

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

СОЦИАЛЬНО-ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИЕ ОСНОВЫ ГРАЖДАНСКОГО ОБЩЕСТВА

FUQAROLIK JAMIYATINING IJTIMOIIY, IQTISODIY ASOSLARI

Faculty Member of the Department of Law

Khashimova Saodatkhon,

Isaboyev Nodirbek

2nd year student of the Faculty of Jurisprudence, Fergana State University

Annotation: This article analyzes the social and economic factors that play a crucial role in the formation and development of civil society. It explains the necessary social conditions for the effective functioning of civil society institutions, including the system of freedoms, public activism, social cooperation, and social justice. Additionally, the article discusses the economic foundations of civil society, such as the inviolability of private property, market economy principles, entrepreneurial freedom, competitive environment, and economic stability. The study examines the social and economic bases of civil society as interconnected processes and highlights their impact on public administration, democratic reforms, and sustainable development.

Key words: civil society, thoughts of historical figures, economic aspect, political aspect, spiritual and moral aspect, a number of signs of the existence and effective functioning of civil society, the reliance of civil society on a number of institutions and processes from a social perspective.

Аннотация: В данной статье анализируются социальные и экономические факторы, играющие важную роль в формировании и развитии гражданского общества. Рассматриваются необходимые социальные условия для эффективной деятельности институтов гражданского общества, такие как система свобод, общественная активность, социальное сотрудничество и социальная справедливость. Кроме того, в статье раскрываются экономические основы гражданского общества: неприкосновенность частной собственности, принципы рыночной экономики, свобода предпринимательства, конкурентная среда и экономическая стабильность. Социальные и экономические основы гражданского общества рассматриваются как взаимосвязанные процессы, а также анализируется их влияние на государственное управление, демократические реформы и устойчивое развитие.

Ключевые слова: гражданское общество, мысли исторических деятелей, экономический аспект, политический аспект, духовно-нравственный аспект, ряд признаков существования и эффективного функционирования гражданского общества, тот факт, что гражданское общество в социальном плане опирается на ряд институтов и процессов.

Annatsiya: Ushbu maqolada fuqarolik jamiyatining shakllanishi va rivojlanishida ijtimoiy hamda iqtisodiy omillarning tutgan oʻrni tahlil qilinadi. Fuqarolik jamiyati institutlarining samarali faoliyat yuritishi uchun zarur boʻlgan ijtimoiy shart-sharoitlar — erkinliklar tizimi, jamoatchilik faolligi, ijtimoiy hamkorlik va ijtimoiy adolat kabi omillar ilmiy asosda yoritilgan. Shuningdek, fuqarolik jamiyatining iqtisodiy poydevori sifatida xususiy mulk daxlsizligi, bozor iqtisodiyoti tamoyillari, tadbirkorlik erkinligi, raqobat muhiti va iqtisodiy barqarorlikning roli izohlangan. Maqolada fuqarolik jamiyatining ijtimoiy-iqtisodiy asoslari oʻzaro bogʻliq jarayon sifatida koʻrib chiqilib, ularning davlat boshqaruvi, demokratik islohotlar va barqaror taraqqiyotga taʼsiri ochib beriladi.

Kalit soʻzlar: fuqarolikk jamiyati, tarixiy shaxslar fikrlari, iqtisodiy jihat, siyosiy jihat, maʼnaviy-axloqiy jihat, fuqarolik jamiyatining mavjudligi va samarali faoliyat yuritishi uchun u bir qator belgilar, fuqarolik jamiyati ijtimoiy jihatdan bir nechta institutlar va jarayonlarga tayanishi.

Civil society is a free democratic legal society that prioritizes the interests of every person, creates an atmosphere of respect for legal traditions and laws, respects universal human values, unconditionally ensures human rights and freedoms, creates effective mechanisms of public control over state power, and human relations are based on deep spiritual and cultural values.

Civil society, as a special period of maturity in the historical development of mankind, encompasses the stages of its enlightenment formation, achievement of perfection and prosperity. Scientific analysis of the practice from the emergence of the idea of such an ideal society to its transformation into a living reality is a topical issue today. Despite the fact that humanity has achieved a great level of development in its civilization, to this day a single point of view on the fundamental meaning and essence of the idea of civil society has not been formed, and its single scientific definition has not been created. So, what are the meaning, scientific interpretation, and characteristics of the category of "civil society"? The questions of what opinions exist in the literature on this issue, including in the field of law, await their scientific solution.

