

**THE INDEPENDENCE OF UZBEKISTAN. NATIONAL SYMBOLS
OF UZBEKISTAN**

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Annotation: *this theme explores the historical significance and cultural importance of Uzbekistan's independence as a sovereign nation. It delves into the country's journey towards autonomy, including key events such as the declaration of independence in 1991 and the establishment of a democratic government. The theme also examines the national symbols of Uzbekistan, such as the flag, emblem, and anthem, highlighting their symbolic representation of the nation's identity, values, and heritage. Through an analysis of these symbols, the theme aims to elucidate how they contribute to fostering a sense of unity, pride, and patriotism among Uzbek citizens. Additionally, the theme may discuss the role of national symbols in shaping public perception, influencing political discourse, and promoting cultural diplomacy on the international stage. Overall, this exploration provides insight into the intersection of history, politics, and culture in Uzbekistan's quest for independence and the enduring significance of its national symbols in shaping collective identity and national consciousness.*

KEY WORDS: *Uzbekistan, Independence, declaration, autonomy, anthem, emblem, unity, heritage, perception, identity, pride, citizenship.*

Independence Day in Uzbekistan is regarded as one of the most important public holidays in the country. On August 31, 1991, the Republic of Uzbekistan officially declared its independence from the USSR, which by that time had already collapsed. This declaration was only the initial step in the formation of a new country on the world map, however. Mixed feelings overwhelmed the country's population when Uzbekistan gained independence, as a longing for the former country in which they were born and raised competed with expectations for a new and brighter future. The early years of independence were filled with hardships in every post-Soviet nation, and Uzbekistan was no exception. The transition from a planned economy to a market economy, the severance of economic ties with the powerful USSR and the sudden bankruptcy of once influential enterprises proved a difficult test for the young republic. Fortunately, the country has overcome many of its initial trials and continues to respond to the new challenges of our day. Independence Day was the first holiday to be officially recognized after Uzbekistan's independence in 1991, and it continues to be celebrated with great exuberance each year. In each of Uzbekistan's 12 regions, special activities reflective of local culture and traditions are prepared for the public. Nowhere is Independence Day celebrated with greater fanfare, however, than in capital city Tashkent. A spectacular show fittingly held at Mustaqillik Square (Independence Square) is organized well in advance and typically includes folk performances, sports competitions, special shows and a lively fair filled with the colorful displays of local artisans. Hundreds of participants of all ages, dozens of bands, dance troupes and pop stars converge on the square for an unforgettable performance, which culminates in a spectacular fireworks show in the evening. Of course, no special holiday would be complete without special foods, and on Independence Day the national rice dish palov is often prepared and shared with

family, colleagues, friends and neighbors. Be it a large citywide celebration or a special family meal, Independence Day in Uzbekistan is memorable and special.

The first symbol is the state flag of Uzbekistan was approved on November 18, 1991 and since then, it is an official national symbol of the republic. It represents a multicolored rectangular cloth with three horizontal stripes of blue, white and green. Everything on Uzbek flag is symbolic and reflects the perception of the world of the Uzbek people and has a connection with their historical and cultural past. The blue stripe on the flag is the symbol of the sky, water, and traditional symbol of peace, as well as the sign of historical continuity (the flag of Amir Temur's state was also blue in color). The white line on the cloth is the color of peace in perception of the Uzbek people, which is reflected even in the ordinary Uzbek expression "oq yul!", which means, "go in peace!". The green color on the banner is the color of nature, new life and abundance in countries where the majority of its population are Muslims. Red lines – symbolize the vital energy, New half moon – reflects both the national independence of the republic, and connection with the historical past of the people, its traditions. On the banner, 12 stars are also depicted, symbolizing twelve regions of the country as well as ancient solar calendar.

Next, The National Anthem of the Republic of Uzbekistan is considered as the State symbol of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The law "On national anthem of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was adopted on the December 10, 1992 at the 11th session of the Supreme Council of Uzbekistan. On that day, the lyrics and music of our anthem were confirmed, which is an important date in the timeline of our independent state. The law states that our anthem is a symbol of state sovereignty, and it is the patriotic duty of every citizen. It is emphasized that the citizens of Uzbekistan, as well as other people living in our country, must respect our anthem. The author of the national anthem is Abdulla Oripov who was a Hero, a National Poet of Uzbekistan. The lyrics was composed by a National Artist of Uzbekistan, famous composer Mutal Burhanov. The anthem deeply expresses noble dreams

and hopes of our people, their strong belief in the future. Our prestigious past, national traditions and values, peace, tranquility, interethnic harmony are glorified in the National anthem. The anthem inspires national pride, and, most importantly, love for the country in anyone who has love and devotion to his motherland in his heart. This national emblem embodies the past, present and future of the nation, as well as its adornment, dreams and goals.

