



## CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL REVIVAL IN SURKHANDARYA REGION DURING THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

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**Abstract.** This article analyzes the processes of restoration and development of national values and historical heritage in Uzbekistan after its independence. The spiritual revival carried out in the country during the years of independence, the political and cultural reforms of the heads of state, in particular, the role of the leaders in restoring the historical and cultural heritage of Surkhandarya region are highlighted. The article shows the impact of independence on strengthening national identity, revitalizing cultural memory, and socio-economic development in a scientific and publicistic style.

**Keywords:** Uzbekistan, independence, national values, historical heritage, spiritual revival, Islam Karimov, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Surkhandarya region, culture, historical monuments, restoration, socio-economic development.

The independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan on September 1, 1991 marked the beginning of a new era in the country's history. Independence is not only political and economic freedom, but also an opportunity to restore national identity, connect with historical roots, preserve and develop cultural heritage. In this regard, during the years of independence, Uzbekistan not only built a new state, but also rediscovered its values, history and reassessed them. This process was closely related to national unity, the return of the nation to its identity, and spiritual awakening.

This article is devoted to analyzing the historical, cultural and spiritual changes that occurred during the years of independence of our country, the great contribution of state leaders to this process, in particular, the development of the Surkhandarya region during the period of independence and the processes of restoring its rich cultural heritage.

Today, the role of national values and historical heritage has become an important topic not only in scientific circles, but also in the life of the general public. In the context of globalization, preserving the identity of the nation, reviving national pride and historical memory is achieved primarily through building a society that understands and values its history. Therefore, the spiritual awakening during the years of independence, the restoration of historical monuments and scientific research are an integral part of national development.

Surkhandarya region, as the southern gateway to Uzbekistan, is notable for its rich cultural heritage, ancient cities and monuments. This region, in the process of restoring and developing its history during the years of independence, also made a significant contribution to the socio-economic life of the country. Therefore, the role of national values and historical heritage in the development of the state in the case of Surkhandarya deserves a separate study.

After we gained independence in 1991, fundamental reforms were carried out in all aspects of the country's life. Along with political independence, new directions were formed in the spheres of economy, culture, education and spirituality. The people's desire to understand their history increased, leaving the framework of the old communist ideology, and national values, traditions, and historical truths began to be restored anew.



Under the leadership of our first President Islam Abduganievich Karimov, priority areas of state policy were identified. Restoring national identity, re-studying historical heritage, and ensuring religious freedom were important steps on this path. The Uzbek people accepted fasting and Eid al-Adha as state holidays and were able to freely go on the Hajj pilgrimage. The legacy of such great historical figures as Imam al-Bukhari, Ahmad al-Farghani, Mirzo Ulugbek, and Amir Temur became the center of state policy.

Also, during the years of independence, large-scale restoration work began in historical cities. The inclusion of monuments such as Ichon-Kala, Bukhara, and Shakhrisabz in the World Cultural Heritage List by UNESCO is international recognition of these efforts. Under the leadership of Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev, these areas have reached a new level. In the speeches of the President, special attention was paid to the restoration of national values, in-depth study of historical roots, and the development of culture and art. Based on the idea of "New Uzbekistan", new reforms were carried out in the socio-economic and cultural spheres of our historically rich state. Institutions such as the Imam Moturidi International Scientific Center and the Silk Road International Tourism Center were established, and cultural heritage was introduced internationally. National costumes, folk crafts, and art were restored and began to play a significant role in tourism and exports. The principle of "Tolerant Uzbekistan" played an important role in ensuring peace and harmony among different nationalities and religious confessions. Surkhandarya region, as the southern gates of Uzbekistan, occupies an important place in national culture, historical heritage, and socio-economic development. During the years of independence, historical monuments in the region - ancient cities and shrines such as Termez, Jarkurgan, and Sariosiyo - were restored and placed under state protection.

The development of the agrarian sector in the regional economy was clearly visible. In 1994, high yields were produced on 327 thousand hectares of irrigated land, and farming and ranching were developed. In districts such as Bandikhon and Jarkurgan, agricultural efficiency increased through the development of new lands and the modernization of irrigation systems. This improved not only the regional economy, but also the well-being of the local population.

In the spiritual sphere, the heritage of such great figures as Imam Termizi and Bahauddin Naqshband was widely studied, and their names took their place in the cultural life of the region. These processes served to restore national identity and strengthen historical memory among young people.

In recent years, new social infrastructure and cultural centers have been built in the region. The development of the tourism sector and the revival of cultural traditions are playing an important role in turning Surkhandarya into one of the cultural capitals of our country. After Uzbekistan gained independence, our country began fundamental reforms in the historical, cultural and spiritual spheres. Restoring national values, preserving historical heritage, and ensuring religious freedoms have become an integral part of the country's development. Islam Karimov has made great contributions to this process, but under the leadership of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, these areas have reached a new level.

During the years of independence, Surkhandarya region, along with restoring and developing its rich historical and cultural heritage, has also achieved significant achievements in the socio-economic sphere. The well-being of the region's population has increased, and a new generation is being educated on the basis of national values and historical memory.



As a result, spiritual awakening is not only a state of mind, but also serves as the foundation for the stability of the nation, the unity of the people, and independent development. Therefore, preserving the heritage of our ancestors and passing it on to the younger generation is a sacred duty for each of us.

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