

THE CONCEPT OF CULTURE AND THE SPECIFICITY OF RUSSIAN CULTURE (IN COMPARISON WITH UZBEK CULTURE)

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Abstract: The article examines the concept of culture as a complex social phenomenon that reflects the spiritual and material achievements of humanity. Special attention is given to the specificity of Russian culture, its historical foundations, spiritual and national features. In a comparative aspect, similarities and differences between Russian and Uzbek cultures are analyzed, which makes it possible to identify their unique characteristics and points of intersection in the context of intercultural dialogue.

Keywords: culture, Russian culture, Uzbek culture, traditions, spiritual values, intercultural interaction.

Introduction

Culture is one of the key concepts in the humanities, as it reflects not only the level of development of society but also its unique spiritual and moral guidelines. In philosophy and cultural studies, culture is understood as a set of material and spiritual values created by humans and transmitted from generation to generation. It forms a system of norms, traditions, customs, and artistic images, ensuring continuity and the stability of national identity. Studying the specifics of Russian culture in comparison with Uzbek culture allows for a deeper understanding of the richness and diversity of the world's cultural heritage, as well as identifying common features and unique characteristics of two close yet distinct traditions.

The Concept of Culture Culture is the totality of material and spiritual values created by humanity in the course of historical development. It includes systems of knowledge, religion, art, morality, customs, and behavioral norms. Culture reflects human creative activity, the pursuit of understanding the world and oneself.

There are multiple approaches to understanding culture:

- **Philosophical** — culture as a form of self-expression of the individual and society;
- **Historical** — culture as the product of a particular historical stage;
- **Sociological** — culture as a mechanism of regulating social life;
- **Ethnographic** — culture as the totality of traditions and customs of a people.

Thus, culture is simultaneously a universal phenomenon and a unique expression of each

people's identity.

The Specificity of Russian Culture Russian culture is characterized by its multifaceted nature and synthesis of diverse traditions. Its development was shaped by Russia's geopolitical position—linking East and West—as well as by the multiethnic composition of its population.

The main features of Russian culture include:

1. **Orthodoxy and spirituality** — religious tradition has had a profound influence on the formation of values: mercy, patience, conciliarity, striving for spiritual ideals.
2. **Collectivism and community spirit** — emphasis is placed not only on the individual but also on the unity of the people and the community.
3. **Multinational character** — Russian culture absorbed elements from diverse ethnic traditions: Slavic, Finno-Ugric, Turkic, and others.
4. **Great literature and art** — the works of Pushkin, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Tchaikovsky, Repin, and many others gained worldwide recognition.
5. **Opposition of the spiritual and the material** — the idea of the “Russian soul,” the search for truth and justice, and spiritual quests play a central role.

Comparison of Russian and Uzbek Cultures Similarities:

- Both cultures are rooted in deep spiritual traditions: Orthodoxy in Russia and Islam in Uzbekistan shaped the people's worldview and moral values.
- Strong importance is given to community and respect for elders.
- Rich oral and written heritage: in Russia — folk tales, bylinas, epics; in Uzbekistan — Alpamish, legends of Gurani and Nasreddin.
- High value of family, hospitality, and preservation of customs.

Differences:

- Russian culture developed under the influence of Slavic, Byzantine, and Western European traditions, while Uzbek culture was shaped by Islamic civilization along with Turkic and Persian traditions.
- Uzbek culture places great emphasis on applied arts (wood carving, ceramics, carpet weaving, miniature painting), whereas Russian culture is especially rich in literature and music.
- Russian culture often turns to themes of universality and world significance, while Uzbek culture emphasizes harmony with nature and the traditional way of life.

Conclusion

Culture is the most important indicator of a society's spiritual and historical development. Russian culture is unique due to its synthesis of East and West, as well as its wealth of spiritual

and artistic traditions. Uzbek culture, in turn, represents a harmony of Islamic values and Turkic identity, expressed in art, literature, and folk traditions.

Comparative analysis shows that despite differences, Russian and Uzbek cultures share common values: respect for spirituality, reverence for traditions, and the importance of family and community. This creates a strong foundation for cultural dialogue and mutual enrichment.

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