



REVIVAL OF UZBEK NATIONALISM: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF IDENTITY FORMATION IN POST-SOVIET UZBEKISTAN

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ABOUT ARTICLE

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Abstract: This article discusses the revival of Uzbek nationalism: a comparative study of identity formation in post-soviet Uzbekistan. The revival of Uzbek nationalism in post-Soviet Uzbekistan represents a multifaceted and complex phenomenon rooted in historical, political, and socio-cultural factors. By exploring the historical background, political climate, language policies, economic challenges, and socio-cultural aspects, this study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the new national identity formation in Uzbekistan. Understanding the dynamics of this revival is crucial for analyzing the present and future of Uzbek nationalism in a rapidly changing global context.

INTRODUCTION

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 marked the beginning of a new era for Uzbekistan. As the nation regained its independence, a revival of nationalist sentiment emerged, leading to a significant transformation in the country's identity formation. This article aims to examine the factors contributing to the revival of Uzbek nationalism in post-Soviet Uzbekistan, comparing it with the identity formation process during the Soviet era. By analyzing various historical, political, and socio-cultural aspects, this study seeks to shed light on the complexity and dynamics of the phenomenon.

Uzbekistan, known for its rich history and cultural heritage, has a fascinating national identity that predates the era of Soviet rule. Rooted in a blend of Turkic, Mongol, and Persian influences, the Uzbek national identity was characterized by its distinctive language, vibrant traditions, and strong communal ties.

THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

The Uzbek national identity traces its roots back to the nomadic Turkic and Mongol tribes who migrated to the region during the Middle Ages. Over time, these tribes settled in Central Asia and formed stable communities, which eventually led to the formation of the Uzbek ethnic group. Comprising various tribes and clans, the Uzbeks developed a unique sense of identity based on their shared history and traditions.

The Uzbek language played a vital role in shaping the national identity. It belongs to the Turkic language family, with distinct dialects reflecting regional variations. Uzbek literature flourished, with notable poets and writers contributing to the cultural landscape. Works of classical Uzbek literature, such as the works of Alisher Navoi and Babur, showcased the richness of the Uzbek language and its role in preserving national identity.

Islam was a significant aspect of pre-Soviet Uzbek national identity. The majority of Uzbeks practiced Sunni Islam, which influenced their daily lives, values, and customs. Mosques and madrasahs (Islamic schools) served as important centers of religious and educational activities. Uzbek religious traditions, such as religious festivals and pilgrimages, reinforced the cultural and spiritual bond among the people. The Uzbek national identity found vibrant expression in various art forms. Architectural marvels such as the Registan Square and Itchan Kala in Samarkand, and the Ark Citadel in Bukhara, showcased the grandeur of Uzbekistan's rich history. Traditional crafts such as pottery, carpet weaving, and embroidery were valued for their intricate designs and cultural significance.

Music and dance were integral parts of Uzbek national identity. Traditional musical instruments, such as the dutar and doira, were used to create melodic folk tunes and rhythmic beats. Traditional dance forms, like the "bakhshi" and "khorazm," were performed during celebrations and social events, connecting people through shared cultural expressions.

Uzbek national identity was also reflected in its distinctive cuisine. Plov (pilaf), somsa (stuffed pastries), and shashlik (grilled meat) are some iconic Uzbek dishes that have remained popular through the generations. The preparation and sharing of meals have played a role in fostering communal bonds and traditions.

Community and strong social ties were fundamental to the Uzbek national identity before Soviet rule. The concept of the "mahalla", a traditional communal neighborhood, emphasized mutual support, cooperation, and shared responsibility, creating a sense of belonging and unity. The mahalla served as a microcosm of Uzbek society, nurturing social cohesion and collective well-being.

Colonialism has had a profound impact on the national consciousness of those subjected to its rule, shaping their identity, culture, and political aspirations. Uzbekistan, a nation rich in history and cultural heritage, endured centuries of Russian colonialism and Tsarist policies that significantly affected its national consciousness.

To comprehend the impact of Russian colonialism on Uzbek national consciousness, it is essential to understand the historical context of the region. The conquest of Central Asia by the Russian Empire in the 19th century marked the beginning of a complex relationship between the Uzbeks and their Russian rulers. Tsarist policies aimed to assimilate and control the local population, resulting in far-reaching consequences for Uzbekistan.

