



## THE FORMATION OF IDEOLOGICAL IMMUNITY IN THE MINDS AND THINKING OF YOUTH IS THE DEMAND OF THE PERIOD

*Ruziev Bobosher Usarovich*

*Teacher at Tashkent Medical Academy*

**Annotation:** This article discusses the ongoing information attacks in the world, the global arms trade, ideological threats, and their negative impacts on society, particularly on the upbringing of the youth. It also addresses the fight against harmful ideologies being spread under the guise of democracy and human rights. The article emphasizes the importance of developing genuine ideological immunity in the minds and consciousness of the youth of Uzbekistan against these ideological threats.

**Key words:** information attacks, democracy, values, ideological field, ideological battles, geopolitics, youth of Uzbekistan, ideological immunity.

### Introduction

It is well known, that at the end of the 20th century, the former Soviet Union, which had promoted its dominant ideology across a large part of the world, collapsed. This led to the emergence of new independent states on the world political map, along with various sides attempting to maintain influence over them, and the rise of forces with different ideologies around the globe. This situation is displaying itself in a unique way in this globalized era. The world is once again moving away from stability. This situation undoubtedly causes concerns for every country and its population. As a result, disagreements in the international arena and various powers are skillfully using strong information propaganda and ideological attacks for their own interests. Therefore, for Uzbekistan, which has a large portion of its population consisting of youth, these ideological influences and information attacks pose a significant threat. For this reason, the statement by the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, is absolutely true: "Today, the world is changing rapidly. And who feels these changes the most? It is the youth. Let the youth be in tune with the demands of their time. But at the same time, let them not forget who they are. The call of 'Who are we? We are the descendants of great nations' should always resonate in their hearts, urging them to remain true to their identity."<sup>1</sup> Today, humanity lives surrounded by various forces and different pieces of information. Politically, it seems that the world's countries are dividing into opposing sides, much like during the era of the Soviet Union. However, today, cultures and ideologies are becoming increasingly globalized. Opposing sides are using information as a powerful weapon. Therefore, protecting the consciousness of our youth from harmful ideologies remains an ongoing and crucial task.

### Results and discussion

In the scientific works of various scholars and researchers, different aspects of the topic have been studied in unique ways. The distinct aspects of the topic, particularly research on the internet and its negative effects on the mentality and consciousness of youth, have been highlighted in the studies and articles of many researchers from both CIS countries and other foreign countries.

In Uzbekistan, the monographs and articles of scholars such as M.N. Abdullayeva, B.R. Karimov, K.J.

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<sup>1</sup> Мирзиёев Ш.М. Миллий тараққиёт йўлимизни қатъият билан давом эттириб янги босқичга қўтарамиз. Т. "Ўзбекистон" 2017 у.р-486

Tulenova, Z.D. Davronov, E.M. Izzetova, S. Otamuratov, I. Saifnazarov, O'.M. Abilov, A.M. Abduvohidov, and M.A. Yahyo can be reviewed regarding the methodological and social aspects of informatization and ensuring information security.

In Uzbekistan, from the early years of independence, protecting the socio-economic, political, and legal interests of youth was elevated to the level of government policy. Attention was focused on enhancing the awareness and thinking of young people, raising their political culture and moral standards, and educating them based on national and universal values. This was emphasized by Uzbekistan's first President, Islam Karimov, in his speech: "We must instill in the hearts of our children a healthy attitude towards the motherland, our rich history, and the sacred religion of our ancestors. In other words, we need to strengthen their ideological immunity."<sup>2</sup> Therefore, the restoration of history, spirituality, and national values was approached at the level of state policy. The nation's rich spiritual heritage and values were revived, and its history was documented objectively. At the same time, it can be said that ideological attacks in the world have not finished entirely, and efforts to ideologically dominate the world are growing stronger.

