



# THE CONCEPT OF POLITICAL CULTURE AND ITS THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

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<b>Received:</b> February 7 <sup>th</sup> 2023 <b>Accepted:</b> March 1 <sup>th</sup> 2023 <b>Published:</b> April 10 <sup>th</sup> 2023	<p>The article examines the phenomenon of political culture as the most important component of the political life of society. The content and essence of the concept, the history of the formation of political culture and the level of political culture of citizens, and the stages of development are studied on an analytical basis.</p> <p>Also, how to form a political culture? The questions of what are the most important tasks facing the researchers-scientists engaged in this field today have been answered to a certain extent. Based on these, some aspects of political culture are revealed with a creative approach.</p>

**Keywords:** Political culture, political life, phenomenon, citizen, civil society, legal state, political party, society, political system, political consciousness, political thinking, universal values.

**INTRODUCTION.** Due to the formation of new relationships as a result of the reforms implemented in the construction of the state and society in Uzbekistan, our literary language has been enriched with new expressions, various terms and concepts, and they have entered our lives and are widely used in our social relations. Rapid awareness of such up-to-date innovations and understanding of the essence of such philosophical concepts is becoming a part of our lives.

From the first days of independent development, Uzbekistan has set itself the main goal of building a democratic legal state and building a civil society. The success of fundamental reforms depends to a large extent on the level of political culture of citizens. Therefore, increasing the political culture of citizens is becoming one of the most important issues in the formation of civil society.

The importance of the concept of "political culture", which we want to think about, is increasing day by day in social and political life, and the scope of research is expanding. What should be the role of political culture, especially in the period of reforms in state administration? What is political culture itself? How to form it? We are constantly faced with problematic questions that require in-depth analysis. Today, finding relevant and logical answers to such questions is becoming one of the most important and urgent tasks facing researchers-scientists engaged in this field. Based on these, we try to reveal some aspects of political culture with a creative approach.

At the end of the XX th century and at the beginning of the XXI st century, the study of the phenomenon of political culture in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States intensified. In particular, in the process of building a democratic society, the interest in political culture in the Republic of Uzbekistan increased sharply. This is not for nothing, because the situation in power relations, relations between the political system and society can often be explained by the phrase "political culture". The importance of studying political culture is explained by the fact that it is impossible to consider any serious issue without taking into account universal human values.

Political culture is a component of the socio-historical basis, which includes traditions, national heritage, geographical-political factor, historically created social and ethnic structure, and religious beliefs. All of them serve as decisive bases. There are different approaches to the interpretation of the concept of political culture. This is natural, of course, but there is also a common aspect that binds them all together. This is the direct integration of political culture with the political life and political institutions of the society, its attitude and state. If we approach from this point of view, people create their own political history, but they create this history not arbitrarily, but within the framework of the political knowledge inherited by them, political culture.

Russian scientist E.V. Batalov who summarized the interpretations of political culture. Gives a simplified definition of political culture: Political culture means the consciousness of individuals and groups,



patterns of behavioral patterns that have been formed historically, as well as the system of political institutions' functioning models. [1.]

It should be noted that statesmen who wish to establish a political democracy often focus on creating a formal set of democratic government institutions, drafting a constitution and other government structures. However, government structures and the political process alone are not enough for the development of stable and effective democratic governance. The establishment of political democracy directly depends on the political culture of citizens. If the political consciousness and political culture of the citizens fail to support the democratic system, this system will not be stable. This attitude applies not only to ordinary citizens, but also to all - government agencies, political parties and public associations.

According to many sociologists, the development of the state is related to the state of the political culture, and depending on the level of development of the political culture, it is possible to draw a conclusion about how perfectly organized the political system of the society is. Because political culture appears as a factor that directly influences the expression of citizens' socio-political ability, the decision-making of political institutions, their smooth functioning, and the process of formation of relations between the state and society.

Political culture is one of the most important elements of the political system of society. Political culture with these aspects serves as an important tool in the process of maintaining political stability, strengthening, democratizing society, implementing political, social and economic reforms and morally uplifting the population in the country.

Political culture is an integral part of national culture. Political culture is, first of all, the political experience gained by large and small social groups, in the course of the historical development of humanity as a whole. Political culture does not stand still, it is always growing and changing. At the same time, political culture does not appear by itself in a vacuum.

