THE ROLE OF BOOKS BY PRESIDENTS IN CREATING NEW SOCIETY

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Abstract

This article examines how books written by presidents contribute to building a "new society" by shaping national narratives, encouraging civic values, strengthening the legitimacy of reforms, and reinforcing social cohesion. Whether presented as memoirs, reform agendas, personal reflections, or speech collections, presidential works often serve as ideological and educational tools that reinterpret history, clarify national priorities, define identity, and inspire citizens to work toward shared objectives. The paper also explores how these texts affect public discourse, education, and institutional culture, emphasizing the need for critical literacy and divers

Key words

presidential books, new society, nation-building, reforms, ideology, national narrative, identity, civic values, modernization, education, leadership communication, legitimacy.

Introduction: books as “soft power” inside society

A society becomes “new” not only by changing laws and administrative structures, but also by transforming public consciousness—the way citizens interpret their history, define their responsibilities, and imagine a shared future. Legal reforms may redesign institutions, yet without a parallel shift in mindset, the new rules can remain superficial, poorly understood, or weakly supported. Social renewal requires people to internalize new civic habits: respect for law, willingness to participate, trust in public institutions, responsibility toward the common good, and readiness to adapt to change. In this context, ideas and narratives become as important as policies, because they determine whether reforms are perceived as meaningful progress or as temporary political experiments.

In many states, presidential writings become a distinctive channel of communication precisely because they deliver a unified narrative backed by political authority. A president’s book can function like a “national explanation”: it translates complex reforms into accessible language, clarifies priorities, and presents a logical roadmap that connects past challenges to future goals. Unlike speeches—which are often short, reactive, and tied to daily politics—a book offers continuity and structure. It allows a leader to present cause-and-effect reasoning, define national objectives, and frame reforms as part of a broader mission. This can help citizens make sense of change, reducing confusion and increasing the likelihood of cooperation. When people understand *why* reforms are happening, they are more likely to tolerate the difficulties that often accompany modernization and to view transformation as purposeful rather than chaotic.

Historical background: leaders’ writings in periods of transition

During major transitions—independence, state-building, post-crisis recovery, deep economic restructuring, or rapid modernization—societies often experience uncertainty and ideological “noise.” Old institutions may lose legitimacy, previous

value systems may weaken, and citizens may feel divided between nostalgia for stability and hope for renewal. In such moments, people naturally search for a "roadmap": a coherent explanation of what is happening, what the national priorities are, and how sacrifice today can lead to stability and prosperity tomorrow. Presidential books frequently appear in exactly these phases because they can provide a long-form, structured narrative that links the past, present, and future into one storyline. Rather than communicating policy changes as isolated decisions, these books often frame transformation as a historical mission and present reforms as steps in a broader national project.

One major function of presidential writing is its ability to summarize a nation's challenges and opportunities in a single interpretive lens. A book can describe internal problems—economic inefficiency, weak institutions, corruption, social inequality, skills gaps—alongside external pressures such as globalization, security threats, or regional competition. By presenting a comprehensive picture, presidential texts can help citizens understand that reforms are not arbitrary; they respond to real constraints and real possibilities. At the same time, such books often emphasize opportunity: natural resources, youth potential, strategic geography, cultural heritage, or human capital. This balance between challenge and opportunity is psychologically important, because it builds realism without destroying hope.

A second function is to propose pathways for reform in a way that feels logical and sequential. In many reform periods, citizens struggle not only with "what" is changing, but with "why this order" and "why this method." Presidential books often outline priorities—education, economy, governance, social welfare—explaining how progress in one sector is expected to support progress in another. This can reduce confusion, align institutions around common goals, and create a shared vocabulary for policymakers, educators, and the public. In other words, the book

becomes a strategic document that helps transform scattered reforms into a coherent agenda.

A third function is to reinterpret history to support a new identity. Transitions often require a society to redefine itself: to decide what lessons should be remembered, which experiences must be honored, and how a nation's story should be told to the next generation. Presidential books may highlight national achievements, revive historical symbols, or emphasize continuity between cultural heritage and modern development. This is not only about pride; it can serve political and social stability by creating a common reference point for belonging. When citizens share a historical narrative—even if they debate details—they are more likely to feel part of the same community and less likely to fragment along regional or ideological lines.

