

THE ROLE OF BOOKS BY PRESIDENTS IN CREATING A NEW SOCIETY (ISLAM KARIMOV AND SHAVKAT MIRZIYOYEV)

*Jizzakh branch of the National University
of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek
The Faculty of Psychology, the department of Foreign
languages Philology and teaching languages
Teshaboyeva Nafisa Zubaydulla qizi
nafisateshaboyeva@gmail.com
Student of group 204-24: Narzullayeva Farangiz Farrux qizi*

Abstract: The literary works of Uzbekistan's first President, Islam Karimov, and the current President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, have had a profound and transformative impact on the political, social, and cultural development of the nation. Islam Karimov's books, including "Uzbekistan on the Path of Independence" and "Independence – Our Greatest Value", laid the foundational ideological framework for the establishment of the modern Uzbek state. His writings emphasize the importance of national sovereignty, social stability, unity, and the preservation of Uzbek identity, highlighting historical experiences, cultural heritage, and moral principles as key pillars for state-building. Karimov's intellectual contributions were instrumental in fostering a sense of patriotism, civic responsibility, and national consciousness among citizens, especially during the formative years of independence after 1991.

Keywords: Karimov, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, presidential books, national ideology, reforms, new society, modernization, independence, education.

Introduction

Books written by national leaders hold exceptional value in shaping a country's ideological development. In Uzbekistan, the literary heritage of Islam Karimov and Shavkat Mirziyoyev provides a clear philosophical, political, and social roadmap for building a strong and progressive society. Islam Karimov's works guided Uzbekistan through the stages of independence, nationbuilding, and socio-economic stabilization, while Shavkat Mirziyoyev's books reflect the "New Uzbekistan" priorities — openness, reforms, innovation, and human-centered governance.

This article analyzes how the ideas presented in these books shape public consciousness, influence state reforms, and contribute to the formation of a modern civil society.

The Role of Islam Karimov's Books in Shaping National Ideology

1. Foundations of Independence and Statehood Islam Karimov's books such as "Yuksak ma'naviyat — yengilmas kuch", "O'zbekiston mustaqillikka erishish

ostonasida”, and “O‘zbekistonning o‘z istiqlol va taraqqiyot yo‘li” provided a conceptual basis for forming an independent national ideology.

They addressed core principles such as: national sovereignty, security and stability, interethnic harmony, patriotism and civic responsibility.

These ideas were crucial for the early years of independence and helped unite society around common goals.

Such concepts continue to influence educational programs and state cultural policies today.

2. Guidance for Long-term Development

Karimov’s works presented strategic views on political modernization and economic reforms. They helped define Uzbekistan’s development model, focusing on gradual reforms, stability, and national interests.

The Role of Shavkat Mirziyoyev’s Books in Creating a Modern, Open Society

1. Concept of the “New Uzbekistan”

Shavkat Mirziyoyev’s books — “Yangi O‘zbekiston strategiyasi”, “Erkin va farovon hayot sari”, and “Inson qadri uchun” — promote the idea that society must be based on human dignity, justice, and transparency.

Key principles include:

open dialogue with the people

protection of human rights

digital transformation

strengthening civil society institutions

These ideas support active civic participation and modernization of state governance.

2. Educational and Moral Influence on Youth

Mirziyoyev’s works highlight the importance of knowledge, global integration, and youth leadership.

His books motivate young people to:

think innovatively

be globally competitive

take responsibility for the country’s future. This has contributed to new youth programs, scholarships, and reforms in higher education.

3. Accelerating Social and Economic Reforms

The President’s books outline steps for economic liberalization, entrepreneurship development, and investment attraction.

His ideas encourage society to embrace innovation, technology, and international cooperation.

The books authored by Islam Karimov and Shavkat Mirziyoyev occupy a unique and historically significant place in the intellectual heritage of Uzbekistan, serving not only

as political documents but also as philosophical frameworks that define the ideological foundations and developmental trajectory of the nation. These works illuminate how Uzbekistan navigated its transition from a Soviet republic to an independent state and later evolved into a modern, reform-oriented society. Written during two distinct periods, the books of the first and current presidents reveal differences in priorities, approaches, and state-building strategies, yet both corpora of work share a unified objective: to construct a strong, value-based, and forward-looking Uzbek society capable of adapting to global challenges while preserving national identity and spiritual integrity.