Russian colonialism sought to suppress and marginalize Uzbek cultural identity, favoring the imposition of Russian culture and language. The Tsarist regime actively discouraged the use of Uzbek language in education, administration, and literature, leading to the erasure of linguistic heritage. This linguistic marginalization played a significant role in the erosion of Uzbek national consciousness, as a language acts as a crucial vehicle for expressing culture, history, and collective memory.

Under Russian colonial rule, the Uzbeks experienced significant land reforms and economic exploitation. Large tracts of Uzbekistan's fertile land were seized by the Russian Empire, resulting in the displacement of the native population. This disruption of traditional agricultural practices and the subsequent economic exploitation left a lasting impact on Uzbek national consciousness. The Uzbeks were reduced to tenants in their own land, dispossessed of their economic autonomy and tied to a system of serfdom.

The Tsarist policies aimed at undermining Uzbek political power, resulting in the marginalization of local governance structures and the imposition of Russian bureaucratic rule. This suppression of local political agency fueled resistance movements, as Uzbeks fought to preserve their cultural identity, traditions, and political autonomy. The rise of Jadidism, an intellectual and political movement, played a crucial role in challenging the Russian colonial rule and reinvigorating Uzbek national consciousness. The Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 brought about a new chapter in Uzbek history, transforming Uzbekistan into a Soviet Socialist Republic. While the overthrow of Tsarist Russia might have seemed like a liberation, the Soviet era brought with it its own complexities. The policies of forced industrialization, collectivization, and cultural assimilation under Soviet rule further shaped Uzbek national consciousness, leaving an indelible mark that can still be seen today.

Despite the complex history of Russian colonialism and Tsarist policies, the Uzbeks have preserved their unique cultural identity. Today, Uzbekistan celebrates its rich historical heritage, embracing the diverse cultural traditions that define the nation. While the impact of Russian colonialism is undeniable, contemporary Uzbek identity emerges as a resilient amalgamation of the past and present, reflecting the struggles and triumphs of a people determined to preserve their national consciousness.

The Soviet Union, under the leadership of Joseph Stalin and subsequent leaders, implemented a series of policies aimed at suppressing national identity within its diverse population. These policies sought to homogenize the Soviet Union by suppressing cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity in favor of a unified Soviet identity.

The Soviet Union, with its predominantly Russian leadership, pursued a policy known as Russification. This policy aimed to impose Russian language, culture, and values on non-Russian ethnic groups within the Soviet Union. The promotion of the Russian language as the lingua franca, the establishment of Russian cultural norms as the standard, and the marginalization of non-Russian languages and cultures significantly impacted the national identities of various ethnic groups.

To further suppress national identity, the Soviet regime promoted cultural assimilation, discouraging the practice of traditional customs, rituals, and cultural expressions. Traditional dress, religious practices, and folk traditions were often stigmatized or actively suppressed. The goal was to create a homogenized Soviet citizenry loyal to the state and detached from their ethnic, religious, and cultural roots.

The Soviet education system and propaganda machinery played a crucial role in the suppression of national identity. Education curriculum heavily emphasized Soviet history, ideology, and achievements, while downplaying or distorting the histories and contributions of ethnic minority groups. Nationwide propaganda campaigns reinforced the primacy of Soviet identity and the superiority of the communist system, leaving little room for the promotion of diverse national identities.

Political repression, including censorship and state-sanctioned persecution, played a central role in suppressing national identity within the Soviet Union. Artists, writers, intellectuals, and political dissidents who sought to promote or express their national identities were subject to censorship,

imprisonment, or exile. This created a climate of fear and self-censorship, further stifling expressions of national identity.

The Soviet regime implemented policies of forced displacement, resettlement, and resettlement during various periods. People from different ethnic groups were forcibly relocated to different regions of the Soviet Union to dilute concentrations of specific ethnic groups and disrupt the formation of distinct national identities. These policies disrupted centuries-old communities, separated families, and undermined the cultural fabric of many ethnic groups.

Soviet economic policies, including collectivization and industrialization, also had significant consequences for national identities. The shift from agrarian to industrial societies disrupted traditional rural lifestyles and economic systems, leading to the erosion of cultural and communal ties. The emphasis on industrial output and productivity diverted attention from cultural preservation and identity formation.

