



**RESTORATION OF NATIONAL SPIRITUAL VALUES
AND WAYS OF THEIR EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION**

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Abstract:

This article discusses the process of changing the value system in the modern era, in many ways, the formation of high spirituality, a radical change in people's attitude to their lives, livelihoods and activities, the formation of a new way of thinking and worldview in them. Scientific ideas are presented about the comprehensive development of a person, increasing the status of the value factor, qualitatively improving the spiritual and moral image of a person, the educational criteria that affect him.

Keywords: spirituality, value, historical memory, spiritual development.

The idea of “New Uzbekistan” has marked an entirely new stage in the country’s development, characterized by a renewed focus on rediscovering national identity and achieving spiritual elevation. National moral values represent the traditions, customs, ancient ideas, and philosophical outlooks that shape the nation’s spiritual consciousness, cultural heritage, and collective mentality. They play a decisive role in ensuring the moral stability and sustainable progress of society.

In the context of New Uzbekistan, the revival of values that constitute the spiritual core of the nation, their reinterpretation in harmony with the demands of modern life, and—most importantly—their deep inculcation in the consciousness of the younger generation have been designated as an urgent state priority. This process is being realized not only through the education and enlightenment systems but also through the cooperation of the broader public, intellectuals, mass media, and cultural and academic institutions. Indeed, spirituality is not merely a reflection on the past; it is a means of building the future on the foundation of enlightenment.

The concept of national spiritual values is a complex socio-philosophical phenomenon that emerges at the intersection of nationality, spirituality, and values.



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It embodies the historical memory, cultural heritage, customs, traditions, and moral consciousness of the people, occupying a central place in the life of society. National values serve as a moral compass that directs the individual and society toward humanism, unity, patriotism, justice, honesty, and a sense of duty. These values form not only the foundation of moral and ethical upbringing but also the cornerstone of societal stability and progress.

National values are not formed instantly; they evolve over centuries through generations of experience, historical trials, and lived realities. As society develops, values are enriched with new meanings and adapt to changing social needs, yet their essential core—embodying the noble qualities, faith, and spiritual resilience of the people—remains unchanged. In this sense, national spiritual values are an invaluable heritage that encapsulates a people's historical memory, identity, and universal ideals. Preserving, restoring, and transmitting them to future generations is both a moral duty and a social responsibility. History demonstrates that when a nation loses its spiritual identity, its decline becomes inevitable. The crisis of values leads to moral decay, and moral decay, in turn, can bring about the disintegration of an entire civilization—a truth confirmed repeatedly throughout human history.

The national values of the Uzbek people have developed on the basis of an ancient civilization and a rich historical legacy. Central Asia has long been recognized as a cradle of great cultures, and the moral and ethical foundations established here have profoundly shaped the worldview and spiritual essence of our nation. The preservation and glorification of historical memory have become among the main priorities of Uzbekistan's state policy since independence. Although the nation's ancient values endured numerous trials under various conquests and foreign dominations, the people safeguarded them in their hearts and transmitted them across generations.

For example, even during the Soviet period—when religious devotion, national customs, and traditions were restricted or persecuted—our people managed to preserve such essential moral values as respect for elders, kindness toward the young, hospitality, and community cooperation (hashar) within the family and neighborhood (mahalla) environment.



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With the advent of independence, this historical memory was revived, and the memory of great ancestors began to be honored internationally. Among these initiatives were the following:

- The 660th anniversary of Amir Temur (1996);
- The 2500th anniversaries of Bukhara and Khiva (1997);
- The 1225th anniversary of Imam al-Bukhari (1998);
- The 800th anniversary of the brave hero Jaloliddin Manguberdi (1999);
- The 2700th anniversary of the sacred Zoroastrian scripture “Avesta” (2001).

Such commemorations awakened in the people a sense of belonging to their millennia-old civilizational heritage, strengthening national pride and self-consciousness. Thus, historical heritage has served as a solid foundation for national values, continuously enriching their meaning and substance.

After gaining independence, Uzbekistan implemented wide-ranging reforms aimed at restoring and developing national-spiritual values. The state leadership recognized spiritual and cultural heritage as a key pillar of social development and national identity, focusing attention on its preservation, revitalization, and promotion. National and religious holidays such as Navruz, Eid al-Adha, and Ramadan, which had been banned during the Soviet era, were officially reinstated. Respect for Islam and the moral heritage of our ancestors was revived, with the construction of new mosques, madrasas, shrines, and memorial complexes. Monuments dedicated to great figures such as Imam al-Bukhari, Amir Temur, and Ahmad Farg‘oni were established. In this way, the nation’s sacred symbols and spiritual heritage were restored, historical memory was reawakened, and feelings of national identity and pride were further strengthened.