A fourth function is to mobilize citizens emotionally and symbolically. Transitions require public participation: citizens must learn new rules, accept new economic realities, adapt to new educational standards, and sometimes tolerate short-term hardship. Presidential books often use moral and symbolic language—dignity, unity, sacrifice, patriotism, duty, renewal—to transform reform into a collective responsibility rather than a purely governmental task. This emotional mobilization can be especially powerful when paired with national symbols, cultural references, and stories that connect private life with national destiny.

Internationally, leader-authored books and memoirs are common and widely studied precisely because they serve as rich sources for understanding political leadership and nation-building. Scholars examine them as political texts (how leaders persuade, justify, and define priorities), as historical texts (how events are interpreted and narrated), and as cultural texts (how identity, values, and national meaning are constructed). Memoirs and leadership writings also offer insight into how states attempt to build legitimacy and public consensus: they reveal the

arguments leaders choose, the moral frameworks they promote, and the way they connect policy to national identity. Even when readers do not agree with every claim, these books remain important documents because they show how leadership tries to shape the "common sense" of a society during decisive turning points.

Building a national vision and reform agenda

Presidential books often translate complex state programs into a single narrative: "where we came from, where we are now, where we must go." This is important because reforms can feel difficult or confusing unless citizens understand the purpose behind them. A written vision can:

connect reforms to national dignity and long-term prosperity,
reduce uncertainty by offering a clear storyline,
coordinate institutions by defining common priorities.
A new society needs a shared story. Presidential texts commonly emphasize that in post-Soviet contexts, researchers note that state narratives and identity-building became central tools for strengthening sovereignty and public consciousness, especially as societies replaced Soviet ideological frameworks with national ones.

Strengthening civic values and moral norms

Beyond policy, presidential books often try to educate citizens on a moral and civic level by promoting ideals such as honest work, public service, discipline, respect for law, solidarity, tolerance, and social harmony. These values are presented not just as personal virtues, but as national necessities: the message is that economic growth and political stability depend on everyday ethics. When such norms become widespread, modernization becomes easier because institutions function more effectively in societies where trust is higher, rules are followed more consistently, and citizens feel responsible for the common good. In practice, strong civic responsibility can reduce corruption, improve public service culture, increase respect

for public property, and strengthen cooperation between state institutions and communities.

This is one reason presidential texts are sometimes introduced into youth programs, public discussions, and educational environments. In youth settings, they are used to shape character, citizenship, and national belonging at an early stage—encouraging students to connect personal ambition with social responsibility and national development. In schools and universities, these texts may also serve as materials for civic education, public speaking, debate, and reading comprehension, helping learners engage with national priorities through language and argument. When approached thoughtfully, they can inspire motivation and moral discipline; when approached academically, they can also help students analyze persuasive language, understand leadership communication, and develop mature civic thinking rather than passive memorization.

Legitimizing reforms and building social trust

Reforms require legitimacy, not only in a legal sense but also in a psychological and social sense: people must believe that change is necessary, fair, and beneficial in the long run. Presidential writings can function as an "explanatory authority" because they provide a structured justification for policy decisions, especially when reforms are difficult, unpopular in the short term, or complex to understand. A book allows the leader to explain *why* certain steps are unavoidable, *what* risks the nation faces without reform, and *how* sacrifices today are meant to produce stability and prosperity tomorrow. In this way, presidential texts can reduce public anxiety and prevent misinformation by giving citizens a clear framework for interpreting change.

Such writings often respond directly to public doubts and uncertainty by: explaining risks and priorities (for example, why some sectors must be reformed first), framing reforms as historically necessary (arguing that the country has reached a turning point that demands modernization), and connecting change to national

interests (presenting reforms as protection of sovereignty, dignity, and long-term security). They may also present reforms as a collective responsibility—encouraging citizens to see themselves not as passive observers but as participants in national development. When this message is communicated convincingly, it can strengthen unity and patience during transition.

However, legitimacy is strongest only when presidential texts are supported by consistent real-life outcomes and transparent institutions. If citizens do not see improvements in services, justice, employment opportunities, or governance quality, even the most well-written book may lose credibility. Likewise, if institutions are not open to feedback, accountability, and measurable results, society may interpret presidential books as symbolic messaging rather than genuine leadership. Therefore, the most constructive role of presidential writing is to combine vision and explanation with practical implementation, so that citizens experience reforms not only as words on paper but as real progress in everyday life.

