



THE INDEPENDENCE OF REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation : This article discusses the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the importance of the nation's official symbols in strengthening national identity. It highlights how gaining independence on August 31, 1991, opened a new chapter in the country's history, allowing Uzbekistan to build its own political system, revive cultural traditions, and promote national values. The article also emphasizes the significance of the national flag, emblem, and anthem as key symbols of statehood. The flag's colors represent peace, purity, and renewal; the emblem reflects freedom, prosperity, and the rich natural landscape of the country; and the anthem expresses pride, unity, and hope for the future. Overall, the article shows how independence and national symbols together help Uzbekistan strengthen its identity, preserve cultural heritage, and inspire future generations.

Key words: Uzbekistan; flag; emblem; anthem; independence; constitution; August 31, 1991; freedom; Stars; Khumo bird; blue-white-green colors;

Introduction



The independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, declared on August 31, 1991, marked a turning point in the nation's political, cultural, and social development. As a sovereign state, Uzbekistan began building its own path based on national values, historical heritage, and aspirations for a prosperous future. Along with political and economic reforms, special attention was given to strengthening national identity and promoting cultural renewal. In this process, the national symbols of Uzbekistan—the flag, the emblem, and the anthem—became powerful reflections of the country's independence, unity, and historical continuity. These symbols not only represent the spirit and values of the Uzbek people but also serve as important markers of statehood on the global stage. Studying the independence and national symbols of Uzbekistan helps us better understand the country's progress, strengthen patriotism, and appreciate the rich cultural heritage that continues to inspire future generations.

The Attainment of the Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan

On June 20, 1990, at the second session of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR, the Declaration of Independence of the Uzbek SSR was adopted. The lines in the Declaration stating: *“Fully realizing the historical responsibility for the future of Uzbekistan, and based on the principles of international law, universal human values, and democracy, the Uzbek SSR declares its state independence”* marked the first step toward achieving independence. The adoption of this Declaration opened a new stage in Uzbekistan's struggle for freedom. Deputies of the Supreme Soviet demonstrated active participation in adopting this nationwide, highly significant document. During discussions of the “Declaration of Independence,” deputies repeatedly emphasized that its articles guaranteed each nation's right to determine its own destiny. It was stressed that the historical experience and traditions of the Uzbek people in state-building and cultural development—accumulated over centuries—must be taken into account. From August 19–21, 1991, a coup d'état took place in the Soviet Union. The existing political leadership was overthrown, a state of emergency was declared, and power was taken over by the State Committee on the State of Emergency (GKChP — Государственный комитет по



чрезвычайному положению). Their goal was to prevent the peoples of the Union from gaining independence. In this situation, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, and the Cabinet of Ministers under the President of the Uzbek SSR held a joint meeting on August 21, 1991. At this meeting, a resolution was adopted stating: **“Documents of the USSR GKChP that contradict the Constitution and laws of the Uzbek SSR shall not be valid on the territory of Uzbekistan.”** On August 25, 1991, the President of the Uzbek SSR issued another important decree laying the foundation for the country's full independence. The decree stated: *“Taking into account the current situation in the country and with the purpose of protecting the interests of the republic, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Security Committee shall be placed under the jurisdiction of the Uzbek SSR. The internal troops of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs located on the territory of the republic shall be subordinated directly to the President of the Uzbek SSR.”* The decree also proposed that the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet prepare, within a very short time, a draft law on the state independence of the republic and submit it to an extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet. On August 26, 1991, the Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan decided to prepare a draft law on the state independence of Uzbekistan and to convene a session of the Supreme Soviet on August 31. At the joint Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the Central Control Commission held on August 28, it was decided to suspend all relations with the CPSU Central Committee, withdraw representatives from its central bodies, and leave all CPSU organizations. In these circumstances, the extraordinary sixth session of the twelfth convocation of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR began its work on August 31, 1991. The issue *“On the State Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan”* was placed on the agenda and intensely discussed. During the session, the First President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, delivered a speech analyzing the recent socio-political events in the former Union and explaining their direct relevance to Uzbekistan. Based on the situation, he declared the state independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan and proposed to



solidify it with the Constitutional Law “*On the Foundations of State Independence*.” After article-by-article discussions, the deputies of the Supreme Soviet adopted the Law “*On the Foundations of State Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan*.” Then, the “*Declaration of State Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan*” was also adopted. The law “*On the Foundations of State Independence*” held great importance, as it fundamentally changed the legal status of Uzbekistan. This 17-article law defined the basic attributes of the sovereign Republic of Uzbekistan. Looking back at those historic days—forever inscribed in the history of our Motherland—we witness how the young, newly independent government of Uzbekistan adopted numerous crucial documents essential for the country’s political, social, and spiritual development. For example, the presidential decrees signed on September 5, renaming Lenin Square in Tashkent as Independence Square, and the decree signed on September 6 “*On the Establishment of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Uzbekistan*,” as well as other significant political documents.

Adoption of the State Symbols

On February 15, 1991, the Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan adopted a special resolution “On the State Symbols of Uzbekistan.” The resolution stated:

“Following the Declaration of Independence, the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR decides that the commission preparing the new draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Uzbek SSR shall also develop proposals regarding the State Flag, Emblem, and Anthem of the Uzbek SSR, as well as prepare regulations concerning them. The commission should carry out its work based on the opinions of the public and deputies of the republic.” On the very day Uzbekistan was declared an independent state, practical measures were taken to introduce independent state symbols. A special resolution was adopted regarding the State Flag of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the copy of the national emblem, and the musical composition of the State Anthem. The expert group of the Constitution Commission was instructed to continue working on the variants of the State Flag and, together with the creative



group of the Constitution Commission, to develop draft laws on the State Flag and Anthem for submission to the next session of the Supreme Soviet.

