

Models of Modernization in Social Development or the Path of Uzbekistan's Progress

Kayumova Lobar Zayniddin kizi

O'ZMU student

Abstract: This article analyzes the models of modernization of social development, their theoretical foundations, and their interrelation with Uzbekistan's path of progress. The advantages and disadvantages of modernization, its contemporary relevance, practical challenges, and recommendations for overcoming them are discussed. The article highlights Uzbekistan's modernization path, which is based on the harmony of national values and advanced experiences.

Keywords: Modernization, development, reform, social progress, innovation, Uzbekistan model.

In the 21st century, during the era of globalization, digital technologies, and the knowledge economy, every nation is choosing its own unique path of socio-economic development. In this process, modernization theories and models have gained particular scientific and practical significance. **Modernization** is the process of transitioning a society's political, economic, cultural, and spiritual spheres to modern and advanced systems. Uzbekistan, while preserving its national values, has also chosen a path of modern modernization. This path is based on the idea put forward by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev — “*New Uzbekistan – a country of progress and reforms*” [1. Mirziyoyev Sh. M. *The Strategy of New Uzbekistan*. – Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 2023].

At this point, the question arises: what is modernization? **Modernization** is the process of renewing and updating all spheres of social life — that is, developing the economy, politics, culture, science, education, and technologies in accordance with the requirements of the time. The word *modernization* originates from the Latin word *modernus*, which means “modern” or “adaptation to the present era modernization is the process of a society's transition from old, traditional systems to new, advanced, and modern ones. It is not only a technical or economic transformation, but also a renewal of human thinking, openness in governance, the advancement of science and technology, the formation of civil society, and the harmonization of national values with modern life [2. Parsons T. *Theories of Modernization and Social Change*. – New York, 1966].

Main Types of Modernization:

1. Economic modernization – modernization of production, technologies, and market infrastructure.
2. Political modernization – development of democratic institutions and establishment of a rule-of-law state.
3. Cultural modernization – preservation of national values while integrating them with modern culture.
4. Social modernization – renewal of education, healthcare, labor, and social justice systems.

The main goal of modernization is to develop society in a stable, efficient, and human-oriented manner. Its ultimate result is the formation of an advanced, competitive, and innovative society. A vivid example of this process can be observed in Uzbekistan, where modernization is being actively implemented through the concept “*New Uzbekistan – a country of progress and reforms.*” This includes initiatives in the fields of the digital economy, education reforms, environmental safety, social justice, and youth policy.

Modernization theories developed widely in sociology and political science during the 20th century. Their main purpose was to explain the process by which societies move from backward systems to advanced, industrial, and innovative stages. The main models include:

1. Western model (classical model) – based on the experience of the United States and Europe. It emphasizes a free market, individual initiative, technological progress, and the development of democratic institutions.
2. Eastern model (neo-traditional model) – based on the experience of Japan, South Korea, and China. This model prioritizes national values, discipline, and state-led modernization.
3. Mixed model – a path specific to Uzbekistan, which harmonizes national values with global experience [3. Huntington S. *Political Order in Changing Societies.* – Yale University Press, 1968].

Advantages of Modernization. Ensures economic growth and competitiveness. Strengthens innovation in education, science, and technology. Promotes civil society and democratic values. Enhances human capital and social justice. Increases the country’s prestige in the international arena. Disadvantages and Challenges of Modernization. The risk of diminishing national values. Blind imitation of Western models may cause social imbalance. Requires significant financial and human resources to adapt to innovative changes. The digital divide problem — certain segments of society may be left behind in the use of technologies. Uzbekistan’s path of development is based on the harmony of national values, historical experience, and modern reforms. As President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** has emphasized: “*Our main goal is to build a New Uzbekistan and elevate human interests to the highest value.*” [4. Republic of Uzbekistan, “*Uzbekistan – 2030*” Strategy, 2023]. -On this path, the “*Uzbekistan – 2030*” Strategy serves as the main roadmap. It outlines the following key directions: economic diversification, digital transformation, ensuring social justice and equality, improving youth policy, and strengthening environmental safety. However, there is another side to the coin. In the pursuit of progress, Uzbekistan faces a number of challenges. For instance, during the modernization process, social inequality may increase; the qualifications of personnel may not meet modern requirements; and the level of innovation in science and education remains relatively low. As solutions to these issues, it is important to reorganize the education system based on an innovative development strategy, to teach young people digital literacy and creative thinking, and to ensure justice and equal opportunities in social policy. Moreover, as both a demand and a recommendation, it is essential to create a modernization model harmonized with national values, strengthen science, technology, and the economy, and enhance openness and transparency in public administration.

In conclusion, **modernization** is not merely renewal—it is a systemic process that elevates society to a qualitatively new stage of development. Uzbekistan’s path of modernization is unique, grounded in the harmony of national values, human interests, and modern reforms. Therefore, the reforms being implemented in the country represent not only economic transformation but also an important stage of social and spiritual renewal.

References.

1. Mirziyoyev, Sh. M. *The Strategy of New Uzbekistan.* – Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 2023.
2. Parsons, T. *Theories of Modernization and Social Change.* – New York, 1966.
3. Huntington, S. *Political Order in Changing Societies.* – Yale University Press, 1968.
4. Republic of Uzbekistan. “*Uzbekistan – 2030*” Strategy, 2023.