In countries striving to exert their influence globally, the drive for militarization is intensifying. New types of weapons are being developed, and the arms trade is becoming an increasingly lucrative business. To test and sell these new weapons, new buyers—essentially, new war zones—are being created. The creation of these new battle fields is further fueled by various geopolitical maneuvers and the escalation of ideological attacks.

In recent times, the frequent occurrence of information attacks signifies a shift in the nature of warfare and the discovery of a new type of weapon: information. In these information wars, the human mind and heart become the primary targets. Although this weapon, unlike stray bullets, does not physically eliminate a person, its destructive power and the damage it inflicts can rival that of any weapon of mass destruction. Through this weapon, the strikes delivered to the mind mislead individuals, compelling them to act against their own interests. This, in turn, enables control and domination over people. More specifically, it instills an alien ideology within them.

Ideological threats may not seem immediately apparent or directly visible at first glance, as ideology takes shape within the human mind and consciousness. Therefore, it is essential to prevent and counter any threats that endanger the mind and thinking, ensuring they do not take root or cause harm.

Since the 1980s, many countries around the world have been benefiting from the economic and technological advancements brought by globalization. As a result, previously uncrossable boundaries between nations have disappeared, enabling deeper, more direct, and multifaceted connections among people than ever before. However, this process has also given rise to negative consequences. For instance, long-distance relationships often weaken bonds with close ones, leading to alienation from one's roots and heritage. The world, its people, and values are losing their essence, causing a drift away from kinship ties, national culture, and history. As a result, a form of globalization infused with ideology has emerged, which negatively impacts people's spirituality and poses threats to the future of individual nations. This ideologically driven globalization creates harmful phenomena that endanger cultural and moral future of the nation.

Today, in the Central Asia region, there is a relentless clash of various interests and ideologies.

On one hand, extremist groups that aim to restore a state similar to those of the medieval period, which could pose a threat to society's consciousness and spirituality, continue to exist.

At the same time, powerful states and malicious forces, seeking to align the region with their geopolitical interests, are organizing large-scale ideological pressures under the mask of defending democracy and human rights. In this context, it is worth recalling the statement by one of the well-known American scholars, Z. Brzezinski: "Whoever gains dominance in this region will undoubtedly achieve geopolitical and economic success."<sup>3</sup>

As the first President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, emphasized: "Today, humanity constantly feels the impact of various ideological attacks, spreading from distant and nearby sources, serving the interests of certain states and political forces. In such a situation, if a person does not have an independent mind, firm beliefs, reliance on national life values, a well-formed worldview, and strong will, it becomes impossible for

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<sup>2</sup> Каримов И.А. Асарлар. Т. V-8. P-494

<sup>3</sup> Бжезинский З. Великая шахматная доска.- Москва, 1999.- С.168.

them to withstand the pressure of different ideologies, whether open or concealed.” 4

For example, the "mass culture" coming from the west is bringing propaganda materials that encourage immorality, violence, and ignorance, which are contrary to our national values and traditions.

Protection from such harmful ideological attacks is becoming not only a problem for Uzbekistan, Central Asia, but also for the global community as a whole. For example, in the Russian Federation, a special presidential decree was issued in November 2022 regarding the "Approval of the Foundations of State Policy for the Preservation and Strengthening of Traditional Russian Spiritual and Moral Values." 5

Such cases were previously observed in internet clubs. Today, they spread through various websites and social media platforms such as Telegram, Instagram, Facebook, and via other social media platforms.

These habits, which are contrary to our national mentality, lead to the moral degradation of young people and the formation of a superficial worldview.

Therefore, shaping a healthy ideology in the minds of young people remains an ongoing priority. Uzbekistan's first president, Islam Karimov, who recognized this importance early on, once stated that "ideological polygons are even more dangerous than nuclear polygons". 6 Today, humanity witnesses the truth of this statement with its own eyes.

As a result, young people who fall into the trap of "mass culture" are unknowingly becoming disrespectful, indifferent, careless, and ignorant towards teachers, education, parents, the elderly, people with disabilities, and the less fortunate. Therefore, the education of young people and the cultivation of their minds and thinking must never be neglected.