Flag

The national flag was approved by the extraordinary 8th Session of the supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan on November 18, 1991. The flag of the Republic of Uzbekistan consists of blue, white and green stripes, separated by two narrow red stripes. A crescent and three rows of twelve stars are situated on the left side of the upper blue stripe.

The author of flag was the first president of Uzbekistan Islom Karimov.

Blue represents the clear sky and pure water. This color has been highly valued among Eastern peoples since ancient times, and Amir Temur also chose blue for his flag.

White symbolizes peace, purity, honesty, and a calm life.

Green stands for nature, renewal, fertility, and hope.

Red lines represent the vital energy of life and the blood flowing through our veins.

In the upper left corner, there is a white crescent moon — a symbol of renewal, independence, and the continuation of national traditions.

Next to it are 12 white stars, representing the 12 regions of Uzbekistan as well as eternity and perfection.

The State Anthem of Uzbekistan

The State Anthem of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted on December 10, 1992, during the 20th session of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Since 1992, this anthem has been the official anthem of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The lyrics of the State Anthem of the Republic of Uzbekistan were written by the People's Poet of Uzbekistan, Abdulla Oripov, and the music was composed by the People's Composer of Uzbekistan, Mutil Burhonov.

State emblem of Uzbekistan



The State Emblem of the Republic of Uzbekistan is an official state symbol. It was adopted on July 2, 1992. The state emblem is one of the symbols of the country's independence.

The emblem has a circular shape. On the left side, it features wheat ears, symbolizing our sustenance, and on the right side, cotton bolls with open capsules, representing the invaluable wealth that has made the name of the Uzbek people known worldwide. These are wrapped in a ribbon, and in the background, mountains and rivers are depicted, with the sun shining golden rays over the blooming valley, symbolizing that Uzbekistan is a sun-rich country.

At the top of the emblem, there is an eight-pointed star representing the freedom of Uzbekistan. Inside the star are a crescent moon and a star, symbolizing that the majority of the population follows Islam. In the center, there is a depiction of the Humo bird with outstretched wings, a symbol of happiness and independence.

At the bottom of the emblem, a ribbon representing the flag of the Republic of Uzbekistan is depicted, with the word "O'zbekiston" written on it.

The author of emblem was Anvar Mamajonov who is famous artist.

Adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

After gaining independence, Uzbekistan naturally faced the need to consolidate its state sovereignty and independence through a Constitution. The idea of preparing a new Constitution for Uzbekistan was initially proposed by Islam Karimov in March 1990. On June 20, 1990, during the II session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Uzbekistan, it was concluded that a new Constitution needed to be developed.

The session, led by Uzbekistan's First President Islam Karimov, decided to establish a commission of 64 members to draft the Constitution. The commission included deputies of the Supreme Soviet, representatives from the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the regions, leaders of state and public organizations, heads of enterprises, scholars, and specialists.

The Constitutional Commission worked for 2.5 years on creating the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The initial draft of the Constitution was



completed by October–November 1991 and consisted of a preamble, six sections, and 158 articles. Since the draft was not yet perfect, further detailed and careful work was required. In the spring of 1992, a second version of the draft, consisting of 149 articles, was prepared. In the autumn of 1992, the draft Constitution was published twice in the press for nationwide discussion. During this period, more than 6,000 suggestions and comments were received. On December 8, 1992, the XI session of the XII convocation of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Uzbekistan was held, where the adoption of the country's Fundamental Law was discussed. Deputies introduced nearly 80 amendments, additions, and clarifications to the draft. On the same day, the XI session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted the laws "**On the Adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan**" and "**On Declaring the Day of Adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan as a National Holiday.**"

In 2023, Uzbekistan adopted a new edition of its Constitution following a nationwide referendum held on April 30. The new Constitution officially came into force on May 1, 2023. It consists of 155 articles and introduces significant changes to the structure of government, human rights protections, and the balance of powers.

The 2023 Constitution defines Uzbekistan as a sovereign, democratic, legal, social, and secular state. It strengthens civil liberties and human rights, including the presumption of innocence, the right to remain silent, limits on detention, and prohibition of forced labor. The judiciary's independence is reinforced, with judges of the Constitutional Court serving a single 10-year term and protected from legal liability for their rulings.

The legislative branch was restructured, including a smaller Senate and expanded powers for both parliamentary chambers. Presidential terms were extended from five to seven years. Other reforms emphasize the protection of personal freedoms, social guarantees, and international law. Overall, the 2023 Constitution represents a major legal and institutional reform, combining stronger human rights safeguards with a modernized state governance framework.

The Importance of Independence and National Symbols



Independence allows a nation to make its own decisions, preserve its culture, and develop freely. For Uzbekistan, gaining independence in 1991 marked a new era of freedom and national pride. National symbols like the flag, emblem, and anthem express the country's history, culture, and values. They unite citizens, inspire patriotism, and remind people of their country's achievements and identity. In short, independence gives freedom, and national symbols give that freedom meaning and identity.

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