

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AS A SOURCE OF
NATIONAL PRIDE AND CIVIC CONFIDENCE**

Usmonova Feruza Ilhom kizi

English language teacher, Specialized state comprehensive school №5,
city, Tashkent region

Abstract: This article explores the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, focusing on its unique structural features, its similarities and differences compared to the fundamental laws of other nations, and its significant role in shaping statehood and social development. In addition, the author presents their own analytical opinion on the importance of the Constitution in modern Uzbek society.

Keywords: Basic Law, referendum, human rights, sovereignty, democracy.

The Constitution of every nation serves as a central unifying force, and Uzbekistan is no exception. Just as the country's flag, emblem, and anthem exist as singular national symbols, the Constitution also stands as the sole and supreme legal foundation of the state. Each of these symbols embodies the values, aspirations, and collective identity of the Uzbek people. Consequently, the Constitution holds a deeply meaningful and irreplaceable place in the life of every citizen.

A notable characteristic found in some countries is the adoption of constitutions through national referendums. While this reflects a high level of democratic participation, public involvement in such cases is generally limited to either approving or rejecting the text. In contrast, the Constitution of Uzbekistan underwent two rounds of nationwide public discussion, during which more than six thousand proposals and comments were submitted. This level of civic engagement illustrates the depth of public interest and responsibility in shaping the country's Basic Law.

The Constitution was adopted with the objective of ensuring a dignified standard of living for the people, establishing a democratic rule-of-law state, strengthening social harmony, and maintaining peace. Thus, its core mission is human-centered: to create conditions that support individual well-being, justice, and societal progress.

Another distinctive feature acknowledged by international constitutional experts is the fact that the document begins with the words "The People of Uzbekistan." This formulation is rare among global constitutions and serves as a powerful reflection of popular sovereignty. Article 7 further reinforces this principle by declaring that state authority derives exclusively from the people.

The frequent use of key terms such as "democracy" and "people" throughout the text (appearing 7 and 24 times respectively) demonstrates the Constitution's strong emphasis on civic rights, participatory governance, and the prioritization of human interests.

Comparative analyses carried out by Western scholars, based on the study of 190 state constitutions and 70 thematic dimensions, affirm that Uzbekistan's Constitution is modern, human-oriented, and reform-driven.

In my opinion, the active engagement of the population in the constitutional drafting process and the document's emphasis on human dignity make it not only a legal foundation but also a symbol

of national unity, civic awareness, and progressive statehood. Today, the Constitution continues to serve as a guiding force for social transformation and institutional development in Uzbekistan.

According to comparative constitutional studies, Uzbekistan's Constitution demonstrates a relatively broad thematic coverage, achieving an index score of 0.59. This indicator surpasses many influential constitutional systems. For example, the Austrian Constitution scored 0.57, the U.S. Constitution 0.49, and the constitutional documents of the United Kingdom 0.43. Such comparisons illustrate that Uzbekistan's Basic Law addresses a wider range of societal and governance-related subjects, confirming its comprehensive nature.

A central feature of the Constitution of Uzbekistan is its strong emphasis on human interests. A close examination of the document reveals that its entire structure and content are oriented toward serving the individual. Nowhere in the Constitution can one find provisions prioritizing "the supremacy of the state over the citizen" or statements implying that "citizens must unquestioningly fulfill the will of the state." Instead, the Constitution underscores the principle that "the state expresses the will of the people and serves their interests." It further establishes that government bodies and officials bear responsibility before society and the citizen, and that the state must guarantee the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution and laws.

The humanistic orientation of the Constitution is also noteworthy. It places special emphasis on the protection of minors, individuals lacking professional capacity, and elderly citizens who live alone. Furthermore, it tasks the state and society with ensuring the care, upbringing, and education of orphans and children deprived of parental guardianship. Charitable activities aimed at supporting children are also strongly encouraged, reinforcing the social commitment embedded in the Basic Law.

Another significant characteristic of Uzbekistan's Constitution is its institutional stability. Despite the passage of 27 years, the core principles—fundamental human rights and freedoms, norms regulating individual and social relations, and the foundations of the administrative-territorial and state structure—have remained unchanged. Although 10 amendments have been introduced, they primarily concern the organization of state power and seek to expand the direct and indirect participation of citizens in governance. These reforms aim to strengthen popular sovereignty and reinforce mechanisms of democratic decision-making.

Ancient Roman jurists emphasized that laws should be concise yet meaningful. For comparison, the Indian Constitution contains approximately 146,385 words, the U.S. Constitution 7,762 words, and the French Constitution around 10,180 words. In contrast, the Constitution of Uzbekistan comprises only 7,550 words, demonstrating a concise but effective legal structure that avoids excessive verbosity while maintaining clarity and comprehensiveness.

It is important to highlight that drafting a Constitution competitive with those of the world's most advanced nations is only one aspect of constitutional development. The more crucial dimension lies in ensuring the practical implementation of this legal document in everyday life. The true value of the Constitution is fully realized only when its norms operate effectively and consistently guide state institutions and societal behavior.

Classical jurisprudence states that "the law is written for conscious and informed individuals, not for those who remain in ignorance," and that "those who fail to exercise their rights bear responsibility for the consequences." This principle remains relevant today. Therefore, it is

essential that every citizen understands and actively utilizes the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and national legislation.

In my view, the effectiveness of the Constitution ultimately depends not only on its text but also on the legal culture, awareness, and civic responsibility of the population. A society that knows its rights and fulfills its obligations contributes directly to the development of a just, accountable, and democratic state.

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