

**THE PLACE OF 20TH CENTURY LITERATURE IN THE PRESENT LIBRARY  
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**Abstract.** The article presents ideas about the current significance of the works of 20th century literary figures, their place in Uzbek literature, as well as their influence on the human psyche and their contribution to the development of reading culture. In addition, the differences between 20th century literature and literary samples of other periods are presented.

**Keywords:** book, Jadids, 20th century Uzbek literature, reading culture, artistic thought, spiritual education, society and literature, reader's thought.

**XX ASR ADABIYOTINING HOZIRGI KUNDAGI KITOBXONLIK  
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**Annotatsiya.** Maqolada XX asr adabiyoti namoyondalari asarlarining bugungi kundagi ahamiyati, ularning o'zbek adabiyotidagi o'rni, shuningdek, ularning inson ruhiyatiga ta'siri, kitobxonlik madaniyatini rivojlantirishdagi hissasi xususida fikrlar bayon etilgan. Bundan tashqari XX asr adabiyotining boshqa davrlar adabiyot namunalaridan farqlari keltirilgan.

**Kalit so'zlar:** kitob, jadidlar, XX asr o'zbek adabiyoti, kitobxonlik madaniyati, badiiy tafakkur, ma'naviy tarbiya, jamiyat va adabiyot, o'quvchi tafakkuri.

**МЕСТО ЛИТЕРАТУРЫ XX ВЕКА В СОВРЕМЕННОЙ БИБЛИОТЕЧНОЙ  
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**Аннотация.** В статье излагаются идеи о современной значимости произведений литературных деятелей XX века, их месте в узбекской литературе, а также об их влиянии на психику человека и вкладе в развитие культуры чтения. Кроме того, рассматриваются различия между литературой XX века и образцами литературы других эпох.

**Ключевые слова:** книга, джадиды, узбекская литература XX века, культура чтения, художественная мысль, духовное воспитание, общество и литература, читательская мысль.

**INTRODUCTION**

The 20th century was a period rich in social, political, and cultural changes in human history, and these processes also found their reflection in literature. The ideological richness, emotional impact, and artistic maturity of the works of Uzbek literature created during this period continue to play an important role today in shaping the consciousness of young people, in moral and ethical education, and most importantly, in the formation and development of a culture of reading. The works of 20th-century writers serve not only as examples of literary art but also as means of nurturing human thought, shaping the reader's worldview, and cultivating aesthetic

taste. Even today, pupils, students, and book lovers derive valuable life lessons from the literature of this period, expanding their artistic imagination and broadening their intellectual horizons.

### LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

Professor Naim Karimov, reflecting on this matter, rightfully wrote:

“The 20th century is one of the greatest centuries in human history. No matter how much blood was shed in this century, no matter how many injustices and wrongdoings occurred, it was in this very century that humanity took great steps toward the future... All the events that took place during this century are an integral part of human history. Trying to forget or erase from history the parts that are unacceptable to us is meaningless... In the 20th century, Uzbek literature established a strong connection with the life of the people and society. Such a connection did not exist in the earlier stages of our literature. The 20th-century Uzbek literature sought to lead the people and society toward freedom and national progress, and in this aspiration, it achieved certain successes.”

(*The 20th Century in My Fate*. — *Jahon Adabiyoti* journal, January 2001, p. 24.)

Renowned literary critic Ozod Sharafiddinov wrote:

“In the 20th century, we can boldly say that we created a high-level literature capable of meeting the highest demands of the world. In storytelling, novella writing, novel writing, as well as in poetry and drama, one can find dozens of examples proving this.”

(*Sharafiddinov Ozod. One of the Three Peaks*. — *O‘zAS*, November 23, 2001.)

Such a fair assessment of 20th-century literature is also confirmed by the following words of Umarali Normatov:

“No other field in the 20th century waged such consistent and persistent struggle for the fate of the nation, for social justice, for human freedom and dignity, as literature did. From the novel *O‘tkan kunlar* (*Bygone Days*), Cho‘lpon’s poetry, and Fitrat’s dramas, to Tog‘ay Murod’s *Otamdan qolgan dalalar* (*The Fields Left by My Father*) and Shavkat Rahmon’s manly verses—bring to mind the most outstanding examples of artistic creation, and you will not find any other field that so passionately reflected the concerns of the people, the nation’s freedom, independence, and liberty! I fully agree with the view that the great masters of the word of the 20th century were the first to prepare the idea and ideology of independence. The service of 20th-century literature in shaping the nation’s artistic taste and sense of beauty is truly invaluable.”

(*The 20th Century in My Fate*. — *Jahon Adabiyoti* journal, January 2001, p. 17.)

