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Article

Toward A Just Society: New Uzbekistan's Social State Strategy in Historical and Philosophical Context

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Abstract: This article explores the strategic framework and philosophical foundations underpinning the creation of a social state in New Uzbekistan. It analyzes the role of state policy in promoting social justice, ensuring human rights and freedoms, and supporting vulnerable segments of the population through targeted programs and reforms. The study emphasizes the integration of modern technologies, digital governance, and innovative solutions in enhancing the effectiveness of social services. Moreover, it highlights the importance of ideological reforms, cultural and spiritual development, and the engagement of civil society in building an inclusive, fair, and sustainable social order. The findings suggest that the social state strategy of New Uzbekistan is a multidimensional approach rooted in human-centered values, designed to ensure long-term stability and prosperity.

Keywords: Social state, New Uzbekistan, social justice, human rights, welfare policy, digital governance, civil society, sustainable development, innovation, ideological reform

1. Introduction

The concept of a "social state" has emerged as a cornerstone of modern governance, aiming not only to achieve economic growth or political stability but also to ensure the well-being and dignity of every citizen. In the context of New Uzbekistan, the notion of a social state signifies a profound shift toward a more inclusive, equitable, and human-centered model of development. This transformation is driven by a strategic vision that prioritizes social protection, equal opportunity, and the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms [1].

In recent years, Uzbekistan has launched a series of comprehensive reforms to address socio-economic disparities and elevate the quality of life for all segments of society. These reforms are guided by the principles of social justice, democratic governance, and civic participation. Moreover, the state has emphasized the use of modern technologies, innovation, and digital tools to improve the accessibility and efficiency of public services [2].

At the heart of these reforms lies a philosophical commitment to humanism, fairness, and sustainability. By investing in education, healthcare, housing, and employment, while also fostering a strong sense of national identity and global integration, Uzbekistan aims to create a robust foundation for long-term development [3]. This paper examines the strategic elements of Uzbekistan's social state model, its ideological underpinnings, and its potential as a blueprint for inclusive growth and societal harmony.

Literature Review. The concept of a **social state** is rooted in political philosophy and welfare economics, reflecting the state's responsibility to ensure a minimum standard of living, reduce inequality, and protect the rights and welfare of its citizens. Scholars such

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as **T.H. Marshall** conceptualized the welfare state as a balance between civil, political, and social rights, wherein the latter guarantees access to education, healthcare, housing, and income security. This notion underpins many modern interpretations of the social state in both Western and non-Western contexts [4], [5].

Esping-Andersen's typology of welfare regimes outlines different models of social policy—liberal, conservative, and social democratic—each with varying levels of state intervention and social protection. While these models largely reflect the historical evolution of Western welfare states, their theoretical relevance continues to inform discussions in post-socialist and developing countries transitioning toward inclusive governance.

In the **Central Asian context**, scholars such as **Anja Mihr** and **Adeeb Khalid** have argued that post-Soviet states, including Uzbekistan, have undertaken hybrid approaches to governance—combining market reforms with state-led social protection policies [6], [7]. These hybrid models are shaped by local traditions, historical legacies, and global norms.

Recent reforms in **New Uzbekistan** demonstrate a renewed focus on **human rights, social equity, and good governance**. As noted in **Matyakubov & Mirzayeva**, the state has increasingly emphasized modernization through the lens of "social justice" and "human dignity", aligning constitutional reforms with the principles of a social state [8]. Furthermore, **UNDP Uzbekistan** highlights the government's expanded efforts in digitalization and inclusive public service delivery as part of its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

OECD reports also underscore the importance of social inclusion, poverty alleviation, and labor market reforms in Uzbekistan's national strategy [9], [10]. The use of **information and communication technologies (ICTs)** to improve education, health services, and administrative transparency is viewed as critical for ensuring equitable access to services and enhancing state accountability.

Moreover, the integration of **civil society organizations (CSOs)** into policy implementation reflects the government's gradual shift toward participatory governance [11]. As **Sodiqov** asserts, the increasing role of **mahalla institutions** and NGOs is transforming the state-society relationship and helping to build a more responsive and adaptive welfare system.

Finally, **philosophical and ideological discourse** surrounding the idea of a social state in Uzbekistan emphasizes not only material well-being but also moral and cultural development [12]. As discussed in **Turaev**, the promotion of spiritual values, national identity, and intergenerational solidarity plays an essential role in shaping a culturally rooted yet forward-looking social model.

