

Islam Karimov as a daring initiator and confident catalyst of conducive alterations in Uzbekistan

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Abstract: It is universally acknowledged that not all prominent people are associated with the words, audacious, accountable, unbiased, impartial, and admirable. World history presents such a chance to many, but not everyone realizes it fully. Only ingenious, extraordinary and charismatic personalities who produce an epochal sensation on the course of events throughout the world occupy their exclusive place in the history of mankind. Islam Karimov is undoubtedly refers to this sort of people. Given article is dedicated to profoundly discuss and examine the contributions made by Islam Karimov to the progress of Uzbekistan in diverse spheres of life.

Keywords: economics, independency, reforms and regulations, social constructions, spiritual-moral renewal, historical transformation, stability, progressive development.

Introduction

Islam Karimov is a mighty politician and rightfully considered to be the first president of Uzbekistan who significantly facilitated and promoted independency of Uzbekistan. His wise, far-sighted policy was also manifested in the fact that the spiritual foundations of our multinational people were revived. These are monuments to great thinkers, the revival of the true history of our region, the development of national languages, customs and rituals.

A particularly great contribution to the development of independent Uzbekistan is the new model of economic development introduced by Islam Karimov, recognized far beyond the borders of Uzbekistan, built on the well-known five principles: de-ideologization of the economy, the rule of law, phased reforms, state regulation in the transitional stage and strong social policy

His most important motto was: Uzbekistan is a state with a great future! He laid the foundations of this state. Now this slogan is the main national idea. He was undoubtedly a phenomenal man, a patriot of his country.

Childhood and adolescence

While still a boy, and his childhood was during the difficult war and post-war years, he learned the value of earned bread," said Tatyana Karimova, recalling the first president of Uzbekistan. "After the war, everyone lived very hard. The family was low-income. A simple family who lived in the old part of the city of Samarkand. Islam Abduganievich went to school without knowing the Russian language, but thanks to his character, perseverance, and determination, he graduated from school with in-depth study of the Russian language with a gold medal. His essays were read to the whole class, and, as classmates later admitted, they wrote cheat sheets from his essays for admission to university. This is how a boy from a simple family, having brilliantly graduated from school, went to meet his destiny. He only had a gold medal in his pocket and huge dreams. And he returned to his native land as the First President of independent Uzbekistan, returned forever.

In his childhood and adolescence, he was fond of sports and retained this passion throughout his life. He practiced wrestling, table tennis, chess, cycling, basketball, and even in his old age surprised everyone with the accuracy of hitting the ball into the hoop.

Throughout his life, playing chess was his favorite pastime in moments of relaxation. It gave him the opportunity to switch his attention, sometimes even temporarily disconnect from government problems, get carried away by the logic of the game, concentrating on unusual chess combinations. This was especially evident when I.A. Karimov was returning from business trips with long flights. He could sit for hours at the chessboard.¹

¹ <https://islomkarimov.uz/ru/page/tarjimai-hol>

In her memoirs, describing her school years, a classmate spoke about one moment that very well characterizes the personal qualities of Islam Abduganievich. During the summer fruit harvest, one of the adults asked the children what they wanted to become in the future. Many named such professions as pilot, turner, etc. Islam Abduganievich's answer surprised both children and adults: "I want to become like Amir Temur," noted Tatyana Karimova.

She said that even in his school years, Islam Karimov's favorite literary hero was Danko, a character from a story by Maxim Gorky, where a young man sacrificed himself and saved the people with the help of a burning heart. His motto "Burning yourself, shine for others" sank into the heart of young Islam Karimov for a long time. This later became the life credo of the first president of Uzbekistan.²

Efforts directed to the economy.

