

**FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM IN THE
REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN: HISTORICAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the formation and development of the parliamentary system of the Republic of Uzbekistan from the declaration of independence in 1991 to 2016. The article analyzes the three main stages of parliamentary evolution: the establishment of the Supreme Council, the transition to a unicameral Oliy Majlis, and the constitutional reform that introduced a bicameral structure consisting of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate. The study highlights the key legislative changes and institutional developments that shaped the modern parliament of Uzbekistan.

Keywords: parliament, Oliy Majlis, bicameral system, constitutional reform, Supreme Council, legislative body, independence.

АННОТАЦИЯ

В данной статье рассматривается становление и развитие парламентской системы Республики Узбекистан с момента провозглашения независимости в 1991 году до 2016 года. Анализируются три основных этапа парламентской эволюции: создание Верховного Совета, переход к однопалатному Олий Мажлису и конституционная реформа, введшая двухпалатную структуру — Законодательную палату и Сенат.

Ключевые слова: парламент, Олий Мажлис, двухпалатная система, конституционная реформа, Верховный Совет, законодательный орган, независимость.

INTRODUCTION

After Uzbekistan gained independence, large-scale reforms were carried out in the country in order to build a democratic legal state and civil society. Fundamental changes in the system of state administration and society require the formation of a national parliament, which is a legislative body that provides the legal foundations of society. As a legislative body, the parliament occupies an important place in the system of state power. In particular, in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Oliy Majlis is the main institution exercising legislative power in the country. The difference between the parliament and other systems in the system of state power is that the parliament (through popular representation) represents the interests of all social groups and strata of the country's population; conditions are created in the state for the implementation of the most popular ideas; the legal framework of the country is being formed; it is the only collegial body with sufficient mechanisms for limiting and controlling executive power [1].

LITERATURE REVIEW

Scholarly research on parliamentary development in Uzbekistan emphasizes the transformation of legislative institutions in the context of post-Soviet state-building. Studies by

Khakimov focus on the constitutional and legal status of the Oliy Majlis, highlighting its role within the system of state power and its evolving institutional capacity [1]. X. E. Khalilov examines the historical formation of the parliament, analyzing its development from a unicameral to a bicameral structure and identifying key stages of institutional reform [2]. Research indicates that early parliamentary structures were limited in their influence, with stronger executive dominance characterizing the initial years of independence. Legal scholars underline that constitutional reforms, particularly the transition to a bicameral system, were aimed at improving legislative quality and strengthening checks and balances. Normative-legal documents, including the Constitution and the Law “On Parliamentary Oversight” are widely analyzed as the foundation of parliamentary authority and control mechanisms.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A comprehensive scientific approach was used in this study. In particular, the role of parliament in political decision-making in the Republic of Uzbekistan was studied holistically through the method of systematic analysis. Based on the historical approach, the stages of formation and development of the parliamentary system were consistently analyzed. Also, the legal foundations of parliamentary activities were revealed through the analysis of regulatory and legal documents. Using the method of comparative analysis, the national parliamentary system was compared with the experience of some foreign countries. At the end of the study, scientific conclusions and practical proposals were developed based on the generalization method.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The parliamentary system in the Republic of Uzbekistan began to take shape after the declaration of independence in 1991. Special attention was paid to the formation and development of the national parliament, one of the most important institutions of state power. The Constitution adopted in 1992 established the Supreme Council as a unicameral body [3]. The twelfth session of the Supreme Council was held on September 23, 1994, and a decision was made to hold the first elections to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan on December 25, 1994. According to the results of the elections, which were held on a multi-party basis, a parliament consisting of 245 deputies was formed [2]. The Supreme Council was then replaced by a unicameral parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan — the Oliy Majlis.

An analysis of the supervisory activities of the unicameral Oliy Majlis revealed a number of regularities. Firstly, the principle of improving previously adopted laws, taking into account the new stage of the country’s development and the practice of law enforcement, has been growing stronger every year. Secondly, lawmaking has increasingly taken on a sectoral character, seeking to regulate relations in certain areas in a legal sense. Thirdly, the number of legal documents prepared and submitted for discussion through the joint efforts of several committees and commissions has increased.

The end of 2004 and the beginning of 2005 are of great importance in the formation and development of the parliament in Uzbekistan. After a nationwide referendum held on January 27, 2002, the parliament was transferred to a two-chamber structure — the Legislative Chamber and the Senate [4]. This decision was considered an important first step in improving public administration. The Legislative Chamber consists of 150 deputies, elected for a four-year term. The Senate consists of 100 members: 84 are elected on the basis of territorial representation, and 16 are appointed by the President [5]. Such a structure, on the one hand, creates conditions for the executive branch to maintain its influence on the composition of the Senate.

As a result of the constitutional reforms carried out, elections to the Legislative Chamber were held in two stages. The first stage was held on December 26, 2004, and the second stage was held on January 9, 2005. A joint session of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis was held on January 28, 2005, at which the deputies and senators of the new bicameral Oliy Majlis actually began their activities. The First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov delivered a keynote speech at the joint session, in which he outlined a clear concept of democratization and renewal of society, as well as the main tasks of modernization of the state system [6].

Most importantly, although the legislative process has become much more complicated, the quality of adopted laws has significantly increased. The role of political parties in the adoption of laws has increased. The practice of preliminary consideration of draft laws by party factions and mandatory hearing of their opinions when discussing draft legal documents at plenary sessions of the Legislative Chamber has been formed. The parliament, formed as a democratic body representing the interests of citizens, occupying a worthy place in the system of state authorities, has been an active initiator and participant in reforms aimed at building a people-oriented state.

CONCLUSION

The parliamentary system of Uzbekistan has undergone significant transformation since independence in 1991. Moving from the Supreme Council to a unicameral Oliy Majlis and subsequently to a bicameral structure reflects the country's commitment to institutional reform. Each stage brought improvements in legislative quality and broader representation. The establishment of the bicameral system in 2005 marked a major milestone, creating a more balanced framework for lawmaking and oversight. These foundational reforms laid the groundwork for the further modernization of parliamentary activities in subsequent years.

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