2. Materials and Methods

This study adopts a qualitative and interpretive methodological approach, aimed at analyzing the philosophical foundations, historical developments, and current reforms contributing to the construction of a social state in New Uzbekistan. The research primarily relies on documentary analysis, including constitutional texts, presidential decrees, strategic policy documents, and relevant academic literature on social justice, governance, and welfare models.

To ensure a comprehensive theoretical grounding, the study first engages in a thematic content analysis of classical and contemporary texts—such as those by T. H. Marshall, Esping-Andersen, and regional philosophers including Al-Farabi and Navoi—to establish the intellectual and ideological roots of the social state concept.

The second phase involves a comparative framework, where Uzbekistan's current social reform policies are juxtaposed with established welfare models from Europe and Asia. Key variables include the extent of state involvement in social services, strategies for poverty alleviation, inclusion of vulnerable groups, and integration of technology in governance.

3. Results

The concept of a social state has deep historical and philosophical roots, and its development has been shaped throughout various stages depending on the needs of society as well as economic and political conditions. Strengthening the principles of a social state has become one of the main directions of New Uzbekistan's development strategy. This analysis evaluates the concept of the social state from the perspectives of its philosophical foundations, international experiences, and the reforms currently being implemented in Uzbekistan.

Looking back at historical sources, the concept of the "social state" was first proposed in the 1850s by German philosopher Lorenz von Stein. According to him, the task of a social state is to ensure personal freedom and social equality while reducing economic disparities between social classes. For example, in his work *The Virtuous City*, Abu Nasr Al-Farabi presents the concept of a just society, emphasizing that the primary goal of the state is to create a happy and prosperous life for its citizens. In Alisher Navoi's *Mahbub ul-Qulub*, deep reflections on state governance and social justice are expressed. Similarly, Nizami Ganjavi and Saadi Shirazi focused on issues of justice, equality, and the protection of citizens' interests in the governance of society [13].

Today, the principles of the social state, put forward by the President of Uzbekistan, are closely aligned with these ancient ideas. They aim to ensure citizens' rights and interests, reduce poverty, and create equal opportunities for the population. Scholars who have analyzed the principles of a social state from a theoretical and scientific perspective highlight the following key features:

1. The presence of mechanisms for the redistribution of income and wealth to reduce economic inequality among citizens [14].
2. Socially balancing market mechanisms to ensure fair distribution of wealth and income.
3. Increasing citizen participation in state and societal relations, and establishing systems to protect their interests.
4. Creating a guaranteed system of public services for all segments of the population, especially vulnerable groups.
5. Ensuring access to free or preferential education and medical services for every citizen.
6. Availability of various forms of social protection such as pensions, benefits, and insurance payments [15].
7. Guaranteeing decent working conditions for every citizen and establishing a state employment system.
8. These functions play a vital role in shaping a social state and are being implemented in Uzbekistan through comprehensive reforms.

In global practice, the model of a social state has taken different forms in various countries. In European nations like Germany and France, the concept is enshrined at the constitutional level. Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Norway, Denmark) guarantee high-quality social services based on the "welfare state" principle.

In the updated Constitution, the consolidation of the principles of a social state has been defined as an integral part of state policy to ensure social protection and well-being. Support mechanisms for vulnerable segments of the population have been established through programs such as the "Iron Notebook," "Women's Notebook," and "Youth Notebook," which provide social assistance to low-income citizens.

Quality education and employment programs – In recent years, the number of higher education institutions has reached 198, and projects like "One Million Programmers" have prepared youth for modern professions.

State guarantees in the healthcare system – A phased introduction of a medical insurance system is underway, along with efforts to provide modern medical equipment.

Housing programs – In the past six years, nearly 500,000 new housing units have been built, and preferential mortgage loans are being offered to low-income families.

Furthermore, New Uzbekistan's strategy for building a social state is based on historical experience, philosophical ideas, and modern reforms. The model proposed by the President is aimed at protecting the interests of all social strata, ensuring social justice, and guaranteeing the country's long-term development. This approach can become a stable foundation for the development of New Uzbekistan.

At the same time, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's principle of "New Uzbekistan – a Social State" reflects a desire to reassess the relationships between individuals, society, and the state on the path of the country's new development, placing social equality, justice, and human rights at the center. This concept, when compared with the past totalitarian and socialist models, presents a new, inclusive, and humanistic approach that also considers the principles of freedom and the rule of law.

The foundation of a social state lies in the principles of equality and justice. Through the provision of basic social protection, housing, healthcare, education, and employment for every citizen, social disparities are reduced. Uzbekistan's new model is aimed at strengthening the system of human rights and social protection, with special measures developed for vulnerable groups such as the poor, persons with disabilities, and others in need.