Political culture is a political phenomenon that is directly related to people's socio-spiritual life, values, outlook, and customs, and has a long history like politics. The concept of political culture, although not named as such, was studied to some extent by ancient thinkers in one way or another. In particular, great scholars of the world of politics and well-known philosophers Confucius, Socrates, Aristotle, Plato,

Abu Nasr Farabi, Yusuf Khos Khajib, Nizamulmulk, Machiavelli and others can be cited as examples.

The term "political culture" appeared a little later. It was introduced into the scientific literature by the German philosopher and enlightened sociologist I. who lived in the 18th century. Brought in by Herder. In fact, scientific concepts of political culture with an empirical basis were formed in the Western world in the middle of the 20th century. The contributions of major political science researchers such as G. Almond, H. Fayer, S. Verba, A. Lipset, M. Duverje, U. Razenbaum, G. Powell, and L. Pai are huge.

It would be more correct to say that the book "Administrative System of the Great European Powers" published in 1956 by the American theoretician H. Fayer, who used the concept of "political culture" in the field of modern political science, is one of the important steps taken to understand the essence of political culture. A little later, G. Almond and S. Verba published their article "Civil Culture" (1963) based on the study of the political processes of five countries: USA, Great Britain, Germany, Mexico and Italy. L. Pai and S. Verba published the work entitled "Political culture and political research" (1965) based on the study of the political culture of the societies of ten countries. Such scientific works made a great contribution to the formation of the concept of modern political culture and the development of the theory of political culture.

Political scientist Yu.V. Irkhin writes, political culture, like general culture, is the system that undergoes the least changes. Thanks to this inalienable property, culture performs one of the most important tasks - ensuring social continuity - thereby guaranteeing the evolutionary direction of social development in history. [2.]

Political relations are based on political consciousness and political culture, a set of beliefs, imaginations that determine political actions, and political views that ensure democratic stability and unity. Values of political culture participate in society as a system specific to classic examples of political actions.

Scientific interpretations of political culture can be described as follows:

political culture is a part of the spiritual culture of society, which includes elements directly related to social political institutions and political processes;  
- political culture is a set of political consciousness and political behavior and behavioral stereotypes belonging to a concrete social entity or person;



Models of political culture can be divided into the following types:

1. The "closed" type of political culture is distinguished by its political correctness and is intolerant of other types of political culture and cannot accept them at all. That is, it operates only within its narrow scope.

2. "Open" type of political culture - positively accepts other types of political culture. It has rich traditions and accepts new realities in political realities. It has the characteristic of constant self-enrichment.

3. The patriarchal type of political culture is typical of peoples who do not have a rich spiritual culture and values, and the state of political activity of the representatives of this type is hardly noticeable. Also, they are not interested in political values, political norms and political institutions.

4. The type of active political culture - a characteristic feature of this type is that citizens seek to actively intervene in the political life of society. Through these actions, they aim to gain a certain status in the political system of society.

It should be emphasized that in real life it is very rare that only one type of political culture in its pure form is not present. That is, civil culture effectively absorbs positive elements from other types of political culture and helps the political order to function constructively.

It is known that today our country is living with the great goals of forming a legal democratic state, ultimately a civil society. In this regard, great things have been done in the years since our independence. National political culture, the people's political way of thinking in the perception of political life, its historical foundations, traditions related to national statehood, political values that have become the spiritual property of the people are manifested in its attitude to political power, by evaluating political events.

In this place, professor Kh. T. Odilkoriev and doctor of political science Sh.G. Goyibnazarov analyzed the theory of political culture and developed their scientific and practical conclusions. In particular, in the monograph "Political culture: theoretical and comparative research", political culture is defined as follows: "Political culture as a component of society's culture expresses the attitude towards the creation, distribution and functioning of political power in the state and society." [3.]

To sum up, for the formation and development of political culture, citizens should be fully aware of the internal and external policies of the state, the

operation of management systems, socio-political processes in social life, and be directly and indirectly involved in the management of the state and society, and it is necessary for them to actively act in their implementation and regularly improve their political literacy.

In addition to state institutions, non-governmental, non-profit and public associations actively participate in the formation and improvement of the political culture of citizens. That is, neighborhood gatherings, women's committees, council of elders, youth organizations, trade unions and other public organizations should also have their own role.

Therefore, the criteria of social justice based on political culture require evaluating all social events from the point of view of the interests of society. Also, the principles and norms of political culture affect the development of political institutions. A high political culture cannot be achieved without political culture, without strict adherence to legal principles.

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