INFRASTRUCTURAL REFORMS IN UZBEKISTAN DURING THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE IN FOREIGN HISTORIOGRAPHY

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Abstract: *This article analyzes the study of infrastructural reforms implemented in Uzbekistan after gaining independence as reflected in the works of foreign researchers and international analytical centers. The author highlights the evaluations given in Western (USA, UK) and Russian historiography regarding the "Uzbek model," transport and logistics potential, the cluster system in the agricultural sector, and the modernization of social infrastructure.*

Keywords: *infrastructure, reforms, foreign historiography, Uzbek model, cluster system, transport potential.*

Introduction

From the early years of independence, Uzbekistan prioritized infrastructure development as a key task for modernizing the economy and ensuring sustainable growth. The country's geographical location and resource potential created a solid foundation for transforming it into a regional transport-logistics and energy hub. These processes have been studied with great interest not only within the country but also by the international scientific community, particularly by researchers from the USA, Europe, and Russia.

Discussion

Since the first years of independence, the unique development path and economic reform strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan have been in the spotlight of the international scientific community. The historiography of the subject shows that foreign researchers have analyzed political and economic processes in the region not only in a regional context but also through the prism of global geopolitical changes.

Specifically, British researchers such as M. Keser and S. Mehrotra, in their work "The Central Asian Economies after International Affairs," highly praised the economic opportunities of Central Asian states post-independence. Simultaneously, the famous political scientist Z. Brzezinski, in his articles for Foreign Affairs magazine, scientifically substantiated that Uzbekistan's strategic location and infrastructural potential are guarantees of regional stability in the new world order after the Cold War.

A group of Russian scholars, including L. Vinogradova, S. Zhukov, and V. Kolesnikov, while analyzing the socio-economic structure of Uzbekistan, attribute the viability of the "Uzbek model" to the systematic modernization of infrastructure by the state. According to their conclusions, the rejection of the "shock therapy" method of transitioning to a market economy ensured that the country's transport and energy infrastructure did not collapse. American researcher G. Gleason detailed the economic difficulties during the transition to market relations and the redirection of investment flows toward infrastructure development.

Structural changes in agriculture, the fundamental pillar of Uzbekistan's economy—especially the cluster system introduced in recent years—are recognized by foreign economists as an innovative approach. The concept of the "economic cluster" by Michael Porter, the founder of cluster theory, served as a theoretical foundation for Uzbekistan's agrarian sector. Porter argued in his

works that clusters not only increase production productivity but also provide an impetus for the development of regional infrastructure.

Reforms in this direction have also attracted the attention of Russian and European scholars. For example, the work "Sustainable Reform of Agriculture – The Case of Uzbekistan," edited by M. Hermann, analyzes the new infrastructure of the Uzbek village and the legal-economic foundations of farming enterprises. Furthermore, research on rural development by Thomas D. Rowley, Malcolm J. Moseley, and A.N. Adukova resonates with Uzbekistan's strategy for modernizing rural infrastructure. In their view, high results in the agrarian sector cannot be achieved without creating service and maintenance infrastructure in rural areas.

The problems of forming industrial infrastructure and attracting investment in Uzbekistan during the independence years have been analyzed in detail in the scientific works of foreign economists such as G. Markowitz, P. Samuelson, and S. Bruno. Specifically, issues of creating infrastructure in light industry and textiles were studied from the perspective of developing the resource supply system in the dissertations of M. Dupov and A. Khvorostyanaya.

Anna G. Schmidt, who considers infrastructure the "backbone" of the economy, demonstrated the role of infrastructure in long-term economic growth for developing countries like Uzbekistan in her 2020 study. James R. Smith's conclusions regarding transport infrastructure are noteworthy: he emphasizes that the efficiency of transport systems increases regional economic benefits and that Uzbekistan's transit potential is among the highest in the region.

Scholars such as Mario S. Silva and Peter W. Becker have analyzed the strategic importance of global infrastructure, proving that infrastructure based on new technologies is a primary condition for Sustainable Development.

Robert L. Kalan's research theoretically and practically confirms the direct correlation between infrastructure and GDP growth in developing countries.

In foreign literature, the concept of infrastructure is not limited to roads or factories but also encompasses the social sphere—education, healthcare, and culture. The book "Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan: Country Studies," prepared by the Washington Federal Research Division (edited by J.E. Kunis), provides an objective assessment of Uzbekistan's socio-political life and infrastructural changes during the years of independence.

Reforms in the education system and its infrastructure have been analyzed by foreign pedagogical scholars M.V. Boguslavsky, A.N. Djurinsky, and V.G. Torosyan as a process of cultural and educational revival of the Central Asian peoples. They emphasize that the educational institutions established in Uzbekistan during the years of independence and their material-technical base have been aligned with world standards.

Additionally, Western researchers such as Adrienne L. Edgar and P. Sartori have approached cultural changes and the formation of social infrastructure in Central Asia from a historical perspective. In their view, in the process of realizing its national identity during the years of independence, Uzbekistan was able to transform its social infrastructure in accordance with its values.

Reports from the World Bank's "Poverty Reduction and Economic Management" division analyze infrastructural changes in Uzbekistan through figures and statistical data. These reports state that state investments directed at infrastructure have helped raise the population's standard of living and transform remote areas into centers of economic activity.

Thus, foreign scholars and analytical centers recognize Uzbekistan's infrastructural reforms during the years of independence as a key factor ensuring the country's stable development and regional leadership. Scientific

research in this area continues today, indicating the ongoing relevance of the topic.

Conclusion

An analysis of the coverage of infrastructural reforms in Uzbekistan within foreign historiography shows that the international scientific community and prestigious analytical centers recognize the country's strategy in this direction as a fundamental basis for sustainable development. Foreign scholars consider Uzbekistan's infrastructural reforms a decisive factor in ensuring the country's regional leadership and integration into the global economy.

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