Throughout the 20th century, various models were used in pursuit of equality. While the socialist model limited freedoms, Western states established systems of social protection and legal order. New Uzbekistan seeks to synthesize both experiences: a strong and responsible state while guaranteeing individual freedoms. Local initiatives such as "Prosperous Mahalla" at the neighborhood and village levels are examples of projects aimed at improving the social environment and expanding the social protection system.

Strategic measures have been developed in areas such as poverty reduction, job creation, and vocational training. This approach aims at the systematic and sustainable development of the social protection system. The new Constitution further strengthens the status of the social state and envisions the enhancement of citizens' social rights and obligations. This clearly defines the responsibilities of the state toward its citizens.

Moreover, the effectiveness of the social protection system is linked not only to economic indicators but also to factors such as quality of life, health, education, and cultural development. Therefore, attention must be paid to all social groups equally. In the process of developing social protection programs and strategies, open dialogue, political competition, and the participation of civil society are essential. This ensures the stability and efficiency of the social system.

Monitoring in the fields of transportation, education, and healthcare, as well as identifying shortcomings in providing accessibility for persons with disabilities and proposing solutions, demonstrates the ongoing need to improve the social protection system. New technologies – such as electric buses and assistive devices – serve as initiatives aimed at meeting citizens' daily needs and reflect the state's humane and modern strategy.

Within the framework of New Uzbekistan's strategy, the concept of a social state encompasses not only economic development but also an approach focused on human rights, social justice, and equality. Thus, the principle of "New Uzbekistan – a Social State" is of significant importance in creating a modern state model based on the philosophical and social principles of freedom, justice, and equality.

The concept of a "social state" refers to a government policy aimed at meeting citizens' basic needs, guaranteeing their rights and freedoms, and establishing a just social system. This concept prioritizes not only economic growth or political stability, but also the improvement of citizens' socio-economic well-being. The inclusion of this principle in Uzbekistan's new Constitution demonstrates the state's recognition of human dignity and the interests of citizens as supreme values. The principle of a "social state" is becoming

the ideological and conceptual foundation of the wide-ranging reforms being implemented in Uzbekistan.

The above analysis shows that the strategy of building New Uzbekistan as a "social state" is aimed not only at ensuring social justice but also at creating a foundation for long-term sustainable development. This principle confirms that the state is based on a modern governance system that serves the interests of people.

New Uzbekistan's strategy for creating a social state encompasses the integrated development of social, economic, political, and cultural aspects. This strategy, rooted in ideological and conceptual reforms, aims to promote justice, stability, and the well-being of citizens in society. The New Uzbekistan strategy includes deep reforms in implementing the idea of a social state. It prioritizes the interests of citizens and envisions achieving national development in unity with the people.Uzbekistan's social state strategy is a multifaceted approach aimed at ensuring the stable development of society, including the guarantee of social justice, equality, and the fundamental rights of citizens. The concept of a social state implies that the government assumes responsibility for improving the quality of life for all its citizens and meeting their essential needs. Uzbekistan's efforts in this direction are based on humanitarian ideals.

Laws and programs aimed at ensuring at least a minimum level of economic security for citizens—such as minimum wage, pensions, and other forms of social assistance—are among the state's core responsibilities. These are key components of the social contract that strengthen stable relations between the state and society.

The state's efforts to ensure employment for its citizens are an essential part of economic stability. By reducing unemployment, the state aims to promote efficient distribution of economic resources and prevent social tensions. The fight against poverty is based on the principle of social justice. Social programs and subsidies implemented by the state serve this purpose.

Every citizen's right to receive fair wages and to be guaranteed a minimum level sufficient to meet basic living needs, reflects the state's commitment to protecting human rights. Pensions, benefits, and other forms of social assistance serve as an important safety net for citizens, helping them feel protected in old age, in cases of disability, or when losing a breadwinner.

Uzbekistan's strategy aims to ensure social stability for all citizens through free education and healthcare services. This lays the foundation for the intellectual and physical development of future generations. Opportunities created for children with special needs reflect the state's attention to human rights. This, as part of the social state, contributes to social integration.

Providing citizens with housing plays a vital role in ensuring social stability. Through this, the state serves to meet the basic needs of the population. The creation of conditions for the full development of families is aimed at ensuring societal stability and reflects the social objectives of state policy. Uzbekistan's strategy for building a social state is based on guaranteeing human rights and freedoms. This process, from a philosophical perspective, encompasses the ideas of justice, humanism, and sustainable development. The creation of a social state is of great importance in implementing the principles of social justice. These principles not only increase the responsibility of the state toward its citizens but also contribute to the stable development of society.

