

The Theoretical and Methodological Foundations of the Concept of National Pride

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Annotation:

This article discusses concepts such as national pride, national consciousness, national worldview, customs, and traditions. It presents ideas on how the millennia-old values of the Uzbek people are instilled in the younger generation through these feelings.

Keywords:

national pride, national consciousness, national worldview, values, customs, traditions, feelings.

National Identity is the glorification of one's own nation and the defense of its interests; it includes feelings of national pride and dignity, appreciation for one's language, literature, art and culture, religion, history, traditions, customs, celebrations, and in short, cultural and spiritual values. It also encompasses a sense of cherishing the homeland where one was born and raised, taking pride in its nature, rivers, lakes, and clear skies. National identity is a great force that ensures the social and ethnic stability of individuals belonging to a particular nation.

National consciousness is a factor directly tied to the existence, historical development, and future of a nation. It ensures the formation, progress, and continuity of a nation. National consciousness evolves along with the nation itself. The emergence of unique interests and goals that distinguish one nation from others gives rise to national consciousness. Therefore, national consciousness develops in parallel with the nation over a long historical period, influenced by its way of life, economy, socio-political conditions, and broad spiritual and educational potential.

Thus, national consciousness refers to a system of ideas and thoughts that express the interests and goals associated with the history, destiny, and future of a nation, guiding the activities and direction of its people. National consciousness is shaped and developed in the process of producing both material and spiritual wealth and through relations with other nations. In this very process, the features characteristic of the nation take form. These distinguishing features set one nation apart from others. In turn, such unique traits play a leading role in the formation of national interests and goals. Therefore, the socio-political, economic, and spiritual-educational development of a nation throughout all historical periods is reflected in its national consciousness.

The spiritual foundations of the development of national consciousness are formed by elements such as the national language, cultural heritage, historical memory, customs, traditions, values, national upbringing, and the education system. These sources provide spiritual nourishment for the nation and help it to understand itself through them.

National pride is:

1. A concept that expresses the sense of pride a person or social group feels based on national self-awareness, derived from the material and spiritual heritage left by their ancestors, their nation's contribution to world civilization, and the nation's dignity and reputation among other peoples.

This feeling manifests itself in the following forms:

- Pride in the achievements and reputation of the nation;
- Concern and care for the nation's problems;
- Deep devotion to one's people and nation;
- Preservation and protection of the nation's material and spiritual heritage;
- Respect for national customs, traditions, and values, and efforts to enrich and improve them;

- Demonstrating love for one's nation through practical actions.

Healthy national pride requires showing respect and honor toward individuals of other nationalities. A spiritually mature person with such a feeling is able to distinguish between national identity and nationalism, between genuine national pride and chauvinistic nationalism. Such a person does not belittle the dignity or pride of representatives of other nations.

Independence has enriched the meaning of national pride by enhancing people's sense of responsibility toward their nation, homeland, and the memory of their ancestors. In such conditions, pride in the independence of our country, active labor toward building a free, prosperous, and independent life, and the use of global community achievements and universal technologies are factors that increase national pride. This, in turn, largely determines the strength, potential, and constructive activities of our fellow citizens, motivating them to continuously strive to develop a healthy sense of national pride within themselves.

National customs and traditions serve to regulate individual behavior and free the mind from excessive strain, ensuring the alignment of a person's desires and goals. Even if a child has not yet fully absorbed national customs and traditions, they can still be influenced by them. Once a person fully internalizes these customs, they become part of their internal regulatory functions.

Customs and traditions, as social-psychological phenomena, shape a person's ideals, tastes, needs, worldview, beliefs, faith, and personal activity. For example, since ancient times, before going on a long journey, people would kiss the doorstep saying, "May you return without harm to your honor," and wipe their dust on it. Upon returning, respect for the doorstep was again shown. Even if growing children do not fully understand these behaviors of elders at first, by observing them, they gradually begin to comprehend their meaning.

Children come to realize the sanctity of the doorstep, its honor, and that it symbolizes the family, neighborhood, and the prestige of relatives. They understand that social customs must be followed at home, in the neighborhood, among friends, at work, and with guests. Under the influence of these traditions, certain moral traits begin to develop in them.

Every action and activity is motivated by a driving force. A need can act as a consciously recognized motive to act. In the process of performing customs within traditions, a person's spiritual needs are expressed through national customs and traditions. For a person to perform a particular custom or tradition, an interest or feeling of attachment to it must arise. This, in turn, regulates their behavior according to certain rules.

Motives closely connected with needs encourage a person to act. For instance, consider the national custom of hashar (community work). Participants in cooperative labor typically experience enthusiasm, good mood, and self-confidence. This ensures that the work's results are complete, thorough, and durable. Because the essence of interpersonal relations is expressed in hashar, informal leaders emerge—some take advisory roles, some lead, and others strive to demonstrate their capabilities. The quality of work performed collectively is higher. Participation in hashar also satisfies the need for social interaction and communication among participants, expressed through humor, applause, prayers, and approval.

The vitality of these customs, their ability to provide psychological comfort, and their sharp psychological impact on participants are seen in Uzbek national customs like shame. Simple forms of uyat include actions such as reaching out to the table before elders, interrupting elders or guests, or a grown daughter staring directly at her father. Shame is a high-level feeling that controls behavior. Deviating from an established custom immediately triggers this feeling, activating its regulatory function. Thus, shame involves recognizing one's inappropriate behavior, feeling regret and embarrassment, and experiencing concern, honor, and shame.

In conclusion, national pride and national consciousness are fundamental spiritual and moral foundations for the strength and development of any nation. They are formed through respect and loyalty to a nation's unique values, historical heritage, language, and culture. Customs and traditions are the practical expressions of this consciousness, playing an important role in maintaining social stability and regulating individual behavior. Therefore, passing down and preserving national values for the younger generation is a crucial task in maintaining and strengthening national identity.

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