

ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИЕ НАУКИ

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THE ROLE OF THE MIDDLE CLASS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Abstract. The article analyzes the growth trends of the middle class in the societies of developed countries, their role in the development and improvement of civil society, the importance of the experience of Western countries in this area for Uzbekistan. Readers will also be familiarized with the current reforms in Uzbekistan in this area and their results.

Keywords: civil society, upper, middle, lower classes of society, non-profit organizations, social unit, social structure, social classification.

The experience of the historical development of the twentieth century has shown that the development of the middle class of society plays an important role in the development of civil society in developed countries. Especially in recent decades, there have been significant changes in the structure and interaction of classes, strata, social strata: the processes of internal class differentiation have intensified, the mobility of social units has increased, and new inter-strata groups have formed. Western societies were divided into three classes: upper, middle and lower.

An example of high-class analysis based on this classification is American society: the last decade has seen rapid growth of the upper class. Between 200,000 and 400,000 people (0.1-0.2% of the US population) own real estate worth at least \$ 10 million and earn several million dollars a year. About 200,000 upper-class people will earn between \$ 5 million and \$ 10 million, and another 300,000 will earn between \$ 2 and 5 million.

There are about 1.5 million NGOs in the United States. NGOs cover all areas of society, representing and defending the interests and needs of the population in areas such as foreign policy, elections, environmental protection, health, women's rights, economic development, social protection of youth and the elderly.¹

An American approach to civil society is evident «The Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project» at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Based on this project, the activities of NGOs were defined in 12 areas:

- 1) culture and recreation;
- 2) education and research;
- 3) health care;
- 4) social services;
- 5) protection of the environment;

- 6) development of local communities;
- 7) protection of human rights;
- 8) mediation for philanthropists²;
- 9) international;
- 10) religious;
- 11) trade unions, business and trade unions;
- 12) other directions.

Within the framework of this project, 35 countries (16 developed, 14 developing, 5 countries with economies in transition) conducted studies of the structure, size, problems and results of their activities, the results of which revealed the following: The share of the third sector in GDP in these countries is 1.3 trillion or 5.5% of total GDP. NGOs employ nearly 40 million people (20 million of whom are paid), representing 4.5 percent of the economically active population in 35 countries.³

Today the upper class is characterized by a complex internal structure: it consists of groups classified by organizational forms of ownership; the size and volume of additional capital; type of professional activity (top managers, politicians, managers); lifestyle features; political goal and direction; ethnic, territorial, demographic and other characteristics.

Changes in the social structure of the upper class of postindustrial countries are accompanied by:

The size of this class can only be approximated: this figure is about 3-4 percent of the economically active population.

According to the famous historian Arnold Toynbee, modern civilization is a middle class civilization. The share of the middle class in the structure of the society of developed countries is 60-70%. Different academic schools use different criteria to differentiate the middle class as a social unit. It is often used as a measure of status self-assessment and

¹ History of NGOs in the USA Blog of the US Embassy in Moscow <http://embassy-voices.livejournal.com/19048.html>.

² A philanthropist [Greek. philanthropes] is a person who donates and engages in philanthropy.

³ Sanovich S. Studies of civil society and NGOs in Europe and the USA (short review). The material was prepared specially for the information and analytical portal "Socpolitika.ru" http://www.socpolitika.ru/rus/ngo/foreign_experience/document4692_print.sh tml.

income. It is widely believed that two-thirds of Western societies have incomes close to the middle class, with the poor and the rich not so many. Again, most analysts argue that the current middle class consists of small property owners of the means of production. These small businesses — the so-called “old middle class” of American farmers and British retailers — account for 10-15 percent. In developed countries, the so-called “new middle class” or “class of managers and specialists” is 20-25%, most of which are highly educated professionals, intellectuals, freelancers.

The middle class satisfies all the needs necessary for the well-being of society: jobs, consumer goods, medical care, scientific discoveries, and so on. According to sociologists, the middle class - the class opposition - is also a factor in mitigating the conflict. From a socio-economic point of view, the middle class is characterized by the principle of minimizing contradictions between the work of different professions, urban and rural life. In family relations, the middle class manifests itself as a factor in the spread of traditional family values, the creation of equal opportunities for women and men in society. Politically, the middle classes are the social backbone of centralized (centric) movements that carry traditions, norms, knowledge, demonstrate high citizenship and independent personality.⁴

The leading role of the middle class in the social structure of societies in developed countries creates ample opportunities for a stable life in society, despite the periodic intensification of socio-political tension between the lower classes. Such tensions are mitigated by the neutrality of the majority (middle class). Most importantly, it represents the middle class as the backbone of civil society, the political foundation of democracy and change. At the same time, the various contradictory social tensions are mitigated because the middle class is in a state of conflict between the influence of the top and the pressure from below - the “double curtain”.

One of the significant changes in the social structures of societies in developed countries is the growth of real incomes of the working population. At the same time, the distribution of income takes place on the basis of inequality. The ratio of incomes of the poorest strata to 20 per cent and the poorest strata represents inequalities such as 12: 1 in the US, 9: 1 in France, 8: 1 in the UK, 5: 1 in the GFR, Sweden, the Netherlands and 4: 1 in Japan.