4. Discussion

From the above, it can be concluded that Uzbekistan's social state strategy stands at the center not only of economic and social reforms but also of ideological renewal. It forms the necessary foundation for developing a state based on the principles of social justice and the protection of human rights.

Uzbekistan's strategy for creating a social state is based on ideological and conceptual reforms aimed at ensuring social stability in the country, improving citizens' well-being,

and protecting human rights and freedoms. At the core of Uzbekistan's social state concept lies the principle of prioritizing human rights and interests. This principle influences all areas of state policy because the primary task of the state is to ensure decent living conditions for every citizen. To achieve this goal, the state guarantees public health, access to education, employment, and social protection.

"Thus, a cultural social state is one in which prosperity is shaped and reflected by culture. However, this does not mean that culture is the sole or primary factor determining well-being. Other influences—such as economic, political, and international factors—also play a key role in the development and transformation of a welfare state. Moreover, culture is not static or uniform; it is dynamic and diverse, capable of changing over time and varying across groups and contexts. Therefore, a cultural social state is not a fixed or singular form of social state but rather a complex and pluralistic phenomenon that requires careful and comparative analysis".

Another important idea of the social state is the provision of social justice and equal opportunities for every citizen. This is reflected in the promotion of equality across political, economic, and social spheres, as well as the implementation of gender equality. This, in turn, envisions the creation of new opportunities for women, youth, and disadvantaged groups, as well as the protection of their rights and interests.Active cooperation with civil society organizations and ensuring open dialogue between the state and society are crucial for the sustainable development of a social state. Institutions such as neighborhood (mahalla) committees, NGOs, and citizens' self-governing bodies must actively participate in implementing the state's social development programs. This is an essential part of involving the population in social reforms.One of the main pillars of social state policy is supporting socially vulnerable groups of the population. Through pensions, medical services, education, and employment programs, the state provides assistance to underprivileged segments of society. In this process, strengthening cooperation between the state and the non-governmental sector deserves special attention. The use of modern technologies, digital economy tools, and innovative approaches in building a social state enhances the success of the reform process. This is reflected in the effective management of social support systems, expansion of access to healthcare and education, and improvement in the quality of public services.

Another important aspect of ideological and conceptual reforms in the social state strategy is the issue of spirituality and enlightenment. One of the state's key tasks is to reinforce values such as humanity, patriotism, and mutual respect in society by paying attention to citizens' moral and ethical upbringing. Wide-ranging measures are implemented in this regard through mass media, educational institutions, and public organizations. In order to build a social state based on the concept of sustainable development, state reforms are continuously deepened. Programs and legal frameworks adopted to ensure social protection and economic stability are updated in accordance with modern demands.

The strategy of building a social state in New Uzbekistan defines the state's primary duties in serving the people. This strategy, which views the individual as a central value, is based on principles such as social justice, equal opportunities, cooperation with civil society, and the implementation of modern technologies. It lays the foundation for a new stage in the country's social development. "A social state cannot be envisioned without creating a comfortable living environment for the people, developing local infrastructure, and providing citizens with affordable housing. In recent years, Uzbekistan has undertaken extensive work in these areas".

Indeed, the development strategy of a social state in New Uzbekistan is grounded in a comprehensive human-centered policy and ideological reforms. This strategy aims to build a more inclusive, just, and sustainable society by addressing fundamental social, economic, and cultural challenges. It provides a strong foundation for promoting humanitarian policies and ideological reforms. By focusing on economic development, social well-being, good governance, cultural preservation, and environmental sustainability, Uzbekistan seeks to build a stable and inclusive society. Strategic

implementation and continuous improvement are key to solving these issues and ensuring that all citizens benefit from the country's development.

5. Conclusion

The successful development of a social state is closely linked to scientific and technological progress**.** Social philosophy explains this process as an expression of the evolution of human consciousness and creative potential. Achieving development based on modern technologies, innovations, and the digital economy is seen as an important tool for enhancing human intellectual abilities. New uzbekistan's strategy for building a social state is, from a socio-philosophical perspective, based on the principles of humanism, justice, equality, civil society, and democratic governance. This strategy creates a strong philosophical foundation for achieving social stability and prosperity in all spheres of society. The harmony between the state and society, national identity and adaptation to global processes, and innovative progress emerge as key philosophical conclusions within the concept of the social state in new uzbekistan.

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