The Soviet policies aimed at suppressing national identity had a profound and lasting impact on the diverse peoples of the Soviet Union. While some elements of national identity were preserved underground or in private spheres, the collective and public expression of diverse national identities was greatly diminished. The consequences of these policies can still be felt today, as post-Soviet states grapple with the complexities of reestablishing and redefining their national identities in the aftermath of Soviet rule.

The Soviet Union's policies aimed at suppressing national identity were part of a broader strategy to create a uniform and centralized state. Russification policies, cultural assimilation, education and propaganda, political repression, displacement and resettlement, and economic policies all played a role in suppressing the diverse national identities within the Soviet Union. Although these policies had a significant impact on national identities during the Soviet era, many post-Soviet states are now embracing and revitalizing their diverse cultural heritage in the quest for a more inclusive and pluralistic society. Recognizing the historical legacy of these repressive policies is crucial for understanding and appreciating the resilience of national identities in the face of adversity.

Uzbekistan, a nation in Central Asia, has a rich history and a vibrant culture. Throughout its history, Uzbek culture and language have flourished, contributing to the diverse heritage of the region. However, during the Soviet era, Uzbekistan experienced significant assimilation attempts by the Soviet regime.

Under Soviet rule, the Russian language and culture were promoted as the dominant and superior norms, leading to the marginalization of the Uzbek language and traditions. Russian was introduced as the language of education, bureaucracy, and economic institutions, while Uzbek was relegated to a secondary role. This policy resulted in a decline in the use and prestige of the Uzbek language, challenging its role as a symbol of national identity.

The Soviet regime sought to weaken Uzbek culture by suppressing traditional customs, rituals, and cultural expressions. Traditional clothing, music, dance, and literature were often stigmatized or actively discouraged. The emphasis on conforming to Soviet norms led to a decline in the visibility and practice of Uzbek cultural traditions, which were integral to the fabric of society.

The Soviet education system played a significant role in the assimilation attempts. Uzbek schools were required to teach a standardized curriculum that emphasized Soviet history, ideology, and values, while downplaying or neglecting Uzbek history and cultural heritage. The reduced emphasis on Uzbek cultural education further eroded the understanding and appreciation of the Uzbek language and traditions among younger generations.

The Soviet regime actively suppressed intellectuals, artists, and writers who sought to promote or express Uzbek cultural identity. Many prominent Uzbek writers and poets were censored, silenced, or even imprisoned for their works that celebrated Uzbek language and culture. This repression stifled creativity and cultural expression, making it challenging to sustain and promote Uzbek cultural heritage.

Soviet policies also encouraged urbanization and migration, which disrupted traditional rural lifestyles and cultural practices. Many Uzbeks were forced to relocate to urban centers, where adapting to a more cosmopolitan lifestyle meant leaving behind their rural traditions and adopting Soviet norms. This urbanization further diluted cultural practices and led to the erosion of traditional Uzbek customs and languages.

Soviet economic policies, including collectivization and industrialization, also had an impact on Uzbek culture and language. Agricultural practices and rural traditions, deeply intertwined with Uzbek identity, were undermined, as the focus shifted to industrial productivity. The economic transformation led to a significant change in lifestyle and created a disconnect from traditional cultural practices and values.

The assimilation attempts had a lasting impact on Uzbek culture and language. The marginalization of the Uzbek language and cultural expressions eroded the sense of pride and identity among Uzbeks. Many Uzbek youth grew up without a strong understanding of their cultural heritage, leading to a decline in intergenerational transmission of traditions and language.

Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Uzbekistan has embarked on a journey of cultural revitalization. Efforts have been made to promote and preserve Uzbek language and culture through reforms in education, media, and the arts.

The celebration of cultural festivals, the promotion of Uzbek literature, and the recognition of national holidays have all contributed to fostering a renewed sense of Uzbek identity.

The assimilation attempts by the Soviet Union had a profound impact on Uzbek culture and language. The marginalization of the Uzbek language and suppression of cultural expression during the Soviet era led to a decline in the visibility and practice of Uzbek traditions. However, since gaining independence, Uzbekistan has made significant strides in revitalizing its cultural heritage. Recognizing the importance of language and cultural preservation is vital for fostering a strong sense of identity and allowing future generations to embrace and celebrate their Uzbek heritage.

The Soviet Union's influence extended far beyond its borders, reaching the diverse regions of Central Asia.

To understand the formation of a Soviet identity in Uzbekistan, it is crucial to comprehend the larger historical context. After the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, the Soviet Union adopted a policy of nationalities, promoting the idea of a united socialist state while respecting diverse ethnic groups within its borders. This policy aimed to integrate these communities into a common Soviet identity.