Civil society has long been represented by scholars and thinkers as an ideal model of the political system of society and the state, built on the foundations of justice, freedom, and thought. For example, **Aristotle** did not imagine society separately from the state, but defined the state as a common community of citizens. "The state is the existence of a collection of citizens capable of adequately satisfying their needs." **Marcus Tullius Cicero** tried to prove the legal equality of citizens in society: "... the law is the bond that binds civil society, and the right, established by law, is the same for all." At this stage of development, civil society was recognized as identical with the state.

In the current conditions, the establishment of civil society has become a goal enshrined in the political programs and constitutions of most countries in the world. Also, the Republic of Uzbekistan, after gaining independence, set itself the task of building a just civil society and a democratic legal state as a strategic goal. After all, the society being formed in our country

should be a society of free people based on the principles of democracy and justice.

From the content and essence of the Constitution, it is absolutely clear that the society being formed in our country will be a society of free people based on the principles of democracy and justice. **The First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A. Karimov** said: “We are striving to build a civil society. This means that as our statehood develops, various functions of governance will be transferred directly to the people, that is, the further development of self-government bodies.” He also drew attention to the following: “For us, civil society is a social space. In this space, the law prevails, and it does not hinder a person’s self-improvement, but rather helps. It contributes to the full realization of the interests of the individual, his rights and freedoms. At the same time, the rights and freedoms of other people are not allowed to be violated. That is, freedom and obedience to the law operate simultaneously.”

Civil society is often defined as the sphere of private interests and needs of people. The vast majority of citizens' rights and freedoms are realized in this sphere of private life. However, this does not mean that individuals are separated from public life, alienated.

Civil society is not a simple collection of individuals, but an expression of various connections, cooperation, solidarity between them. This commonality and solidarity have an organizational and institutional form, which is characterized by the presence of various social forces, non-governmental organizations, associations.

Civil society is an extremely complex social phenomenon. Therefore, it can be defined in three main aspects, in three directions:

1) economic aspect; 2) political aspect; 3) spiritual and moral aspect.

The first aspect. Civil society relies on market economy relations, which give wide scope to private ownership and are based on it, and on conditions that create a basis for free economic activity. It is in a society where the environment and relations of private ownership are established that the property independence of the individual and freedom to conduct economic activity are ensured. At the same time, the individual occupies an independent position in relation to state power. The state should not interfere in the sphere of private life, the legitimate economic activities of individuals and organizations. The laws of the state should not discriminate against the rights of man and citizen. This requirement applies, first of all, to the sphere of economic development and private entrepreneurship.

As stated in the concept of civil society development in our country, "First of all, we need to strengthen the rights and protection of private property, create a system of reliable guarantees that will ensure that every private owner will never doubt the inviolability of his property, which he has acquired or created legally. Every entrepreneur, first of all, must clearly understand that the state is the protector of the rights of private owners."

The Parliament of our country adopted the Law “On Protection of Private Property and Guarantees of Owners’ Rights” on September 24, 2012, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Measures to Ensure Reliable Protection of Private Property, Small

Business and Private Entrepreneurship, and Eliminate Obstacles to Their Rapid Development” dated May 15, 2015, and the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Additional Measures to Ensure the Rapid Development of Entrepreneurial Activity, Comprehensive Protection of Private Property, and Qualitative Improvement of the Business Environment” dated October 5, 2016. They created a legal framework for ensuring the inviolability of private property.

As is known, due to the fundamental Constitutional reforms of 2022, guarantees for the protection of private property rights have been significantly strengthened. For example, Article 65 of the Constitution states as follows:

“The basis of the economy of Uzbekistan, aimed at the development of market relations, is property in various forms. The state guarantees freedom of economic activity, entrepreneurship and labor, fair and free competition, and equal legal protection of all forms of property, taking into account the priority of consumer rights.

Private property is inviolable and protected by the state.

The state creates conditions for the harmonious development of economic sectors and territories, as well as ensures a fair distribution of economic resources.

The state provides a favorable business environment and an investment environment and conditions for the development of entrepreneurship.

The second aspect. When assessed from a political point of view, the legal state expresses the essence of the political system and political governance in civil society. In other words, the legal state constitutes the political essence, the political form of civil society. The relationship between these two phenomena reflects the interdependence of form and content. The conclusion that follows from this is that the undoubted condition for the full existence of civil society is the existence of a legal state. And vice versa, a legal state can only be established and operate in a social space like civil society.

It is appropriate to interpret the relationship between civil society and the rule of law as the relationship between the economy and politics. This can be clearly seen in the example of Uzbekistan. After all, economic reforms require the existence of appropriate democratic political structures and institutions.