In Uzbekistan's modern development

National identity, reform narratives, and the reinterpretation of the past have played a major role in shaping public consciousness and social cohesion. After the Soviet period, society faced not only economic and institutional tasks, but also a deeper cultural challenge: rebuilding a sense of national self-understanding that could support independence, stability, and modernization. In this context, "nation-building" has often involved redefining key ideas—who the nation is, what values unite people, what historical experiences should be remembered with pride, and what kind of future would be considered progress. Because identity is not created automatically, public discourse has relied on symbols, education, public ceremonies, and also written narratives that present a consistent and emotionally meaningful interpretation of the country's path.

Academic discussions of ideological narratives in Uzbekistan note that concepts such as spirituality (ma'naviyat), enlightenment (ma'rifat), and national values have been used within official and semi-official frameworks to strengthen identity, promote social unity, and guide public thinking during reform periods. These concepts often function as a moral foundation for modernization: they suggest that development is not only material (income, infrastructure, technology), but also cultural and ethical (responsibility, respect, solidarity, education, discipline, honesty). In other words, modernization is framed as a process that should protect cultural continuity and social harmony rather than creating moral fragmentation. This approach is especially important in societies where rapid change can produce anxiety, mistrust, or generational gaps, because values-based narratives can provide psychological stability while policies evolve.

Within this environment, books and publications connected to national reforms can function as practical and symbolic instruments for several purposes. First, they can explain modernization policies to society in a clearer and more systematic way than short news announcements. Reforms usually involve technical language—legal changes, governance models, economic mechanisms—that ordinary citizens may not fully understand. Well-structured publications translate these reforms into understandable goals and link them to everyday life: improved public services, stronger education, better opportunities for youth, more transparent governance, and stronger international positioning. This "translation" role matters because public support often depends on whether people see the logic of reforms and believe that the state has a realistic plan.

Second, reform-related publications can unite diverse regions and generations under a common future vision. Uzbekistan includes different regional identities, lifestyles, and social experiences, and generational perspectives can differ sharply—older citizens may prioritize stability and security, while younger citizens may

prioritize opportunity, global engagement, and innovation. A shared narrative helps reduce fragmentation by offering a collective storyline: reforms are presented as a national project that belongs to everyone, not only to one group or one region. When books describe national priorities consistently—education, work ethics, respect for law, social solidarity—they create a shared civic vocabulary that institutions, schools, media, and families can repeat and internalize.

Third, these publications can encourage social optimism and participation in state-building goals. Modernization succeeds faster when citizens believe the future is worth investing in. Reform narratives often emphasize agency: they present the country's development as something that depends on the active contribution of teachers, entrepreneurs, farmers, students, and public servants—each group with its own responsibility. This kind of messaging can motivate people to improve skills, support community initiatives, respect public rules, and adopt more forward-looking attitudes. Social optimism here is not just emotional; it can become practical energy that increases productivity, reduces social pessimism, and strengthens trust in collective progress.

At the same time, it is important that such narratives remain connected to real-life outcomes. When citizens see improvements—better services, stronger accountability, more opportunities, clearer rules—the narrative becomes believable and trust grows. When outcomes do not match promises, discourse can lose credibility. Therefore, the most effective role of reform-related books in Uzbekistan's modernization is when they operate together with visible institutional progress, balanced education, and public dialogue—so that national identity and reform vision become not only written ideals, but lived experiences in everyday social life.

Conclusion

Books written by presidents can play a powerful role in creating a new society because they shape collective thinking and help structure the "mental map" through which citizens interpret change. They provide a national vision by turning complex reforms into an understandable direction, they interpret history in ways that strengthen identity and continuity, and they promote civic values such as responsibility, unity, respect for law, and service to the public good. In many contexts, these books also serve as tools of legitimacy: they justify reforms, explain priorities, and encourage patience and cooperation during difficult transition periods. Because a book is long-form and systematic, it can influence not only political debate but also education, media language, and institutional culture, gradually building a shared vocabulary of national goals and social expectations.

However, the long-term value of presidential texts depends greatly on how society reads and applies them. When presented through a balanced academic methodology, such works can strengthen civic consciousness by teaching students and citizens how national narratives are constructed, how reforms are argued for, and how leadership communicates visions of development. Used in this way, presidential books become more than ideological statements; they become educational materials that support reading culture, analytical skills, and informed citizenship. They can inspire participation in modernization by connecting personal effort—study, work, professionalism, honesty—with national progress, helping citizens see themselves as active contributors rather than passive observers.

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