



## STAGES OF CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL- CULTURAL CENTERS IN UZBEKISTAN

Sharipov Shaxriddin

Samarkand State University, Assistant of the faculty of History,  
Department of History of Uzbekistan  
shaxriddin.domla@mail.ru, +998936617270

### Abstract

In the state presented information about the creation and development of national-cultural centers in Uzbekistan for the years of independence on the basis of information and sources related to the activity of national-cultural centers.

**Keywords:** interethnic cooperation, nations and peoples, national-cultural centers, customs, common home, peace and harmony, opportunity.

### Introduction

The purpose of establishing national cultural centers in the Republic of Uzbekistan is consists to study preserve and develop the national culture, language, customs, traditions and customs of each nation which living in the Republic. On the eve of independence, the need to protect the interests of all nations and peoples through the establishment of national and cultural centers in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan had become more important than ever. The main reason for it was the mistakes and shortcomings in the field of interethnic relations during the former Soviet era. During this period, the idea of a single state, a single nation was promoted by officials of the former Soviet government. Also, the policy of discrediting an entire nation due to certain mistakes and shortcomings of the nations living in the Republics had led to very tragic consequences.

In the period former Soviet Union, in Uzbekistan, national policy was one-sided. The national question had not been resolved in any of the allied republics. Always, on the national affairs, one-sided approach had been taken by the former Center. This, in turn, caused great damage to the socio-economic situation of the entire USSR, including Uzbekistan. Although the thoughts about the development of national cultures had explained in the Constitution of the former USSR, in practice, these had not been proven. In the program of the Communist Party, the loss of national identity through the rapprochement of all nations and peoples, the tendency to create a single, uncultured, artificial nation had risen to the level of state and ruling party policy.





Indeed, a single Soviet people emerged in the KPSS program and it was said that, this was a great achievement of the national policy of the Soviet state. The stability of a multi-ethnic state depends not only on the marking of rights and freedoms in this regard, but also on the extent to which it is put into practice. These, in turn, had been proven many times in history.

### **Theoretical background**

On the eve of independence, the shortcomings in the course of interethnic relations in the country began to be gradually eliminated. The role of national-cultural centers is growing in overcoming the shortcomings which were indulged in the field of interethnic relations in the former Soviet Union and the next period. Exactly, national cultural centers are affecting as an institution involving national-ethnic units and associations to the process of modernization of the state. It has been shaping interethnic cooperation, peace and harmony in the country by deepening ethno cultural pluralism. National cultural centers have a special place in terms of functional features in the modernization of the Republic of Uzbekistan, deepening and development of ethno cultural pluralism.

Socio-political, economic, spiritual and cultural processes which are taking place in the Republic of Uzbekistan during the years of independence, besides, relations between Tajik, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Turkmen peoples which are neighboring to Uzbekistan show the need to regulate and improve inter-ethnic relations.

Public organizations were formed in Uzbekistan to meet the national cultural needs of certain ethnic groups. In 1989, Interethnic Cultural Center of the country was established under the Ministry of Culture. National-cultural centers voluntarily unite the citizens of Uzbekistan who are interested in the study, preservation and development of national culture, customs, traditions and customs specific to a particular nation. They are formed on the based on the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "About the Non-Governmental and Non-Profit Organizations" (April 14, 1999). Their charters are registered by the relevant justice organizations [1]. National-cultural centers carry out its activities directly or through community branches only in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Such development, in turn, requires coordination of their activities. For this purpose, in January 1992, the International Cultural Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established with the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Coordination and supporting the activities of national and cultural centers were noted as the main task of International Cultural Center. Besides, it is emphasize that should help to government agencies and public organizations in the study of issues related to the spiritual needs of national groups which living in the territory of Uzbekistan [2,433].





### **Main part**

In 1993, the National Cultural Center was transformed into an independent Republican International Cultural Center. Nowadays, it has been organizing the activities of national-cultural centers, studying the cultural needs of national groups which living in Uzbekistan, and assisting government agencies and public organizations. In 1996, International Cultural Center and National-Cultural Centers moved to the magnificent palace named “Bobur” with the help of the state. This complex was named the Palace of Nations.

Initially, in 1989, there were 12 cultural centers such as Kazakh, Korean, Armenian, Azerbaijani and Tajik in the Republic of Uzbekistan. In particular, by 1995 their number in the country exceeded 80, and by 2000 it reached 100. In 2002, there were 120 national cultural centers in the country, in 2003 - 135, in 2004 - 137.

According to the information of 2017, there were 23 National Cultural Centers in Tashkent, 6 in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and 95 in the regions [3]. In Tashkent city, 14 republican and 23 city national cultural centers carry out their activities. Currently, 14 National Cultural Centers have the status of the republic. There were 31 Koreans, 23 Russians, 10 Tajiks, 9 Kazakhs, 9 Tatars, 3 Tatar-Bashkirs, 8 Azerbaijanis, 7 Turkmens, 6 Ukrainians and Kyrgyz, 5 Turks and European Jews National Cultural Centers in Uzbekistan. As well as, there were National Cultural Centers of Germans, Poles and Armenians - 4 each, Uighurs and Bukhara Jews - 3 each, Belarusians and Crimean Tatars - 2 each, Arabs, Bulgarians, Bashkirs, Greeks, Georgians, Lithuanians, Karakalpaks, Chinese and Dungans - 1 each [4, 167].