Author of the textbook *20th-Century Uzbek Literature*, Saydulla Mirzayev, divided the development of 20th-century Uzbek literature into four main stages. According to him:

**Stage One:** Uzbek literature of 1900–1930

**Stage Two:** Uzbek literature of the 1940s–1950s

**Stage Three:** Uzbek literature of the 1960s–1980s

**Stage Four:** Uzbek literature of the 1990s

In each stage, the works created reflected the social, spiritual, and political landscape of their time. Through these works, readers become acquainted with the life of different eras, contributing to the growth of their historical thinking and artistic taste.

Fiction is considered an inexhaustible source of ideas. It embodies the thoughts, reflections, aspirations, and hopes of people from different periods, as well as political, ideological, moral-educational, philosophical, religious, and other perspectives prevailing in society. At the same time, through the ideas it conveys, fiction exerts a powerful influence on the hearts and minds of people, fostering the emergence of new views and ideas, enriching them spiritually, and contributing to the development of their consciousness.

In depicting the human psyche, it becomes clear that the main factor shaping and bringing it to the surface is society and the social environment. An adolescent's personality is the product of social relations; the reason is that they are constantly within the circle of people, in a sphere of mutual influence. Therefore, the social environment plays a significant role in their emotional and intellectual development.

There are many works that influence the human psyche and spirituality, such as Said Ahmad's *Ufq (Horizon)*, Isojon Sulton's *Boqiy Darbadar (Eternal Wanderer)*, O'lmas Umarbekov's *Odam bo'lish qiyin (It Is Difficult to Be Human)*, and Abdulla Qodiriy's *O'tkan kunlar (Bygone Days)*.

One of the works that compels every person to reflect on their actions is Abdulla Qodiriy's *O'tkan kunlar*. Through this novel, the author contemplates the vices of society, the mistakes of the past, and the importance of human values. It encourages the reader to think about historical processes and to find connections between the past and the present.

## DISCUSSION

The literature of the 20th century forms the foundation for the development of today's reading culture. Reading is not merely the act of going through text, but a conscious process of analysis, forming one's own opinion, and deriving aesthetic pleasure. It is precisely in the 20th century that masterpieces such as *O'tkan kunlar (Bygone Days)*, *Kecha va kunduz (Night and Day)*, *Cho'lpon*, *Ufq (Horizon)*, *Said Ahmad*, *Boqiy Darbadar (Eternal Wanderer)*, *Isojon Sulton*, and *Odam bo'lish qiyin (It Is Difficult to Be Human)*, *O'lmas Umarbekov* were created—works that still stir the hearts of modern readers, prompting them to think and reflect.

These works:

- encourage the reader to reflect on social responsibility,
- awaken historical memory and national consciousness,
- help to understand the human psyche through psychological analysis,

- and most importantly, develop the ability to think independently and to make artistic judgments.

The literature of the 20th century also brought innovation to reading culture in terms of form and genre. The broad development of prose—particularly the novel genre, which addressed profound social and philosophical issues—has become a school of life experience for today's youth. Through these works, readers learn to analyze life and to understand human nature.

Through literature, the reader discovers their own inner world and satisfies their spiritual needs. For this reason, 20th-century literature is one of the most powerful sources of today's reading culture.

## RESULTS

20th-century Uzbek literature:

- serves as a primary source in the formation of reading culture,
- holds an invaluable place in the spiritual and psychological development of the reader,
- plays an important role in processes such as critical thinking, historical awareness, and the perception of national identity,
- and, in the present day, is essential to study and promote in order to familiarize the younger generation with books and to cultivate their artistic taste.

Period	Main Themes
Medieval literature	Science, religion, ethics, Sufism, love (e.g., Navoi, Jami)
Jadid literature (late 19th – early 20th century)	Reform, modern science, national awakening, struggle against ignorance
20th-century Uzbek literature	Personal freedom, national identity, social equality, political oppression, wars, psychology, societal conflicts
Post-independence literature (21st century)	Homeland, independence, social stability, spirituality, migration, global issues

## Conclusion

20th-century Uzbek literature not only addressed the social, political, and psychological issues relevant to its own time, but also plays an invaluable role in shaping the thinking, spirituality, and aesthetic taste of today's readers. The ideological depth, artistic excellence, and reliance on life's realities of this period's literature have made it an inseparable link in the modern reading culture.

Through these works, the contemporary reader enriches their spiritual needs, understanding of society, and historical memory. In particular, reading such works encourages the reader to understand their own identity, think independently, and perceive reality on a deeper level. Therefore, promoting 20th-century Uzbek literature widely and popularizing it among the

younger generation is one of the most important means of developing reading culture in the present day.

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