The social classification of societies in developed countries is characterized by: the emergence of a large number of groups representing the characteristics of several classes; activation of internal class stratification; increase in the mobility of structural elements; an increase in the standard of living. These processes create opportunities for the sustainable development of developed countries in many ways and the further deepening of the ideas of civil society. The main strategic task of developed countries today is to

achieve a common civil consensus by taking into account and coordinating the interests of different social groups, to ensure civil solidarity aimed at integrating society.⁵

In short, civil society was formed as a logical consequence and product of the development and improvement of traditional societies over thousands of years.

By the beginning of the 21st century, the ideas of civil society and the experience of building such a society are no longer new to countries in Asia and Latin America. Civil society has begun to manifest itself as a necessary condition for the development of any country, a “spiritual social resource”.

In the last three years, radical changes have taken place in Uzbekistan as a result of the election of Sh. Mirziyoyev as President and the beginning of a new era of reforms based on the idea that “Government agencies should serve our people, not the people”. The Strategy of Actions for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan identifies the development of civil society as a priority and a first direction.

Uzbekistan has adopted more than 200 normative and legal acts aimed at increasing the efficiency of non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs), and in order to further develop them, the institutional framework for NGOs has been created. Currently, more than 9,200 NGOs operate as key institutions in protecting the rights and legitimate interests of individuals and legal entities, democratic values, and achieving social, cultural and educational goals.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures to radically increase the role of civil society institutions in the process of democratic renewal of the country” (May 4, 2018) has become the legal basis for radical changes in this area. The Decree notes that there are a number of systemic problems and shortcomings that impede the active participation of NGOs in the ongoing large-scale reforms in the field of building civil society, increasing the political culture and legal consciousness of citizens, meeting their spiritual and other non-material needs:

- effective and constructive mechanisms of communication between the state and civil society are not established, the needs of non-governmental non-profit organizations are not systematically analyzed, effective platforms for the exchange of views on important issues of further development of the state and society are not created;
- the low level of involvement of non-governmental non-profit organizations in the development and implementation of socio-economic development programs, regulations does not allow in-depth study and consideration of the interests of all social groups represented by various non-governmental organizations;
- the legal norms governing the registration process of non-governmental non-profit organizations, the procedure for their activities, provide for excessive

⁴See: Civil society: concept, structure, functions / <http://geum.ru/book/133/532.html>.

⁵See: Civil society: concept, structure, functions / <http://geum.ru/book/133/532.html>.

bureaucratic requirements and gaps that are outdated and do not meet modern requirements;

- the material and technical support of non-governmental non-profit organizations is still unsatisfactory, and the funds allocated by the state to support civil society institutions do not allow for the implementation of medium and long term large-scale projects and programs.⁶

- In accordance with this Decree, the Advisory Council on Civil Society Development under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established. Its main tasks are:

- identification of strategic directions for the development of civil society in the medium and long term and the development of proposals for the formation of a national model;

- initiate the organization of fundamental and applied research in the field of civil society development with the participation of scientific and expert groups, organize the systematic study, generalization and analysis of public opinion on public policy for civil society development and its practical results;

- development of indicators assessing the improvement of civil society, the level of interaction of civil society institutions with state bodies, as well as their contribution to the socio-economic development of the country, organization of periodic and special reports, including alternative reports;

- assist civil society institutions in developing their international cooperation, studying best international practices and implementing them in Uzbekistan.

The analysis shows that civil society reform in Uzbekistan has so far focused on radical changes in this

area. As of April 1, 2019, the number of small businesses and micro-firms reached 289.4 thousand. They grew 21.4 percent over the past year.⁷ In the country, the middle class began to manifest itself as a force capable of making changes in society. The society has also begun to pay more attention to the development of NGOs and other civil society institutions. Reforms in this area have begun to be carried out in the field of human rights and freedoms, entrepreneurship and religious freedom in the country. Therefore, over the past three years, the interest of foreign experts and public figures in the changes in Uzbekistan is growing.

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TYPES OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

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ВИДИ ПРОЕКТІВ ДЕРЖАВНО-ПРИВАТНОГО ПАРТНЕРСТВА

Abstract. The paper considers the definition of PPP in international documents and legislation of developed countries, establishes the main advantages of PPP projects over traditional projects. It is studied the legislation and regulatory bodies that promote the development of PPP relations at various levels in developed countries. The most effective models of PPP projects between the state and business in modern conditions are allocated, in international practice the most widespread models are: centralized, decentralized, mixed. Based on international documents, the main stages of preparation and implementation of PPP projects and the classification of projects developed by the World Bank are investigated: management contracts and lease agreements; concessions; projects involving new building; partial privatization of assets. It is revealed, that in modern conditions in developed

⁶Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to radically increase the role of civil society institutions in the process of democratic renewal of the country" (May 4, 2018) // <http://press-service.uz/uz/lists/view/1819>.

⁷See: The number of small enterprises operating in Uzbekistan has been announced // <https://kun.uz/57586214/>