From the first days of independence, Islam Karimov developed the foundations of the national-state, socio-economic and spiritual-moral renewal of the country, now known as the "Uzbek model", which was based on five principles:

- priority of economics over politics, freedom of production from ideology;
- the state is the main reformer;
- priority of law in all spheres of public life;
- strong social policy taking into account the difficult demographic situation;
- transition to a market economy, taking into account objective economic laws, in an evolutionary step-by-step manner, without "revolutionary leaps".³

The result of the I.A. Karimov's comprehensive reforms included, first of all, the consistent implementation and deepening of structural transformations in the economy, ensuring the stable and uninterrupted operation of all its financial institutions and sectors of the real sector, the widespread introduction of market mechanisms, diversification, continuous technical and technological renewal and development of production, attracting significant investments, including foreign ones. All this contributed to building capacity, increasing the country's competitiveness, and creating a solid foundation for further progressive development.⁴

Islam Karimov is the initiator and leader of historical transformations in the country. Under his direct leadership, the following were developed and implemented: a program for the independent development of the country, the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan was prepared and adopted, meeting all democratic requirements and international criteria;

- a new program of state and social construction, the management system in the center and locally has been reformed, the principles of harmonization of the interests of the state, society and people are being implemented;
- a new, recognized far beyond the borders of Uzbekistan, its own model of economic development, built on the well-known five principles: de-ideologization of the economy, the rule of law, phased reforms, state regulation in the transitional stage and strong social policy;
- reforming on a modern basis the Armed Forces, border and internal troops capable of protecting the territorial integrity of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the inviolability of its borders.⁵

The people of Uzbekistan rightfully associate outstanding achievements during the years of independence with the name and activities of I. Karimov.

For his great contribution to the development of economics, science and education, Islam Abduganievich was elected an honorary doctor and academician of a number of universities in foreign countries:

- Honorary Professor of Turkestan State University named after Ahmad Yasavi (Kazakhstan), March 1992.
- Honorary Professor at the University of Zitoun (Tunisia), 1992.
- Doctor of Economics, Sogang University (Republic of Korea), 1992.

² <https://24smi.org/celebrity/3037-islam-karimov.html>

³ Каримов И.А. Узбекистан: национальная независимость, экономика, политика, идеология. Т.1. – Т.: Узбекистан, 1996.

⁴ Левитин Л. Узбекистан: эпоха Каримова. М., 2003

⁵ <https://arboblar.uz/ru/people/karimov-islam-abduganievich>

- Honorary Professor at Al-Azhar University (Egypt), 1992.
- Honorary Doctor of Law from Jawaharlal Nehru University (India), 1994.
- Honorary Doctor of Sciences of Baku State University (Azerbaijan), 1996.
- Honorary Member of the Presidium of the International Academy of Sciences, Education, Industry and the Arts (USA), 1997.
- Honorary Doctor of Sciences of the Plekhanov Russian Academy of Economics (Russia), 1998.
- Full member, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of Aviation and Aeronautics (Russia), 1998.
- Honorary Member, Academician of the International Academy of Higher Education (Russia), 1999.
- Honorary Professor of Economics at Fontis University (Netherlands), 2000.
- Member of the International Club of Honorary Doctors of Sciences of the Plekhanov Russian Academy of Economics (Russia), 2000.
- Honorary Professor of Lomonosov Moscow State University (Russia), 2001.
- Honorary Professor at Waseda University (Japan), 2002.
- Honorary Doctor of the University of Soka (Japan), 2002.
- Professor of Economics at the Sorbonne University-Paris IV (France), 2003.
- Foreign member of the Academy of Mining Sciences of Russia with the award of the gold badge "Miner of Russia" (Russia), 2004.
- Honorary Doctor of Sciences of the Kiev National University. Taras Shevchenko (Ukraine), 2004.⁶

Ideas put forward in the book of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A. Karimov "High spirituality is an invincible force"

During his reign, Karimov published a number of books, most of which were published in the 90s. One of the valuable one is considered to be a book so-called "High Spirituality is an invincible force". The book "High Spirituality is an invincible force" comprehensively analyzes the content of spirituality as a complex and multifaceted concept at the theoretical and practical levels.

