

Civil Relations Between the Republics of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan During the Years of Independence

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Abstract

The article provides information about the development of civil relations between the Republics of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan during the years of independence.

Key words: *Sh. Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan, Republic of Kazakhstan, "Year of Uzbekistan", UN, March 13, 2018, City of Astana, "2018 Year in Kazakhstan - Year of Uzbekistan".*

Introduction

Since the early years of Uzbekistan's independence, serious attention has been paid to issues of interethnic relations in Central Asia. Our esteemed leader Sh. Mirziyoyev emphasized that "During the complex periods of the new history, stability and security have been preserved in the region, and conflicts that have arisen have not been allowed to escalate into confrontations between major states" [1: September 7, 2018]. In 1990–1991, conflicts among nationalities in Uzbekistan were successfully resolved.

MAIN PART

"We have embarked on implementing a Central Asian – key vector policy in Uzbekistan's foreign policy. As a result, a completely new political environment has been created in our region, and relations based on mutual trust and good neighborliness are being strengthened" [2: December 23, 2018]. It is possible to observe the flourishing of civil relations with the Republic of Kazakhstan, one of our closest allies.

In 2018, "Year of Uzbekistan" was declared in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Throughout this year, numerous events, forums, and congresses were held in Kazakhstan in the political, economic,

cultural-educational, humanitarian, and other areas. Among them, on December 12, 2018, the "Days of Uzbekistan's Civilization" were held in the city of Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan. The implementation of this event was envisaged in the "Regulation on Practical Measures for the Celebration of the Year of Uzbekistan in Kazakhstan" approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on March 10, 2018 [3: December 10, 2018]. Significant opportunities in the field of culture are being realized in our country. In response to this, a delegation of 70 Uzbek artists, poets, and dancers participated in this event.

One of the beautiful and historical places of our beloved homeland, located in the land of Shakhrisabz, is the magnificent Oqsaroy Square, founded by our great ancestor Amir Temur, where the International Symposium on Folk Art took place. Our President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev expressed special gratitude to the distinguished guests who participated in the celebration today, including representatives of influential international organizations such as UNESCO, the Asian Folklore Creation Organization, and others. We also express our gratitude to the advisor to the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Ilyich Tolstoy, the advisor to the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sultanbay Rayev, the Minister of Culture and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan Arstanbek Mukhammedovich, the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan Shamsiddin Urumbeckzoda, the Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan Abdulhas Garey, and the first deputy minister of culture and tourism of the Republic of Turkey Ahmad Khaluk Dursun [4: September 7, 2018].

This congratulation of our esteemed leader is a demonstration of attention to the guests from the Central Asian states and the activity of cultural centers.

Today, the Central Asian states are actively working to strengthen their independence and define their place in the world community. The contribution of Uzbekistan and the Central Asian states to the general development cannot be underestimated, and determining the size of the legacy left by these countries is very important. Indeed, as the First President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov stated: "It is known from history that in the Central Asian region, people have lived in oases and large water bodies - rivers and lakes. The area with complex natural and climatic conditions, surrounded by mountains and cities, has been inhabited for thousands of years, and peoples have adapted to each other, become close neighbors, and prevented each other's intrusion" [5: September 7, 2008].

Uzbekistan and the Central Asian states continue to strengthen and deepen their relations, friendship, and brotherhood, both internally and externally. However, the great desire for cooperation between these peoples is clear evidence that the caravan of relations is moving forward on its own path.

Lamberto Zannier, the High Commissioner for National Minorities of the OSCE, visiting Uzbekistan, noted: "Your country has opened borders with your neighbors, people can see each other. All these interactions have a positive impact on interethnic relations" [6: B. 9.].

In 2018, "Year of Uzbekistan" was declared in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Throughout the year, numerous events, forums, congresses, and other events were held in Kazakhstan in political, economic, cultural-educational, humanitarian, and other areas. The Minister of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Bakhodir Sayfullayev, emphasized in an interview with the People's Word newspaper on March 13, 2018, that "in Uzbekistan, with the celebration of the 2018 Year - Year of Uzbekistan, a series of cultural and educational events are being implemented, as well as good deeds are being highlighted."

A captivating exhibition showcasing over 400 products of Uzbek artisans is being held in the city of Osh. This grand display, dedicated to the Uzbekistan Year in Kazakhstan's capital, is undoubtedly a

testament to the rich culture and enduring artistry of Uzbekistan. The strengthening of friendly ties further emphasizes the pivotal role of the art of words – literature. Encounters between writers from the city of Olmaliota and Uzbek literary figures, creative exchanges, and mutual inspiration between two peoples' pens, all hold significant importance in the enrichment of literary events.