State policy and legislation have played a vital role in restoring national values. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan enshrined the protection and development of cultural heritage as one of the state’s key duties, thereby solidifying the legal foundations of this sphere. In particular, the adoption of the Law “On Freedom of Conscience” guaranteed citizens the right to adhere to their religion, customs, and beliefs. The introduction of the academic discipline “The Idea of National Independence and the Foundations of Spirituality” into the educational



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curriculum was aimed at instilling national pride, historical consciousness, and moral values in students' minds.

Today, within the framework of New Uzbekistan's policy, the issue of spiritual revival has entered a new phase. Under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the Republican Council for Spirituality and Enlightenment has been established, and systematic measures are being undertaken to ensure the effective coordination of its activities. The "Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2022–2026" identifies "ensuring spiritual development" as its fifth strategic priority.

Within this framework, several key tasks have been defined, including:

- Establishing a comprehensive system of spiritual education within families and communities (mahallas);
- Utilizing national and religious values effectively in shaping the legal culture and civic responsibility of youth;
- Integrating national spirituality and historical heritage more deeply into the content of education.

The Law "On Cultural Activities and Cultural Organizations" (2021) also elevated state support for cultural institutions to a strategic level. Financial allocations for the cultural sphere have increased severalfold, and special funds have been established to protect and promote cultural heritage. Scientific research institutes and cultural centers have been established to study and popularize the nation's legacy.

Globalization has also exerted a powerful influence on the spiritual life of New Uzbekistan. Experts note with concern that under the growing influence of mass culture, some traditional values are losing their authentic essence. Indeed, through the internet, social networks, and global media, Western lifestyles, individualism, materialistic attitudes, and the normalization of moral permissiveness are being actively promoted—posing serious challenges to national consciousness and collective identity. Among youth, certain tendencies have emerged: declining interest in national dress, alienation from customs, and excessive preference for foreign languages in daily communication.

Of course, globalization is an irreversible evolutionary process. However, how a nation responds to it depends directly on its spiritual policy. Uzbekistan has chosen its own distinctive and balanced path—living in harmony with global progress



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without losing its national identity. As President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has emphasized: “Only those who master Western knowledge while being educated in the spirit of national values can truly serve the cause of genuine progress.” This statement expresses the state’s policy aimed at achieving moral stability and nurturing a young generation capable of keeping pace with global progress while remaining deeply rooted in its national identity.

The preservation and further development of national spiritual values are among the key priorities of New Uzbekistan. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has advanced the idea of building New Uzbekistan as an enlightened society and the foundation of a “Third Renaissance,” charting a strategic course of development based on the harmony of science and spirituality.

A number of promising initiatives have been launched in this direction. For instance, the establishment of the Museum-Center of Jadid Heritage in Bukhara and the publication of the Jadid scholarly journal aim to research and promote the ideas of the early 20th-century Uzbek reformers. Likewise, the Center for Islamic Civilization being constructed in Tashkent is designed to study and promote the vast intellectual and spiritual legacy of our ancestors through modern scientific and information technologies.

State attention to culture and the arts has also grown significantly. In 2023, funding for these sectors increased fivefold compared to 2017, confirming a strategic approach to cultural development. Within special programs for the advancement of theatres, museums, and libraries, 11 new museums, 2 theatres, 28 children’s music and art schools, and 5 new higher education institutions have been established in recent years. These initiatives not only ensure the moral and spiritual enrichment of society but also directly contribute to educating the younger generation in national values and fostering their appreciation of cultural heritage.

The process of restoring spiritual values cannot be limited to political decisions or legal frameworks. It is closely linked to deep transformations in human consciousness and thinking. Spiritual awakening means that every member of society acquires a life philosophy grounded in the harmony of national spirit and universal values.



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For this reason, special attention is devoted to the upbringing of the younger generation in New Uzbekistan. Developing their critical and creative thinking skills, familiarizing them closely with national history, literature, art, and culture have become among the top priorities. Through these efforts, young people are being nurtured as well-rounded individuals capable of engaging equally with representatives of world civilization, participating actively in the global arena while remaining firmly rooted in their national identity.