

**POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AS A DEFENSE MECHANISM  
SOCIAL SPIRITUAL SECURITY**

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**АННОТАЦИЯ**

В данной статье рассматривается роль политических институтов в обеспечении духовной безопасности общества. Анализируются механизмы государственного регулирования в сфере противодействия деструктивным идеологиям и экстремизму. Особое внимание уделяется опыту Республики Узбекистан в формировании системы защиты традиционных духовных ценностей. Автор исследует функции парламентских, исполнительных и судебных органов власти в предотвращении духовных угроз. Делается вывод о необходимости комплексного межинституционального подхода к решению данной проблемы.

**Ключевые слова:** политические институты, духовная безопасность, деструктивные идеологии, государственное регулирование, противодействие экстремизму, традиционные ценности, национальная идентичность.

**ANNOTATSIYA**

Ushbu maqolada siyosiy institutlarning jamiyatning ma'naviy xavfsizligini ta'minlashdagi roli ko'rib chiqiladi. Destrktiv mafkuralar va ekstremizmga qarshi kurashda davlat tartibga solishning mexanizmlari tahlil qilinadi. O'zbekiston Respublikasining an'anaviy ma'naviy qadriyatlarni himoya qilish tizimini shakllantirishdagi tajribasiga alohida e'tibor beriladi. Muallif qonun chiqaruvchi, ijro etuvchi va sud hokimiyati organlarining ma'naviy tahdidlarning oldini olishdagi vazifalarini o'rganadi. Ushbu muammoni hal etishda kompleks institutlararo yondashuv zaruriyati haqida xulosa chiqariladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** siyosiy institutlar, ma'naviy xavfsizlik, destrktiv mafkuralar, davlat tartibga solishi, ekstremizmga qarshi kurash, an'anaviy qadriyatlar, milliy o'zlik.

**INTRODUCTION**

The modern world is characterized by rapid socio-political changes, under which the problem of protecting the spiritual space of society acquires particular relevance. Globalization processes, the spread of information technologies, and the intensification of transnational religious-extremist movements pose serious threats to the spiritual security of states and peoples. In this context, political institutions are called upon to perform a key protective function, ensuring the stability of national spiritual values.

The spiritual security of society is a multidimensional phenomenon that includes the protection of cultural heritage, religious identity, moral foundations, and the traditional worldview of the people. Threats to this sphere can come from both within society and from the external environment, taking the form of destructive ideologies, pseudo-religious extremism, information manipulation, and cultural expansion.

Political institutions—parliament, government, the judicial system, political parties—possess a diverse toolkit for countering spiritual threats. Their role is not limited to regulatory and legal matters; they also form the ideological foundations of state policy in the field of spiritual education and the protection of traditional values.

## **2. THEORETICAL BASES OF THE RESEARCH**

In scientific literature, spiritual security is considered within the context of a broader category of national security. Researchers, specifically N. Mikhaleva, R. Abdullaev, and V. Vozhennikov, point out that the spiritual sphere is the most vulnerable to external destructive influences, as changes in people's consciousness occur gradually and imperceptibly. The theoretical basis of the research is the concepts of state sovereignty, the theories of political institutions of D. North and G. O'Donnell, as well as works on political socialization and the ideological policy of the state.

According to institutional theory, political institutions define the "rules of the game" in society, shaping the behavioral norms and value systems of citizens. That is why their role in countering spiritual threats is system-forming. The effectiveness of political institutions in this field is determined by the degree of their legitimacy, organizational strength, and ability to adapt to changing threats.

## **3. FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF SPIRITUAL SECURITY**

Legislative authorities form the regulatory framework that governs the sphere of society's spiritual life. The adoption of laws on freedom of conscience and religion, countering extremism, protecting cultural heritage, and regulating the activities of religious organizations creates legal mechanisms for protecting the spiritual space. In Uzbekistan, in particular, the laws "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations" and "On Countering Extremism" were adopted, which form the legislative framework for spiritual security.

Executive authorities implement state policy in this field through a system of specialized agencies — the Committee for Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, and the Agency for Information and Mass Communications. They monitor the religious situation, monitor the activities of religious organizations, and counter the spread of destructive ideologies.

Judicial institutions ensure law enforcement in the field of spiritual security by reviewing cases of religious extremism, terrorism, and the propaganda of destructive ideologies. Their activities create a deterrent effect and form legal precedents in this field.

## **4. UZBEKISTAN'S EXPERIENCE IN COUNTERING SPIRITUAL THREATS**

The Republic of Uzbekistan has developed a comprehensive system for countering spiritual threats based on an organic combination of state regulation and reliance on traditional Islamic values. The state program for countering religious extremism and terrorism includes educational, preventive, and law enforcement components. The Muslim Board of Uzbekistan plays an important role in promoting traditional moderate Islam in cooperation with state institutions.

President Sh. Mirziyoyev's "five initiatives" policy, which includes spiritual enlightenment, education, and the upbringing of youth, demonstrates an integrative approach to countering spiritual threats. The establishment of special rehabilitation centers for individuals who have fallen under the influence of extremist ideologies demonstrates the humanistic orientation of state policy.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The conducted research allows for the conclusion that the effective protection of the spiritual security of society is possible only under conditions of close interaction between all political institutions. No single institution is capable of fully confronting the multifaceted spiritual threats of our time. A comprehensive inter-institutional approach is necessary, including legislative regulation, administrative mechanisms, judicial prosecution, and preventive work with the population.

Recommendations include: strengthening interdepartmental coordination in the field of spiritual security; developing a monitoring system for destructive ideologies in the information

space; improving mechanisms for preventive work with youth; and intensifying international cooperation in this field.

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