Islam Karimov's writings were produced during the formative years of Uzbekistan's independence, a period marked by political uncertainty, economic upheaval, institutional vacuum, and a pressing need to build state structures from the ground up. In his foundational work, "Uzbekistan's Own Path of Development," Karimov articulates a model of national transformation rooted in gradual reforms, stability, and the protection of sovereignty. He firmly rejected "shock therapy" approaches that were adopted by some post-Soviet countries, arguing that drastic liberalization would destabilize society and threaten the unity of the nation. Instead, he proposed a staged, cautious, and carefully measured transition to a market economy, emphasizing that without political stability and strong governance institutions, no economic reform could produce sustainable outcomes. This vision shaped the economic and political course of Uzbekistan throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, influencing privatization policies, administrative structuring, and the development of national legislation.

Karimov's emphasis on spirituality and national consciousness represents another cornerstone of his intellectual legacy. His book "High Spirituality Is an Invincible Force" serves not only as a cultural-philosophical text but also as a comprehensive guide to understanding how moral values, historical memory, and cultural heritage contribute to nation-building. In this work, Karimov argues that in the age of globalization, cultural erosion and ideological invasions pose serious threats to the identity of newly independent states. Therefore, a strong spiritual foundation—rooted in national traditions, classical literature, historical figures, and the moral teachings of ancestors—is essential for protecting society from radicalism, extremism, and moral decline.

This idea resonated strongly throughout educational institutions, where curricula were reshaped to emphasize patriotism, cultural pride, and civic responsibility. His books fostered a generation of youth who perceived independence not merely as political liberation but as a moral and historical mission that requires conscious participation in state development.

In his later works, such as "Uzbekistan on the Threshold of Independence," Karimov

provides a meticulous historical analysis of the socio-political conditions that preceded independence. Drawing on political documents, personal reflections, and strategic decisions, he reconstructs the atmosphere of the late Soviet period and explains how Uzbekistan preserved internal stability during the collapse of a superpower. This book remains an invaluable source for historians and political scientists studying the transition period, offering insights into the mechanisms through which Uzbekistan avoided ethnic conflicts, economic collapse, and political fragmentation—trends that affected many other post-Soviet states.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev's works, on the other hand, reflect the demands and aspirations of a society entering a new phase of transformation. His writings correspond to the era of the “New Uzbekistan,” characterized by large-scale reforms, openness to the international community, modernization of public institutions, and a shift toward a people-centered governance model. In his programmatic book “The Strategy of the New Uzbekistan,” Mirziyoyev develops a comprehensive theoretical and practical framework for modernizing the country. He emphasizes seven priority areas aimed at ensuring human rights, strengthening the rule of law, reforming public administration, fostering civil society, promoting economic liberalization, digitalizing governance, and enhancing Uzbekistan’s presence on the global stage. This work synthesizes the main policy directions undertaken since 2016 and provides a blueprint for the nation’s long-term development.

A distinctive aspect of Mirziyoyev’s intellectual contribution is his strong focus on human dignity. In his influential work “For the Dignity of Humans,” he argues that the legitimacy and effectiveness of state institutions must be measured by how well they serve the individual. This idea marks a shift in the philosophy of governance: from the state-centered paradigms of the early independence period toward a model in which the citizen’s welfare, freedom, and quality of life become the highest priority.

Conclusion

The books authored by Islam Karimov and Shavkat Mirziyoyev form a profound and multifaceted intellectual and ideological foundation that plays a crucial role in shaping the development of a new society in Uzbekistan. These works are not merely collections of thoughts or political reflections; they embody the principles of national identity, deep-rooted moral and ethical values, and a strategic vision for the nation’s progress. By emphasizing the importance of cultural heritage, patriotism, and social responsibility, the writings of these leaders provide guidance not only for policymakers but also for the broader population, particularly the younger generation, who are the architects of the country’s future.

Moreover, their books serve as a bridge between tradition and modernity, encouraging the harmonization of historical experience with contemporary challenges. They inspire reforms in governance, education, economic development, and social

policy, promoting a society where justice, equality, and human dignity are fundamental. The philosophical and ideological frameworks presented in their works contribute to building a strong civic consciousness, fostering active participation in nation-building, and cultivating a sense of pride in Uzbekistan's achievements and potential. Ultimately, the contributions of Islam Karimov and Shavkat Mirziyoyev extend beyond the realm of political thought; they provide a roadmap for sustainable national development, cultural enrichment, and international engagement. By adhering to the principles outlined in their books, Uzbekistan is positioned to advance confidently toward a future characterized by progress, stability, and social harmony, while preserving its unique identity and values. Their intellectual legacy ensures that the nation continues on a path where innovation, justice, and human dignity remain at the core of societal growth, making their works an enduring source of guidance and inspiration for generations to come.

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