунёвийлик ислом нигоҳида [Religion and secularism in the eyes of Islam, in Uzbek]. Internet source: <https://sammuslim.uz/articles/actual/diniylik-va-dunyoviylik-islom-nigohida?print=on> Reference date: 17.12.2019
4. Alimov, R. (2021). О‘zbekiston va globalashuv: diniy va dunyoviy qadriyatlar uyg‘unligi [Uzbekistan and globalization: harmony of religious and secular values, in Uzbek]. Toshkent: Ma’naviyat.
5. Saifnazarov, I., & Umarjonov, S. (2022). State and religion relations in New Uzbekistan. *Oriental renaissance: Innovative, educational, natural and social sciences*, 2, 414-424.

