

Uzbekistan-on the way of democracy.

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For centuries political theorists have debated the origins and the future of democracy. Most of them have agreed that democracy is an ever changing form of government varying from nation to nation, generation to generation.

By the beginning twenty-first century, about 60 percent of the world's nations had adopted some forms of democratic government. Even more remarkable is the fact that, from 1950 to 2000, the number of democracies around the world jumped from 22 to 120. Millions of people all over the world have embraced the democratic principles of freedom and justice, and democracy is taking root faster than many experts predicted.

In *Totalitarianism in the Twentieth Century*, the world of 1900 was much different from that of 2000. Many of the kings and queens who reigned at the beginning of the twentieth century lost their thrones and power as a result of World War I and related revolution but they were soon replaced by ruthless dictators and military rulers. Men like Adolph Hitler, Benito Mussolini and Joseph Stalin came to power in Germany, Italy and Russia by capitalizing on their nations' fears, nationalistic sentiments, and weak economic conditions. War lords ruled in Asia, and many military leaders in Latin America governed their nations with iron fists. Totalitarianism dominated much of the twentieth century. Totalitarianism is a form of government usually headed by a dictator, that controls virtually every aspect of a country. Individual freedom under a totalitarian regime is almost nonexistent; the people are forced to live according to the will of the government.

Independence of Uzbekistan has freed us from the fetters of totalitarian regime and system where ideology was the main priority and enabled the Uzbek people to straighten up, to feel free indeed on our own land, to give back to people their genuine national culture and traditions, their personal dignity language and cultural spiritual values.

Independence and sovereignty made it possible for us to integrate in to the world community, to build up our relations with all the states on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

Independence has given a powerful impetus to the development and transformation of economy, social sphere and all other spheres of our society life.

In a word, Independence has opened for us vast horizons, give us an unique chance to build our future with our own hands, to decide our destiny, arrange our life and our common home so that it met our national interests and values, universally established democratic norms.

A great political event in the life of our country was the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan in December of 1992. None of the states can become really sovereign unless it lays down in the Basic Laws of the state the principles of statehood and social system, rights and freedom of the citizens, economic principles and strategic lines for society development. We have every reason to declare that the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan meets the most democratic norms and requirements established in the world community.

Today the Constitution has really become the basis for forming the legislative and legal foundations of our sovereign state.

Uzbekistan is consistently proceeding along the way of democratization of our society. But at the same time the political institutes created though in form meet the requirements of democratic norms and their western analogues unfortunately essence are far from the requirements set. The mean is that content, objectives and essence of these structures activity should correspond to the national specific features and mentality of the people.

Press and mass media are of great importance for the democratic development. But one should admit that so far the mass media active role in the process of democratization is not yet felt. They have not yet proclaimed themselves “the fourth power”. The reforms carried out in the Republic set quite new tasks for mass media. They must be efficient instrument in forming new mentality and consciousness of the population, must be free but unbiased spokesmen of opinion and will of the people, and if you like, be consistent and active defenders of their interests.

The opposition should be a reliable barrier on the way of official bureaucracy corruption, totalitarian psychology, the psychology of dependence, should become an efficient instrument of control over putting into practice legislative norms, the course of reforms and adherence to human rights.

Frankly speaking our press, television and radio have not yet mastered modern methods and forms of work and do not yet meet the generally accepted international norms. On the pages of the press and on television there are no profound analytical materials, serious political, economic and international reviews, discussions nor controversy. Some periodicals have no clear civil position nor character. In general they act as broadcasters of official information.

Creation of free democratic information space will facilitate expansion of the network of independent non-state publications and information bodies.

Mass media must be active conductors of the course of democratization and reforms and at the same time must be democratic in their essence.

We can reach the goal set only under the condition of granting the citizens full rights and freedom and encouraging their active participation in social-political processes occurring in our life. And it is important that every person should feel a citizen of the country and take a conscientious approach and appreciate the rights and freedoms given, should cherish and defend democratic values gained by hard work in hard struggle.

Democracy is only then a democracy when it becomes a part of the life of every member of the society.

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