The main tasks of the national cultural centers are as follows:

- encouraging social initiatives aimed at establishing the principles of interethnic harmony;
- Coordination and rewarding, developing a culture of interethnic relations;
- Restoration and development of unique national traditions, customs and ritualism of different nationalities and ethnic groups living in the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Providing practical and methodological assistance to cultural centers;
- Advising public organizations on supporting inter-ethnic harmony;
- Development of culture and spiritual values of representatives of different nationalities which living in the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Providing organizational, legal and methodological assistance in conducting research in the field of interethnic relations;
- organization of conferences, seminars and “round tables”;
- Participating in the production of TV and radio programs and broadcasts aimed at harmonizing interethnic relations as well as, in the production of books, brochures, reference books, brochures, booklets and other types of printed materials for the meeting the cultural needs of different nationalities and ethnic groups.





**As well as:**

- practical and methodological assistance to national-cultural centers;
- coordinating and monitoring their activities;
- to promote the restoration and development of national traditions, customs and ritualism, culture and spiritual values of the peoples and national groups living in the republic;
- to establish and develop contacts and cooperation with national and international cultural centers near and far abroad;
- to unite nations and peoples in the spirit of internationalism, to promote the harmonization of interethnic relations [2, 439].

**National cultural centers work in three main areas:**

1. Restoring the language, culture, customs and rituals of each nation, revitalizing their ties and relations with their historical homeland, to pave the way for the expression of their national feelings;
2. Knowing independent Uzbekistan as true homeland and to serve it with gratitude and devotion;
3. Living together with the motherland, to study its culture, history and language, living in friendship, cooperation and peace with the nation which given its name to the independent state, to know its language, culture and history. Activities which are carrying out in these three directions are appropriate to the requirements of modernizing social life and the development of interethnic relations [4, 156].

The work of national and cultural centers is improving every year. Circles in different direction are operating under their initiative and leadership. Including:

- clubs to study their national culture, language, customs and history;
- Clubs for studying the history, culture and language of Uzbekistan;
- national music, dance, and craft clubs.

In 2004-2015 in conjunction with RICC (Republican International Cultural Center) NCC (National-cultural centers) 28 exhibitions of works by artists belonging to different nationalities living in the republic were organized under the motto "Uzbekistan is my homeland". Including:

- In 2004, "Зимний вернисаж" (Winter Opening Day), "Мой родной город" (My native city);
- In 2005, by the Greek NCC, graphic works on the topic "My native Uzbekistan" of Yanis Salpinkidi;
- Color images on the theme "Весенний вернисаж" (Spring Vernissage), "Navruz" (Navruz), "Bahor ranglari" (Colors of Spring) in 2007;
- In 2011, works of Margarita Shuvalova on the theme "Весна, женщина, цветы" (Spring, woman, flowers);





- In 2014, "Радост чистой любви" (The joy of pure love) was dedicated to the Sazanov dynasty and an exhibition entitled "Senga mehrim Jonajon yurtim" (I love you, my dear homeland) was organized [5, 14.28.36].

In 2016, more than 700 scientific-practical and cultural-educational events were held in cooperation with the centers. More than 40,000 people from representatives of different nationalities took an active part in the sixth festival of friendship and culture under the motto "Uzbekistan - our common home" [6]. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev started the period of new reforms on the communicating with our people which are consisted of representatives of different nationalities, listening to their hearts and find solutions to their problems. Proof of this is the statement of the President that "I consider it my priority to preserve and strengthen the harmony of nations and citizens, mutual respect and kindness in our country" in his speech at the joint session of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis on December 14, 2016.

Based on the above information, it can be said that, national-cultural centers which are operating throughout the country are performing an important function in the field of preserving the identity of different nations and peoples. They are not only unique places of spiritual life, but they are also making an effective contribution to the socio-political and cultural construction. Forming the ideological foundations of human spiritual life has become one of the main tasks in the activities of these centers. This task can be accomplished not by occasional activities, but through hard work day by day. That's why leadership of the republic is being taken great care of the national-cultural centers and being coordinated their activities. Active participants of national-cultural centers are being awarded with high government awards, orders and medals. Uzbek leadership is using the most optimal approach to the national policy to maintain a spirit of commonality between different ethnic groups, regardless of their number. National cultural centers is helping to pursue a national policy in the spirit of humanity, to develop the process of activating the active social strata of the non-Uzbek population, to educate the representatives of all peoples of Uzbekistan in the spirit of national and political unity, patriotism and pride for their country. Such activities of national cultural centers confirm National policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan which directed correctly to the rational solution of issues of interethnic relations, coordination the mutual solidarity of national cultures and languages.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, it can be said that, the process of establishing national and cultural centers in Uzbekistan was carried out for the purpose of the correcting the shortcomings of unscientific policy that had accumulated over the years in the former Soviet Union.





Meanwhile, ties of friendship and mutual solidarity between the nations living in the Republic of Uzbekistan are getting richer with new content. National cultural centers is working for the ensuring peace and interethnic harmony among the citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, guaranteeing their rights and freedoms and legitimate interests, acquisition of profession, education, preservation and development of traditions and values according to their interests and abilities. As a key mechanism in this process, activities of national cultural centers are serving to the basis of the stability of the country.

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