The law about "The State Emblem" was approved by the 10-th session of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan on July 2, 1992. The new state emblem of the Republic of Uzbekistan was created to reflect the many centuries of experience of the Uzbek people. The state emblem of the Republic presents the image of the rising sun over a flourishing valley. Two rivers run through the valley, representing the Syrdarya and Amudarya. The emblem is bordered by wheat on the right side and branches of cotton with opened cotton bolls on the left side. The eight-angle star is at the top of the emblem, symbolizing the unity and confirmation of the republic. The crescent and star inside the eight-pointed star are the sacred symbols of Islam. The mythical bird Semurg with outstretched wings is placed in the center of the emblem as the symbol of the national Renaissance. The entire composition aims to express to desire of the Uzbek people for peace, happiness and prosperity. At the bottom of the emblem inscribed the word "Uzbekistan" written in Uzbek on a ribbon in the national colors of the flag.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted on December 8, 1992. On April 24, 2003 some amendments and addenda were introduced into it. It has been worked out based on the experience of developed countries. Thus, it appeared to have reflected the will and spirit of the people of this land, its public consciousness and level of culture. Constitution has imbibed fundamental ideas and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Constitution of 1992 consists of 6 sections that include 26 chapters, and 128 articles. Its distinctive feature is that, that it has ensured the accountability of state bodies and authorities before public, that is, the priority of interests of each citizen has been

legally maintained and further guaranteed. The citizenship of the Republic of Uzbekistan, no matter how it is obtained, is fully equivalent for all. It allows for each person to fully participate in economic, political, legal, and cultural spheres of life in the country. Moreover, it obliges with some duties. Naturally, the state is obliged to protect the interests and freedoms of Uzbek citizens on its territory and abroad. The citizens of Uzbekistan regardless of their origin, race, nationality, and other, are equal. Constitution guarantees respect towards language, customs and traditions of all nationalities and peoples who are the citizens of Uzbekistan.

On the other hand, national currency of Uzbekistan is sum (also som, soum) and tiyin. This currency has been put into circulation in Uzbekistan since 1994 and today is the only means of payment. In circulation there are banknotes of the following value: 100,200,500, 1000 and 5000 sum. All the banknotes differ in color. It is mainly cultural and historic monuments of Uzbekistan are depicted on the notes. Currently, the entire banknotes circle, but the bills up to 100 sum and the coins are not used. However, Uzbek is predominantly spoken in the Republic of Uzbekistan, of which it is the sole official language. Statistics show that 22 million of Uzbekistan's population of 30 million have Uzbek as their first language. But many of Uzbekistan's minority populations, especially those who live in rural areas of Uzbekistan, speak Uzbek as their second language.

In conclusion, the journey of Uzbekistan towards independence and sovereignty is a testament to the resilience and spirit of its people. From ancient times to the present day, Uzbekistan has overcome challenges and embraced opportunities to shape its own destiny. The declaration of independence in 1991 marked a pivotal moment in the country's history, setting it on a path towards self-determination and nation-building. In the years following independence, Uzbekistan faced numerous challenges as it transitioned from a centrally planned economy to a market-oriented one. The country implemented economic reforms, opened up to foreign investment, and sought to modernize its infrastructure and

institutions. At the same time, efforts were made to strengthen democracy, promote human rights, and improve governance.

Today, Uzbekistan continues to evolve and transform, embracing its rich cultural heritage while striving for progress and development. The country's strategic location at the heart of Central Asia presents both opportunities and challenges, as it seeks to balance its relations with neighboring countries and global powers. The country's rich cultural heritage, combined with its strategic location in Central Asia, positions Uzbekistan as a key player in the region and a bridge between East and West. Looking ahead, Uzbekistan's journey towards independence serves as a source of inspiration for other nations seeking to forge their own path. By honoring its past, embracing its present, and shaping its future, Uzbekistan stands as a shining example of resilience, determination, and hope for a better tomorrow.

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