In the work there is a detailed conversation about the restoration of spirituality in our country during the years of independence, about the grandiose deeds carried out to develop it on the basis of modern requirements, about the goals and tasks facing us in this regard. The author pays special attention to the pressing problems arising in the spiritual sphere in the modern difficult period of globalization, to the issues of preserving and developing the spirituality of our people, to protecting the consciousness of the younger generation from various alien ideas and ideologies.

The work shows that our ancient and beautiful country was one of the cradles of not only eastern, but also world civilization, that this sacred land has long been inhabited by a people with life-giving cultural and spiritual roots, possessing high intellectual potential. Great figures, scientists, politicians, and generals lived and worked here; the merits of our outstanding scientists in the development of spiritual knowledge related to the religion of Islam are invaluable; scientific achievements have become an integral part of universal civilization and culture.

The work is particularly proud to name samples of oral folk art and ancient written monuments created by the thought and mind of our ancestors, thousands of manuscripts containing priceless works on history, literature, art, morality, philosophy, medicine, mathematics, mineralogy, chemistry, astronomy, architecture, agriculture and other branches of science. In particular, the author shows in this part the great importance of the priceless spiritual monument "Avesta", created about three thousand years ago. The author notes that the principle of "A good word, a good thought, a good deed" expressed in this work, which determines the basic meaning and content of the Avesta, is relevant for our time.⁷

The author emphasizes that the formation of the spirituality of society as a whole is a difficult task that must be carried out constantly and continuously, based on the principles of systemic organization. Therefore, the work once again defines the need to strengthen and develop the educational sphere: print, television, the Internet and other media, theater, cinema, literature, music, painting and other types of art, that is, activities in all areas that affect human thinking and consciousness.

⁶ <https://islomkarimov.uz/ru/page/tarjimai-hol>

⁷ Каримов И.А. Высокая духовность – непобедимая сила. – Ташкент: Маънавият, 2008.

According to the firm conviction of the author of the work, the path to the human soul begins with upbringing and education, and therefore it speaks with reverence about the noble work of teachers and mentors.

Estimations from his surrounding.

During the years that Islam Karimov spent in power, his actions have repeatedly received contradictory assessments: some praised the president, others criticized. But it is difficult to argue that under him Uzbekistan became an independent republic, in which the priority was the preservation and elevation of the culture, history and language of the Uzbek people.

Bulat Murtazin remembered one incident. "It was the early 1990s. Siab market. With two large bags in my hands, I make my way to the exit and suddenly I see Islam Karimov accompanying Boris Yeltsin, the President of Russia. By that time, Islam Abduganievich was already the head of Uzbekistan. He noticed me and began to approach. I was taken aback by surprise and could not answer his greeting. I will never forget this attention to me and to everyone around me. For all of us, Islam Abduganievich was courageous, modest and very gifted. This is how he remained forever in our hearts," he said.⁸

"Karimov's death is a big loss. I'm worried that he passed away. He was the most wonderful person. He loved art very much, adored those who were involved in culture. We met him a long time ago, 20 years ago. There was a meeting on culture. I was very young. I approached him first. When I looked into his eyes, I immediately stood up and walked over. We started talking. And after that we had a very good, unique relationship. When he came to Moscow, we talked in my gallery, at home on Bolshaya Gruzinskaya, in the museum on Petrovka. And I was delighted how much he adored the creators - the people who create art in Russia. You know, he was an amazing person. A huge patriot. He loved not only his work, he loved the people of Russia. He respected them. The development of Uzbekistan is a very good example for all republics," said Zurab Tsereteli, sculptor.⁹

"I saw President Karimov for the first time in 1999. As a journalist, I flew in as part of the Russian delegation, which was headed by then Prime Minister Putin. It struck me that Karimov was already communicating with Putin as an equal, as with the president. He seemed to feel it. They had good contact with Putin, and then, when at one time there were unrest in Uzbekistan, he came to Putin. Karimov generally often came to Moscow for various summits, and I don't remember any demarches on his part towards Russia. He was a very sober politician. I know that the Russians in Uzbekistan treated him very well. The character of this person is very difficult to study. It seems to me that he was an honest and straightforward politician. He has good training, honesty towards people was present," noted Alexander Gamov, deputy editor of the political department of the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper.

