

## ACHIEVEMENT OF THE STATE INDEPENDENCE IN UZBEKISTAN

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**Abstract:** *The achievement of state independence in Uzbekistan on September 1, 1991, marked a transformative moment in the nation's history, following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. This article explores the historical context, key events, and the subsequent impact of Uzbekistan's independence. It highlights the declaration of sovereignty, the pivotal role of President Islam Karimov, and the country's journey towards international recognition. Post-independence, Uzbekistan undertook significant political and economic reforms, while also experiencing a cultural revival. Despite challenges such as political repression and economic disparities, recent reforms under President Shavkat Mirziyoyev indicate progress towards liberalization and modernization. Uzbekistan's path since 1991 reflects its resilience and aspiration to build a strong, independent nation with a promising future.*

**Key words:** *Uzbekistan, independence, Soviet Union, state sovereignty, Islam Karimov, political reforms, economic transformation, cultural revival, international recognition, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, market-oriented economy, national identity, human rights, modernization, Central Asia.*

The achievement of state independence in Uzbekistan marks a pivotal moment in the nation's history, reshaping its political, economic, and cultural landscape. Emerging from the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Uzbekistan embarked on a path toward self governance and national identity, characterized by significant reforms and developments.

This article explores the historical context, key events, and the impact of Uzbekistan's independence. Soviet Era and National Identity Uzbekistan, a Central Asian republic, was part of the Soviet Union from 1924 to 1991. During this period, the Soviet regime imposed policies that deeply influenced the region's political, social, and economic structures. Despite these influences, a strong sense of national identity and cultural heritage persisted among the Uzbek people. Prelude to Independence The late 1980s saw the weakening of Soviet control under Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring). These reforms, aimed at revitalizing the Soviet economy and political system, inadvertently ignited nationalist movements across the republics. In Uzbekistan, increasing calls for sovereignty and the protection of national interests set the stage for independence. Declaration of Sovereignty On June 20, 1990, the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR adopted a declaration of state sovereignty. This declaration asserted the supremacy of Uzbek laws over Soviet legislation and marked a significant step towards full independence. Coup Attempt and Accelerated Independence The failed coup attempt against Gorbachev in August 1991 by hardline communists expedited the disintegration of the Soviet Union. In the wake of this turmoil, Uzbekistan, along with other Soviet republics, moved quickly towards independence. Independence Day: September 1, 1991 Uzbekistan officially declared its independence on August 31, 1991, and the declaration was celebrated on September 1, which is now commemorated annually as Independence Day. This historic declaration was made by Islam Karimov, who would become the first President of Uzbekistan. International Recognition Following its declaration of independence, Uzbekistan sought international recognition and quickly established itself as a sovereign nation. By December 1991, it had gained recognition from major global powers and became a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Political Reforms Under President Islam Karimov, Uzbekistan embarked on a journey to establish a stable and self-reliant state. The initial years were marked by the consolidation of power, suppression of opposition, and the establishment of a strong presidential system. The new constitution, adopted in

1992, laid the foundation for the country's political framework. Economic Transformation The transition from a centrally planned economy to a market-oriented one was challenging. Uzbekistan pursued gradual economic reforms to avoid the shocks experienced by some other post-Soviet states. Key sectors such as agriculture, particularly cotton production, remained under state control, while efforts were made to attract foreign investment and modernize infrastructure. Cultural Revival Independence sparked a revival of Uzbek culture, language, and traditions. The government promoted the study and use of the Uzbek language, and there was a resurgence in the celebration of national customs and festivals. This cultural renaissance was crucial in fostering a sense of unity and national pride among the populace. Foreign Policy and International Relations Uzbekistan adopted a foreign policy of neutrality and non-alignment, focusing on regional stability and cooperation. It joined international organizations such as the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and engaged in bilateral relations with numerous countries to bolster its international standing. Political and Economic Challenges Despite significant progress, Uzbekistan faced challenges including political repression, economic disparities, and human rights issues. The transition to a fully democratic system and a diversified economy remains an ongoing process. Recent Reforms Since the death of Islam Karimov in 2016, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has introduced a series of reforms aimed at liberalizing the economy, improving governance, and enhancing human rights. These reforms have garnered international attention and are seen as steps towards a more open and prosperous Uzbekistan. In conclusion, The achievement of state independence in Uzbekistan marked the beginning of a new era. Over the past three decades, the country has made significant strides in establishing its sovereignty, developing its economy, and reviving its cultural heritage. While challenges remain, Uzbekistan's journey since 1991 reflects its resilience and determination to build a strong, independent nation. The ongoing reforms and efforts to engage with the global community hold promise for the future, as Uzbekistan continues to navigate its path towards development and modernization.

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