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# DYNAMICS OF DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN UZBEKISTAN AND KAZAKHSTAN

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## ABOUT ARTICLE

**Key words:** political party, political process, civil society, party system, democratic institution, electoral system and institutionalization.

**Abstract:** In this article, the author analyzed the concept of a political party, its place in society, as well as the organization and dynamics of political parties in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

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# O'ZBEKISTON VA QOZOG'ISTON SIYOSIY PARTIYALARINING RIVOJLANISH DINAMIKASI

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## MAQOLA HAQIDA

Kalit soʻzlar: siyosiy partiya, siyosiy jarayon, fuqarolik jamiyati, partiya tizimi, demokratik institut, saylov tizimi va institutsionallashuv.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu muallif maqolada siyosiy partiya tushunchasi, uning jamiyatdagi oʻrni, shuningdek, Oʻzbekiston va Qozogʻistonda siyosiy partiyalarini tashkil etishi va shakllanish dinamikasi tahlil qilindi.

# ДИНАМИКА РАЗВИТИЯ ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИХ ПАРТИЙ В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ И КАЗАХСТАНЕ

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#### О СТАТЬЕ

**Ключевые слова:** политическая партия, политический процесс, гражданское общество, партийная система, демократический институт, избирательная система и институционализация.

**Аннотация:** В данной статье автор проанализировал понятие политической партии, ее место в обществе, а также организацию и динамику политических партий в Узбекистане и Казахстане.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Sustainable activity in modern civil society requires an organic connection with several diverse public organizations, the most important of which are political parties. Political parties are one of the main elements of the social system. Regardless of where a political party appears, it performs some common functions in different political systems at different stages of social, political and economic development. As the famous English politician Henry St. John Bolingbroke recognizes political party as a democratic institution and states that "the party is the voice of the nation". Therefore, it is impossible to imagine the lives of the fastest-growing societies in the world today without political parties. Over the past century, political parties have become stronger not only as an institution to represent the interests of social groups in society but also as an institution for the formation of government bodies.

#### THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Political parties are the only entities in society that may legally elevate the interests, objectives, and aspirations of a particular population or group to the level of national policy. In this sense, political parties are different from other public groups in that they express their interests by actively engaging in politics. The party has long attracted the attention of scholars as the only institutional unit in the struggle for power. It is no coincidence that the word "party" is derived from the word "part" which means part of a whole (that is, society).

The historical formation and development of parties determined the main functions they perform. According to them, party definitions can be divided into several groups. The emergence of modern parties is related to the expression of group priorities at the political level, so the first definitions clearly reflect the ideological function of combining and expressing interests. Thus, E. Burke, who lived in the 18th century, defined a party as a group of people who have mutually agreed on the national interests based on a certain principle and united to implement joint efforts"

In the first quarter of the 19th century, B. Konstan called party associations "communities of individuals who publicly profess the same doctrine." And Alexis de Tocqueville described the stages of their formation, "At first, people are united by common views, a common worldview, and pure spiritual ties appear between them. Then, in the second stage, the same people form small associations representing the party faction. And finally, at the third stage, they will try to establish a separate people within the whole nation, their own government within the state power".

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It should be noted that well-known scientists of world political science gave their definitions to the party within this approach. Thus, D. Sartori defined a party as "any political group that participates in elections and is able to fill public positions with its candidates".

And today, the national state level seeks to draw up the regulatory framework of the political process through the codification of the conditions and norms of activity of all political actors. In accordance with the Law "On Political Parties" of the Republic of Uzbekistan, "a political party is a voluntary association of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, formed on the basis of a commonality of views, interests and goals, striving to implement the political will of a certain part of society in the formation of public authorities and participating through its representatives in the management of state and public affairs".

According to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Political Parties" adopted on July 15. 2002, "a political party is recognized as a voluntary association of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan, expressing the political will of citizens, various social groups, in order to represent their interests in representative and executive bodies of state power, local government and participate in their formation".

