



## THE NECESSITY OF UNDERSTANDING NATIONAL IDENTITY IN THE PROCESS OF GLOBALIZATION

**Utaev Gayrat Gayullaevich** – Tashkent State Medical University

Senior Lecturer of the Department of Social Sciences

**Botirov Sarvar Bahrom ugli** – Tashkent State Medical University

Teacher of the Department of Social Sciences

### Abstract

Today, the process of globalization is a pressing issue for all countries, including Uzbekistan. This process is rapidly developing and has an irreversible nature. Globalization affects various spheres of social life, including economic, political, social, and cultural fields. While it brings vast opportunities and developmental achievements to humanity, it also generates certain threats. In such circumstances, the issue of understanding national identity is of utmost importance.

**Keywords:** Globalization, independence, development, human factor, national mentality, ideological immunity, ideological battlefield, understanding national identity, the West, the East, culture, traditions, and values.

Independence, as a great socio-political reality, has provided our nation with the opportunity to understand its identity correctly and fully. Thanks to independence, each representative of our nation realized that they are responsible for their own life and future, and that they are creators of their own destiny. They also understood that they have a contribution to make and a place in the overall human development.

The concept of understanding national identity has been interpreted in various ways by scholars and researchers after the achievement of independence, and different approaches have been taken towards this concept.

As emphasized by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, "Of course, in the current era of global development, when extremely sharp and dangerous processes are occurring in the world, national unity is extremely important and necessary today." [1]

The concept of self-awareness is closely related to the concept of national identity awareness. A person must first understand themselves. If an individual does not understand themselves, they will never be able to understand their national identity. In this regard, the thoughts of the renowned scholar Sh. Qahhorova on self-awareness shed significant light on the issue. According to the scholar, self-awareness means understanding the foundations of the values and definitions that determine who I am, my knowledge, my relationships with the world, and my existence as I am [2]. Sh. Qahhorova discusses the self-awareness of an individual through the perspectives of the East and the West. According to her, the East emphasizes the necessity of understanding one's identity by transcending reasoning, advocating for a self-awareness process that is objectless (without engaging with an external object). On the other hand, the West stresses that the process of self-awareness must occur through reasoning, with a constant focus on a specific "why" that guides the individual's thoughts [3].

As a result, two significantly different techniques for shaping self-awareness have emerged: in the East, meditation (dhikr) is practiced, while in the West, reflection occurs through reasoning and is facilitated by reflective thinking [4].



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When the scholar analyzes the Eastern and Western approaches to self-awareness, she associates the Eastern approach with understanding one's identity through a direct and clear means, which does not require any analysis, linking the individual with Allah. The essence of this means, in a certain sense, is limited in scope. In contrast, the Western approach to self-awareness, as the scholar mentions, is based on understanding everything through the medium of reasoning. This approach has led to various negative consequences, observed since the early 20th century, including unlawful experiments on humans, the testing of individuals, differing viewpoints on human creation, and more. Ultimately, this resulted in the spiritual globalization that emerged at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century.

Today, the Uzbek nation lives in a new environment and a new era. Despite achieving significant successes during the years of independence, it is forced to live under the strong pressure of globalization. However, sociological survey results conducted among various segments of our population reveal that the impact of this pressure on our national spirituality is not fully understood or perceived. This indicates a certain level of stagnation in the nation's understanding of its own identity. This may be related to the ongoing process of nation-building, the issues arising from the formation of market relations, and the problems that daily life presents.

The necessity of understanding national identity in the context of globalization is explained by the following aspects:

**Protecting National Values:** The process of globalization brings foreign ideologies, cultures, and lifestyles, which can weaken national traditions, customs, and values. A deep understanding of national identity serves as a strong foundation for preserving and developing the spiritual heritage of the people.

**Forming Ideological Immunity:** In an information-based society, various information attacks and ideological threats are intensifying. Understanding national identity and instilling the principles of national ideology in our consciousness is a key tool in forming "ideological immunity" in the youth against such threats.

**Proper Cross-Cultural Communication:** Globalization enhances cultural exchange. By understanding national identity, it is important to adopt the progressive achievements and universal values of other nations while preserving our own identity. This ensures constructive cross-cultural communication.

**Spiritual Development of the Youth:** Awakening a sense of national pride, historical memory, and belonging to one's homeland in the hearts and minds of the younger generation creates a foundation for enhancing their intellectual potential and developing them into mature and capable individuals.

After our country gained independence, special attention was first given to restoring historical memory and understanding national identity. This process is, of course, a crucial factor that will determine the future of our state and nation. Because any nation that does not understand its historical past and the processes that occurred in all spheres of its development cannot build its future, let alone even imagine it. As our first president, I.A. Karimov, emphasized, "Understanding one's identity begins with history"[5]. Every person desires to know the identity of their ancestors, their lineage, the village or city where they were born and raised, in short, the history of their homeland. Understanding one's identity begins with knowing history[6]. Indeed, when every person studies the history of their nation, they come to a certain understanding and conclusion about it. Knowing the history of one's people means



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understanding their identity and feeling connected to the nation as a representative of that people. Understanding national identity involves knowing elements such as customs, traditions, values, rituals, and others, which form the historical memory of the nation. These symbols, found in the historical memory of a nation, also represent the national characteristics of the people. In ethnological literature, these symbols are referred to as the typological features of a nation. Along with general features like language, lifestyle, culture, and moral values, the psychological traits such as "national spirit" or "the soul of the people" are also considered typological features. The most important aspect is understanding that people share a common ethnogenesis, meaning that they all originate from the same roots. Historical facts and researchers emphasize that understanding common ethnogenesis quickly unites the members of a nation, encouraging them to act together and swiftly recognize and defend their national interests[7]. Indeed, the process occurring in the national consciousness accelerates the understanding of national identity, ensures unity, and strengthens national cohesion. This key factor plays a crucial role in the process of nations realizing their national identity. In general, this factor serves as the foundation in the process of understanding national identity. That is, as a result of a deep focus on restoring historical memory, the nation identifies itself with legendary heroes, great figures, culture, rituals, values, and others, thus achieving national identification. However, the process of understanding national identity in a people or nation does not always proceed quickly or fruitfully. One of the active factors in understanding national identity is culture.

Today, when analyzing the processes of national integration, national issues, national problems, and the understanding of national identity occurring around the world, these processes can be divided into two types:

The understanding of national identity in nations and peoples that are ethnically and ethnogenetically distant from each other.

The understanding of national identity in nations and peoples that are ethnically and ethnogenetically close to each other.

However, the rapidly spreading global mass culture today is poisoning the minds of the younger generation. As a result, the youth are increasingly inclined to follow mass culture rather than our national culture, think based on it, and are being hindered from understanding their national identity.

In conclusion, in the era of globalization, understanding national identity is not just a necessity but an imperative. This process is the foundation for protecting national interests, preserving cultural diversity, and ensuring sustainable development. Integrating into global civilization while remaining faithful to national values and traditions is one of the key tasks of today.

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