

**THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE IDEA OF AN IDEAL SOCIETY FROM UTOPIAN  
MODELS TO POLITICAL THEORIES**

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**Abstract:** This study is devoted to analyzing the historical evolution of the idea of an ideal society within the context of its transformation from utopian representations to the level of political theories. The research demonstrates that conceptions of an ideal society initially emerged in the form of utopian literature and later developed into more complex theoretical constructions alongside the advancement of political philosophy and social theory. While utopian models expressed humanity's aspirations for a perfect society, they were often formed independently of real social processes. In modern political thought, however, the concept of an ideal society has been reinterpreted in connection with social contract theory, civil liberties, justice, and the theory of political institutions. The findings indicate that the idea of an ideal society functions not merely as a utopian ideal but as a theoretical model aimed at improving society, playing a significant role in the evolution of political thought.

**Keywords:** ideal society, utopia, political theory, social contract, political philosophy.

**Annotatsiya:** Mazkur tadqiqot ideal jamiyat g'oyasining tarixiy evolyutsiyasini utopik tasavvurlardan siyosiy nazariyalar darajasigacha rivojlanish jarayoni kontekstida tahlil qilishga bag'ishlangan. Tadqiqot davomida ideal jamiyat haqidagi tasavvurlar dastlab utopik adabiyot shaklida namoyon bo'lganligi, keyinchalik esa siyosiy falsafa va ijtimoiy nazariyalar rivoji bilan birga ancha murakkab nazariy konstruksiyaga aylanganligi ko'rsatib beriladi. Utopik modellar insoniyatning mukammal jamiyat haqidagi tasavvurlarini ifodalagan bo'lsa-da, ular ko'pincha real ijtimoiy jarayonlardan uzilgan holda shakllangan. Yangi davr siyosiy tafakkurida esa ideal jamiyat konsepsiyasi ijtimoiy shartnoma, fuqarolik erkinliklari, adolat va siyosiy institutlar nazariyasi bilan bog'liq holda qayta talqin qilina boshladi. Tadqiqot natijalari ideal jamiyat g'oyasi utopik ideal sifatida emas, balki jamiyatni takomillashtirishga qaratilgan nazariy model sifatida siyosiy tafakkur evolyutsiyasida muhim rol o'ynashini ko'rsatadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** ideal jamiyat, utopiya, siyosiy nazariya, ijtimoiy shartnoma, siyosiy falsafa.

### **Introduction**

The idea of an ideal society represents one of the most enduring and fundamental themes in the history of human thought, manifesting in various forms across different historical periods. Initially, conceptions of a perfectly organized society were shaped by mythological and religious beliefs; however, with the development of philosophical thought, they gradually evolved into theoretical frameworks. Utopian literature played a crucial role in articulating humanity's visions of a perfect society. Thinkers such as Thomas More, Tommaso Campanella, and Francis Bacon critically examined existing social systems and proposed theoretical models for radically reorganizing society. Nevertheless, utopian models were often detached from real political processes, which limited their direct applicability in political practice. With the rise of modern political philosophy, the concept of an ideal society moved beyond utopian imagination and began to be reinterpreted within the framework of political institutions, governance, and civil liberties. Social contract theories, liberal political philosophy, and concepts of democratic governance contributed to linking the idea of an ideal society with concrete political and legal models. Therefore, examining the transformation of the idea of an ideal society from utopian

models to political theories is of considerable scholarly importance for understanding the history of political thought and analyzing the ideological foundations of contemporary political systems.

### **Literature Review and Methodology**

Concepts of an ideal society have been interpreted differently across various periods in the history of political philosophy, and their formation and development are reflected in the works of numerous thinkers. Initially emerging in the form of utopian thought, this idea was associated with intellectual attempts to organize society according to perfect order. Utopian works of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries represent a significant stage in this process. Thomas More's *Utopia* depicts a model of society based on social equality, equitable distribution of labor, and communal property, while critically addressing the shortcomings of existing political systems. Tommaso Campanella's *The City of the Sun* advances a vision grounded in science and collective governance. Francis Bacon's *New Atlantis* portrays an ideal society founded on scientific knowledge and technological progress. These works not only represent classical examples of utopian literature but also laid the intellectual foundations for subsequent political theories. During the Enlightenment, utopian ideas gradually converged with political theory and were examined in relation to social contract, civil liberty, and political legitimacy. Jean-Jacques Rousseau developed the concept of the social contract, seeking to justify principles of just governance, while Montesquieu elaborated the theory of separation of powers as a means of ensuring political stability. Immanuel Kant, through his concept of "perpetual peace," linked the idea of an ideal society to the framework of international political order.