Parties also perform the function of involving the general population in the management process, which contributes to the development of political culture and the formation of civil society. Hence, political parties play a crucial part in forming a democratic state.

In Uzbekistan, the legislator makes the following requirements for the party:

To create a party, it is necessary to have at least 20 thousand party members living in at least 8 territorial entities, including Tashkent and Karakalpakstan. The creation of parties based on nationality and religion is prohibited.

The Erk Democratic Party is a political party in Uzbekistan formed in 1990 as a proindependent party in the Soviet Union. It was the first registered political party in the history of Uzbekistan. Its charter was registered at the Ministry of Justice. But, this party is banned due to its illegal activities in 1993.

As of 2024, 5 parties are officially registered in Uzbekistan.

- -People's democratic party of Uzbekistan (1991)
- -Democratic party "Milliy tiklanish" (1995)
- -Social Democratic Party "Adolat" (1995)
- -The liberal democratic party of Uzbekistan (2003)
- -The ecological party of Uzbekistan(2019)

They are all part of the system and have members in parliament. Parliamentary factions have the right to unite into blocs. In 2005–2009, there was a bloc of UzLiDep, Milliy Tiklanish and SDP Adolat. In the 2023 presidential elections, the liberal democratic party of Uzbekistan and the

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Democratic Party "Milliy Tiklanish" nominated the same candidate, which was Shavkat Mirziyoyev. All five parties were also represented in previous parliaments. Although they are quite active during parliamentary elections, they are less likely to compete with each other during the period of presidential elections. The parties adhere to similar policies on key issues and decisions of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Some parties criticize each other quite actively, but there is little criticism of the president.

Political parties have the right: to freely disseminate information about their activities, to promote their ideas, goals and decisions; to participate through their representatives in elected government bodies in the preparation of relevant decisions; to participate in the manner prescribed by law in the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Furthermore, political parties may have other rights provided for by this law and other legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

As for the Republic of Kazakhstan, a political party is created on the initiative of a group of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan numbering at least seven hundred people, convening the founding congress (conference) of the political party and representing two-thirds of the regions, cities of republican significance and the capital. Citizens take personal part in the founding congress (conference) of a political party. Representation of citizens by proxy at the founding congress (conference) of a political party is not permitted. Financing of the creation of a political party, including the organization of the founding congress (conference), is carried out in accordance with the requirements of Article 18 of this Law.

As of 2024, there are 6 legally recognized parties in Kazakhstan.

- 1. Nur Otan party (now Amanat) was established in 1999.
- 2. Auyl People's Democratic Patriotic Party (2000).
- 3. Aq Jol Democratic Party (2002).
- 4. People's Party of Kazakhstan (2004).
- 5. Nationwide Social Democratic Party (2006).
- 6. Respublica (2022). At the same time, there are several political parties that are banned and unregistered.

Important changes in kazakh political party system were introduced during President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's presidency. The First Deputy Chairman of Nur Otan party, Bauyrzhan Baibek stated "The country has already implemented several political reform packages. For parties, the registration barrier and the barrier for passing to Majilis (lower house of Parliament) have been legally lowered, quotas have been established for youth and women in electoral lists, the institution of parliamentary opposition has been consolidated, a notification principle for holding assemblies has been introduced, as well as the institution of direct election of rural akims". He also added that three political parties are represented in the Majilis, five political parties are represented in local

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representative bodies – Maslikhats, and six political parties of Kazakhstan are represented at the level of rural akims. Thus, it can be stated with confidence that the multi-party system built over the years with the Nur Otan party is an important achievement of independence". It can be concluded from this that political parties are very active in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

#### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it should be said that the political parties in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are acquiring the qualities of adaptation and harmony to the conditions and factors of modern political parties. To renew and modernize society in the process of reforms, to strengthen the role and importance of political parties in increasing the socio-political activity of citizens, to strengthen the control of the public, elected and authorized bodies over the executive power, to establish a real multi-party environment in both countries based on the experience of developed democratic countries.

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