The first President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, spoke about how he negotiated with the first President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, on the formation of the Uzbek-Kazakh border. "He always had his own opinion. It was very difficult to negotiate with him," "It's inconvenient to talk, he is no longer in this world, my old friend Islam Karimov, he always had his own opinion. It was very difficult to negotiate with him. He expressed his opinion on everything. But it happened that one day he called and said: "I want to come." I say: "Listen, we need to prepare the topic, what we're going to talk about, we need to prepare." "No topics, I just have to meet you and that's all." I met him. Actually, he is a very gentle and good person at heart, but that's his character. He came, we sat in the evening, talked all day, discussed issues. There were very interesting moments then," recalled the first president of Kazakhstan.¹⁰

Professor of the Department of Anesthesiology and Reanimatology of the Tashkent Medical Academy, Director of the Republican Training Center for Emergency Medical Care Vyacheslav Avakov spoke about his memories of the first President. "I am glad that I was lucky enough to work next to such a great man as Islam Karimov for twenty-five years. Watching Islam Karimov over the past years, I realized how highly efficient this man was. I won't be mistaken if I say figuratively that he worked twenty-six hours a day. The First President was very demanding of himself and those around him. Even when doing any physical exercise or

⁸ <https://kun.uz/ru/68427488>

⁹ <https://amp.rbc.ru/rbcnews/politics/02/09/2016/57c9cb059a7947efac6df3d2>

¹⁰ <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2021/07/06/borders/>

sitting with his family, he thought only about work, about the fate of the country and people. We tried to distract him, but our efforts were in vain. He asserted: "I cannot be distracted from work." Islam Karimov was a man who devoted himself entirely to his cause. Believe it or not, I cannot remember that for twenty-five years he even once went on vacation to one of the famous foreign resorts." he noted.¹¹

Karimov did a lot for the establishment of Uzbekistan as an independent state. Everything he did for the country remains to be appreciated. You can evaluate different moments in the modern history of Uzbekistan differently, but it has maintained stability in the country and progressive development," Putin said

Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted the tremendous work done by the first President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov. "Time flies. 'Our children born at independence are turning 30 today. Today we remember the great work done by our first president. We have never condemned the affairs of the past era and will not do so in the future,' the head of state said¹²

Conclusion

Islam Karimov was a respected and prominent figure not only in Uzbekistan, but also in the world. Honoring the memory of our great compatriot, who made a great contribution to the development of our country, embodied on the initiative of our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, has become an example for each of us.

Since the first days of his leadership, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev has taken concrete steps to properly perpetuate the memory of the country's First President. In particular, on January 25, 2017, the Decree of President Sh. M. Mirziyoyev "On perpetuating the memory of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Abduganievich Karimov" was published, according to which the central streets of cities and large institutions and facilities of the country were named after the First President, monuments were erected, museums and memorial complexes were organized.

The people of Uzbekistan are proudly called Islam Karimov. The sculptures were installed in Tashkent, Samarkand and Kashkadarya regions. The central streets of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan are named after Islam Karimov. The memory and actions of Islam Karimov will remain in our hearts forever.

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¹² <https://yuz.uz/ru/news/birinchi-prezidentim-xotirlandi?view=vaqtni--imkoniyatga-imkoniyatni--yutuqqa-yutuqni-taraqqiyot-poydevoriga-aylantira-olgan-xalq--buyuk-xalqdir>