In our country, state structures have been created aimed at changing the form of ownership and implementing privatization processes. In particular, the Committee for State Property Management and Privatization of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established (1992), which is engaged in the implementation of privatization in the country. By more than thirty decrees of the President adopted in 1992-1993, dozens of ministries and state committees based on state ownership were transformed into concerns, associations, unions and foundations of other forms of ownership. In particular, the State Joint-Stock Association of Uzbekistan for Cotton Processing and Sales of Cotton Products was established under the Ministry of Cotton Growing of the Republic of Uzbekistan (November 7, 1992), the Ministry of Local Industry was reformed,

and in its place the State Corporation "Local Industry" was established by the Presidential Decree of September 3, 1992. Also, the "Uzbeksavdo" Association (Decree of May 5, 1992), the national airline "Uzbekistan Airways" (Decree of January 28, 1992), etc.

On May 20, 1997, a resolution was adopted "On improving the structure of the apparatus of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan". The main goal of this resolution was to transfer the Government apparatus to market methods of managing the economy. The apparatus of the Cabinet of Ministers returned from direct sectoral administrative management to a functional system of management. This means that the apparatus of the Cabinet of Ministers does not interfere in the activities of business operators, does not manage the economy in a state way. Instead, it develops a general strategy for transferring the economy to a market path, is engaged in harmonizing and coordinating the activities of economic processes and economic complexes. It is also engaged in improving forms of economic management, implementing structural and institutional reforms, de-monopolizing the economy, developing entrepreneurship and competition.

The political definition of civil society is not only the development of state structures. For democracy to flourish, individualism and political pluralism must also be established in civil society. For this, it is necessary to create a true multi-party system in society, a large-scale system of public and non-governmental organizations, unions and associations of entrepreneurs, independent associations of workers, and a system of self-government bodies of citizens, so that these structures can enter into equal relations with state bodies.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev, in his speech dedicated to the 25th anniversary of our Constitution, emphasized the following: "ensuring the constitutional rights of citizens to freedom of thought, speech and belief is an important condition for building a developed democratic state and a strong civil society. Today, in the era of democratic changes, we must ensure the full manifestation of the potential of our citizens who want to directly and actively participate in the political and social life of our country. In this regard, the rapid development of the multi-party system, inter-party debate, competition between ideas and programs is of great importance."

The third aspect. Civil society is based on a deep spiritual, highly cultural foundation of human relations. In the spiritual life of this society, one thing takes precedence, namely, the person is highly exalted, universal human values are respected, they are considered reliable and sacred. In this, such high values as human dignity, kindness, moral purity, justice and humanity come to the fore as the determining criteria for relations between people. It is not for nothing that in the era of democratic reforms, the main attention is paid to the promotion of spirituality. After all, spirituality is a mirror of the inner world of humanity, a reflection of its thinking, consciousness and a high social value. Humanity always strives for goodness, spiritual perfection. The success of the fundamental reforms being implemented in our country and the country's near-term prospects will depend on what position our compatriots take and what cultural, spiritual, and moral values they adopt as their motto.

In civil society, freedom, equality of all before the law, social justice, and the opportunity for the direct realization of the creative potential and talent of all citizens are created. Civil society is measured by the criteria of law and justice. Law is a kind of "humanistic imperative" (humanitarian requirement) of society, that is, a human-moral rule, a spiritual beacon. The position of citizens in their legal relations is determined on the basis of the following principles:

- 1) each member of society is free and liberated as a person;
- 2) the equality of each citizen with another citizen;
- 3) the independence of each member of society in the status of a citizen

After Uzbekistan gained independence, in the formation of sovereign statehood, unparalleled opportunities opened up for us to turn to the roots of our culture, our deep and vast spiritual heritage, to reveal and develop all the virtues that exist in our eternal historical past. The cultural and spiritual wealth of our ancestors is being deeply studied and instilled in our social consciousness, thereby serving the interests of the new civil society we are building. We are building not just a democratic society, but a just democratic society. Our statehood is based on the principles of justice. "The pursuit of justice is the most important feature inherent in the spiritual and moral world of our people. The idea of justice must permeate the entire system of economic and social relations and be reflected in the mechanism of social assistance."

The following main signs and characteristics of civil society can be distinguished:

- 1) the role of active positive activity and labor in the system of needs of society and the individual has a special meaning; the establishment of a system of social needs and interests based on labor;
- 2) the determination of the content of society, the essence of the laws of its development through private property relations;
- 3) the development of private property along with all forms of property and the special role of law and state power in its protection;
- 4) the legal equality of citizens and their equality before the law, the establishment of a fair judicial system in society and its transformation into a watchdog institution protecting citizens;
- 5) limitation of state interference in the private life and economic activities of an individual within the framework of the law; the existence of a legal statehood;
- 6) property and economic independence of an individual in relation to state power;
- 7) the ability of the state, state bodies and citizens to enter into relations as equal subjects of law, and to participate in court as equal parties; the creation of mechanisms for guaranteeing and prioritizing the rights of citizens;
- 8) the existence of structural institutions of civil society, including a system of citizens' self-

government bodies;

9) high spiritual, cultural and moral development of society; relations between people are built on the basis of mutual respect, faith and honesty, and respect for the dignity of the individual.