This is why the words of the famous Uzbek enlightener, Abdulla Avloni, who stated, "Education is for us a matter of either life or death, salvation or destruction, happiness or disaster " 7 continue to hold significant relevance even today.

Today, as we are building a society based on the freedom of citizens and independent thinking, it is crucial to explain to our youth that absolute freedom does not exist in society, and that independent thinking cannot be an excuse for irresponsibility or forgetting one's duties. While citizen freedom is guaranteed by the new social system, it does not imply a guarantee for behavior that contradicts the interests of society. Living by the motto "I am a completely free citizen, an independent thinker, I will do as I want" is an ideology that contradicts the social and national essence of a person. Everyone must be aware of such situations. As the first President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, stated: "It should be clear to all of us that wherever negligence and indifference prevail, and the most urgent issues are left unresolved, that place will become the weakest point of spirituality. On the other hand, wherever vigilance, dedication, high intellect, and thinking prevail, there spirituality will become a powerful force." 8

Currently, the world is drawn into the process of globalization. This, in turn, leads to growth in the field of technology and creates conveniences for people.

The impact of globalization differs from country to country. For example, according to the famous economist J. Attali, the third stage of development—what he calls the "age of money," which represents the universal equivalent of values—has begun. In his view, due to the dominance of a single liberal-democratic ideology, the market system, and the development of information technologies, a new global landscape is emerging...9 This situation is closely related to the economic, informational, spiritual potentials, and political conditions of countries around the world.

## **Conclusion .**

In conclusion, it can be said that all the information provided above demands, from the perspective of the current era, that the ideological immunity in the minds of the younger generation must never be weakened.

Currently, our country has sufficient opportunities for the all-around development of the younger generation in order to achieve the high goals set before our nation. Any state that cares about its future will, first and

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4 Каримов И.А. Юсак маънавият — енгилмас куч. Т., "Маънавият", 2008 у.-р-113.

5 <http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/48502>

6 Миллий истиқлол ғояси асосий тушунча ва тамойиллар. Т. "Ўзбекистон". 2000 у.-р- 3

7 Абдулла Авлоний. Туркий гулистон ёхуд ахлоқ.Т."Ўзбекистон миллий энциклопедияси" нашриёти."2004 у. Р-7

8 Каримов И.А. Хавфсизлик ва барқарор тараққиёт йўлида. V. 6 Т.1998 у р-11

9 Жалилов. А, Туленова Г. Геосиёсат асослари. Study guide. Т. 2007 р-56

foremost, focus on the education and upbringing of its youth. It is important to note that in our country, the state expenditures necessary for the all-around development of every individual have been increasing year by year, and this issue has been a primary focus of public attention.

In our country, alongside informing the youth about the latest technological achievements, effective efforts are being made to create new opportunities and conditions for them.

As changes, achievements, and successes in every field continue to grow and expand, is it correct to say that there will be no more work in the field of ideology, and everything will continue as we have imagined? Of course, no. The efforts to "capture the minds and hearts of young people" are still ongoing in the world. In particular, we must remain attentive to the issues of shaping the thinking and worldview of our youth, as it is impossible to neglect this matter.

In other words, shaping ideological immunity in young people remains a pressing demand of this period.

Ideological immunity manifests itself in the daily actions of an individual, based on voluntary, ideologically grounded efforts for the homeland and nation. This activity includes resisting qualities, foreign viewpoints, and external and internal threats that hinder national unity and spiritual development. It also embodies the strength to stand firmly and bravely against both internal and external challenges to our national security. National ideological immunity relies on deep knowledge of the political essence of independence, the achievements and challenges of reforms, and the internal and external policies of the state for every young person and citizen.

Thus, the future of a great Uzbekistan, a free and prosperous homeland, and the fate of the reforms ultimately depend on the worldview, social goals, acquisition of modern sciences and professions, and practical organizational skills of the generation being formed today.

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