In the nineteenth century, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels explained social development through the evolution of economic relations and proposed the idea of a classless society. Unlike utopian approaches, their theory was grounded in historical materialism and aimed to interpret social development through objective historical laws.

In twentieth-century political philosophy, the concept of an ideal society was revisited through new theoretical approaches. John Rawls developed a theory of justice based on principles of equality and liberty, while Jürgen Habermas emphasized the role of communicative rationality and public discourse in shaping democratic societies. Thus, the literature review demonstrates that the idea of an ideal society has evolved from utopian imagination into a fundamental component of political and social theory.

This research employs an integrated methodological approach combining the history of philosophy, political theory, and historiography. The study utilizes historical-comparative analysis, conceptual analysis, and interpretative methods. The historical-comparative approach enables the comparison of utopian and political theories across different periods, identifying the conditions of their emergence and transformation. Conceptual analysis is applied to examine key categories such as utopia, ideal society, justice, liberty, political legitimacy, and social equality. The interpretative method facilitates an in-depth understanding of classical philosophical texts within their historical contexts. Additionally, the study employs historical reconstruction to trace the intellectual development from utopian literature to modern political theories. Methodologically, the research identifies three major evolutionary stages: (1) the utopian-imaginary stage, (2) the theoretical-political stage, and (3) the modern pragmatic stage. This framework allows for a systematic understanding of the evolution of the concept and its contemporary ideological significance.

### **Results.**

The analysis of theoretical sources and political-philosophical perspectives reveals that the idea of an ideal society has undergone a significant transformation in the history of thought. Initially, within utopian literature, it functioned as a means of critiquing existing social systems and expressing aspirations for a perfect society. The models proposed by More, Campanella, and

Bacon emphasized principles such as economic equality, communal ownership, scientific progress, and moral harmony. However, these models largely remained theoretical constructs with limited practical applicability. With the development of modern political thought, the concept evolved beyond utopian imagination and became integrated with theories of political institutions and governance. Social contract theory, civil society concepts, and democratic governance principles contributed to linking the idea of an ideal society with practical political reforms.

The findings indicate that the concept has passed through three major stages:

1. The utopian-philosophical stage;
2. The stage of political theory and ideology;
3. The modern stage, where it functions as a normative criterion for evaluating political and social institutions. This evolution demonstrates that the idea of an ideal society is not merely a theoretical abstraction but a significant intellectual concept shaping the ideological direction of social development.

#### **Discussion.**

The findings suggest that the idea of an ideal society has performed an essential ideological function in the history of political thought. Historically, visions of a perfect society have often emerged as critiques of existing political systems. Utopian models should not be dismissed as mere fantasies, as they frequently reflect responses to concrete social problems of their time. For instance, Thomas More's model can be interpreted as a critique of economic inequality in sixteenth-century Europe. In later periods, these ideas significantly influenced the development of political theory. Enlightenment philosophy connected the concept of an ideal society with social contract theory, civil liberties, and democratic governance. In contemporary political theory, the idea is no longer viewed as an absolute model of perfection but rather as a normative framework for constructing just political systems. The theories of Rawls, Habermas, and other modern thinkers focus less on describing a perfect society and more on improving real political institutions. This shift illustrates the transformation of the concept from utopian imagination to pragmatic political theory. Consequently, the idea of an ideal society serves not only as a theoretical construct but also as a guiding ideological principle for social progress.

#### **Conclusion.**

The study demonstrates that the evolution of the idea of an ideal society from utopian models to political theories is intrinsically linked to the development of political thought. Initially articulated within utopian literature, the concept later became a key theoretical category in political philosophy and state theory. Historical analysis shows that it has functioned both as a vision of a perfectly organized society and as a critical معيار for evaluating existing political systems. Modern political theories have transformed this concept into a framework for improving political institutions and social order. In contemporary political philosophy, the idea of an ideal society is understood as a normative concept aimed at fostering justice and democratic development. Therefore, studying its evolution is essential not only for understanding the history of political philosophy but also for analyzing the ideological foundations of modern socio-political processes.

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