In addition, for the existence and effective functioning of civil society, it is distinguished by a number of features:

1. Relative independence from the state - civil society institutions are established not by the state, but by society itself. They are independent in their activities and seek answers to social problems.
2. Principles of voluntariness and self-governance - civil society institutions (for example, non-governmental organizations, trade unions) are created by the free will of citizens and independently manage their activities.
3. Multimodality (the presence of various organizations and associations) - civil society includes organizations serving various interest groups: non-governmental non-profit organizations, religious communities, media, trade unions, etc.
4. The existence of institutions that represent social interests - civil society represents the interests of various strata and groups within itself, ensures their protection.
5. Legal awareness and civic activity - for the effective functioning of civil society, it is necessary for the population to have high legal knowledge and their active participation in social processes.

Civil society relies on several institutions and processes in social terms. They form stability, moral values, and civic culture in society:

- **Family and education system** – the formation of civic culture and moral norms begins primarily in the family. The education system plays an important role in the development of civic consciousness.
- **Mass media (mass media)** – mass media ensure citizens' right to information, highlight social problems, and exercise public control.
- **Non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs)** – one of the main tools that protect social interests and unite citizens.
- **Mahalla and communities** – in Uzbekistan, the mahalla institution serves as the main social support of civil society.
- **Religious organizations** – contribute to the strengthening of civil society by promoting moral and spiritual values among the population.

Civil society is closely related not only to social, but also to economic foundations:

- **Market economy** - provides economic independence of free economic relations, which encourages their activity.
- **Private property rights** - ownership of property gives an individual the opportunity to act independently and encourages the development of civil society.
- **Middle class economy** - the activity of a middle class civil society with an economic situation. They are active in political and social life.
- **Support for small business and entrepreneurship** - economically active participation in organizations that represent their interests and actively defend them.

Economic basis. Civil society is based on market economy relations that allow for and are based on private property, and on conditions that ensure free economic activity. It is in a society where the environment and relations of private property are established that the property independence of the individual and freedom to conduct economic activity are ensured. The German philosopher Hegel, who made a significant contribution to the creation of the concept of civil society, understood this society as a set of production relations. He distinguished two main principles in this: first, individuals act based on their own personal interests; second, people create such a system of social relations in which everyone is dependent on everyone else.

Civil society, a social structure based on private property, consists of a system of market economy relations. Such relations are achieved through competition in production and limiting the administrative intervention of the authorities in it. Civil society appears when relations are formed that pave the way for the manifestation of human creative activity.

In Uzbekistan, a system of relations based on private property is also being established, a wide path is being opened for entrepreneurship, small and medium-sized businesses, and appropriate organizational and legal mechanisms are being created. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan links the establishment of civil society with the establishment of a strong position of private property.

The development of civil society in the Republic of Uzbekistan is one of the priority areas of state policy:

- **Legislative framework** - the Law "On Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations", the Law "On Public Control" and other documents determine the legal framework of civil society institutions.
- **Reforms and programs** - since 2017, civil society institutions in Uzbekistan have been given more freedom, media freedom, and cooperation with NGOs are strengthening.
- **Social partnership** - mechanisms for cooperation between the state and non-state sectors are being improved. This creates the opportunity to jointly solve social problems.

Ways to develop civil society. The following ways are important to ensure the development of

civil society:

- **Improving the legal framework** – it is necessary to adopt laws facilitating the activities of NGOs, the media and other civil society institutions.
- **Improving education and legal literacy** – programs should be developed in schools and universities aimed at developing a civic culture.
- **Strengthening cooperation between state and civil society institutions** – jointly solving common problems of the state and society through social partnership mechanisms.
- **Effective use of information technologies** – increasing citizen participation through digital platforms, ensuring openness and transparency.
- **Providing grants and financial assistance** – stimulating the activities of NGOs by financing socially significant projects.

Conclusion. Civil society is the foundation of any democratic society. It not only expresses the interests of citizens, but also ensures their participation in state governance. In the conditions of Uzbekistan, in recent years, the legal and organizational foundations of the activities of civil society institutions have been strengthened. However, it is necessary to further develop these institutions by eliminating existing problems and studying international experience. In the future, the full formation of civil society will play an important role in the stability of society, social justice and the establishment of democratic values.

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