The Uzbek National Academic Drama Theater embarked on a journey to the city of Chimkent. The fervent participation of Uzbek artisans in the exhibition "National Attire of Uzbek Women and Folk Applied Arts Exhibition" in Osh, as well as the workshops on "Skill Development for the Preparation of Uzbek National Dishes" held in Olmaliota during the "2018 Year of Uzbekistan in Kazakhstan," left an indelible impression.

The city of Turkestan hosted the "Folklore Expeditions" and the creative journey of the Republic Youth Theater to Olmaliota. Likewise, the participation of artistic groups and performers in the "Osh Festival," which echoes national traditions and celebrates our heritage, provides ample opportunities for their expression. Moreover, throughout the year, international exhibitions, conferences, seminars, and engaging cultural and educational events were organized in our country. The involvement of our filmmakers in the International "EuroAsia" Film Festival, the presence of Uzbek writers at the World Congress of Authors, the participation of Uzbek writers in the "Cultural Facade of Olmaliota" International Scientific and Practical Conference, the contributions of Uzbek writers to the International Forum of Children's Writers, the "20th Anniversary of Olmaliota: 20 Libraries of Olmaliota" project, and the "Olmaliota 2018 – The Cultural Capital of EuroAsia" International Festival, especially the participation of Uzbek librarians, are evidence of the ongoing efforts in the field of librarianship in our country.

In addition, in cities such as Taraz, Chimkent, Kyzylorda, and Turkestan, Uzbek cinema days were organized, the "Modern Uzbekistan" photo exhibition by Kazakh artists, the Uzbek visual arts exhibition, and concerts featuring Uzbek artistic groups and performers were held in Turkestan, Kyzylorda, and Saryogoch. Furthermore, a cooperation memorandum was signed between the "Korme" Exhibition Center in the city of Osh and the State Art Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan named after A. Kasteev and the State Art Museum of the Republic of Karakalpakstan named after I. Savitsky. According to this, exhibitions and exchanges of cooperation will be regularly organized, and information about the activities of museums will be disseminated through exhibitions based on mutual agreements.

Furthermore, initiatives to organize events and exhibitions related to Uzbek culture and heritage in Kazakhstan contribute to further strengthening the cultural ties between the two countries. In this regard, the personal exhibition of the famous Kazakh artist Batukhan Baymen in Tashkent, the events "Olmaliota Province Days in Uzbekistan" and "Atlas Bayrami" International Tourism Festival held in Tashkent and Andijan, the "Istedod" II International Competition in Academic Choral Singing, the "Navruz Sadolari" IV International Festival of Multi-Voice Folk Ensembles and Orchestras, and international conferences on "International Folk Art" where representatives and artists from Uzbekistan participate. Additionally, on April 25, 2018, the opening ceremony of the "III EuroAsia International Book Fair" was held at the "Korme" Exhibition Center in the city of Osh, Republic of Kazakhstan. According to the plan of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan's Publishing and Information Agency, the Uzbekistan National Encyclopedia named after "Alisher Navoi," the Uzbekistan National Library, and the "Sharq" Publishing and Printing Joint-Stock Company, the Uzbekistan National Library and the "Sharq" Publishing and Printing Joint-Stock

Company, "Yangi Asr Avlodi" Publishing and Printing Centers and "Hilol Nashr" Publishing and Printing Enterprises, as well as more than five hundred socially, politically, culturally, educationally, scientifically and artistically significant works were exhibited.

Then, the State Secretary of the Republic of Uzbekistan Gulshara Abdikhaliyeva, the Mayor of the city of Osh Aset Isekeshv, together with Uzbekistan's Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan Saidikrom Niyozkhodjayev, highlighted the continued development of the longstanding friendship and strategic partnership between our countries in a new phase of cooperation.

Another notable event was the international tournament on "Chol Shamshiri," dedicated to the medieval art of sword fighting, where representatives from Uzbekistan, Russia, Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan participated jointly with Uzbek delegates.

The creative minds of the Uzbek National Academic Drama Theater embarked on a journey to the city of Chimkent. Additionally, the "National Attire of Uzbek Women and Folk Applied Arts Exhibition" in the city of Osh and the workshops on "Skill Development for the Preparation of Uzbek National Dishes" held in Olmaliota showcased the dedication of artisans to the national art.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, in accordance with the new Constitution, "The people of Uzbekistan are the creators of the state," and all citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, regardless of nationality, enjoy the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Basic Law. The policy pursued in interethnic relations in our country plays a significant role in strengthening regional cooperation based on several objective reasons. First, Uzbekistan, located in Central Asia, is a neighbor to many regional states, including Kazakhstan. Second, representatives of all ethnic groups in the country have demonstrated solidarity. Third, ethnic Uzbeks constitute a significant proportion of the population in the Central Asian countries. Therefore, Uzbekistan's relations with Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries are among the most crucial aspects of regional security, mutual political trust, and civilizational connections.

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