The Soviet Union implemented various measures to shape a Soviet identity among the Uzbek population. This included the establishment of Soviet institutions and bureaucracies throughout the region. Additionally, the promotion of the Russian language and the adoption of the Cyrillic script aimed to unify communication and create linguistic homogeneity.

Another significant aspect was the Soviet Union's efforts to eradicate religious practices and promote atheism. Mosques and other places of worship were closed or repurposed, and religious leaders were suppressed. Soviet propaganda and indoctrination through education and media further reinforced the narrative of a Soviet identity.

The Soviet Union's influence had profound socio-cultural consequences for the Uzbek population. Traditional Uzbek culture and customs faced challenges as Soviet ideals clashed with deeply ingrained traditions. The introduction of collective farming systems and industrialization transformed Uzbekistan's economic landscape, leading to societal changes and disruptions.

However, the Soviet era also facilitated social mobility and educational opportunities for the Uzbek population previously denied access. This resulted in the emergence of new social classes and increased social inequality.

Despite Soviet efforts to shape a singular Soviet identity, Uzbek culture and identity proved resilient. Traditional customs and practices were upheld in underground settings and through hidden religious and spiritual gatherings. This resistance allowed Uzbek culture to persist alongside the imposed Soviet identity, leading to a complex coexistence of identities.

The legacy of the Soviet era and the formation of a Soviet identity continues to reverberate in Uzbekistan today. The imprint of Soviet influence is visible in Uzbekistan's political and social dynamics. Since gaining independence in 1991, Uzbekistan has witnessed a revival of nationalistic sentiments and a renewed focus on preserving and celebrating Uzbek culture.

The formation of a Soviet identity significantly impacted the Uzbek population, shaping their socio-cultural landscape and transforming their way of life. However, despite the suppression and assimilation efforts, Uzbek culture's resilience and the coexistence of Soviet and Uzbek identities highlight the complexity of the Soviet legacy. Understanding the impact of Sovietization is crucial for comprehending the challenges and dynamics that shape modern-day Uzbekistan.

The political landscape in Uzbekistan following the disintegration of the Soviet Union witnessed significant changes and transitions. It is essential to understand that Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991, marking the end of its Soviet era and the beginning of a new era in its political history.

In the early years of independence, Uzbekistan's political landscape was dominated by President Islam Karimov, who held power from 1991 until his death in 2016. Karimov established a centralized and authoritarian regime, concentrating power in the executive branch while suppressing political opposition and dissent.

During Karimov's rule, the Uzbek government established the Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (the only legal political party) and maintained tight control over political organizations, media, and civil society. This consolidation of power limited the development of a pluralistic political landscape and hindered the growth of opposition parties.

Under Karimov, Uzbekistan implemented economic reforms aimed at transitioning from a centrally planned socialist economy to a market-oriented system. However, economic liberalization was accompanied by limited political liberalization, leading to concerns about the lack of democratic institutions and accountability in the country.

Following President Karimov's death in 2016, Shavkat Mirziyoyev assumed presidential office after winning the subsequent elections. Mirziyoyev initiated a series of reforms aimed at opening up the political system, improving regional relations, and attracting foreign investment. These changes included measures to reduce bureaucratic restrictions, addressing human rights concerns, and engaging in diplomatic outreach.

In recent years, there has been a gradual emergence of political opposition groups in Uzbekistan. This includes the establishment of new political parties, the reintegration of opposition figures previously exiled or persecuted, and the creation of spaces for increased political debate and civic participation.

Uzbekistan's post-Soviet political landscape also includes its engagement in regional and international affairs. The country has sought to strengthen ties with neighboring countries and international organizations, promoting regional stability, economic cooperation, and security.

The political landscape in Uzbekistan continues to evolve, with ongoing efforts to introduce political reforms, promote democratic development, and address historical challenges. The country's commitment to modernization and increased engagement with foreign partners suggests a changing political climate in the years ahead.

When a country gains independence or undergoes significant political changes, the adoption of national symbols plays a vital role in shaping its identity and representing its values. Uzbekistan, following its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, underwent a process of adopting its national flag, emblem, and anthem.

The national flag of Uzbekistan consists of three horizontal stripes of turquoise blue, white, and green, with thin red stripes separating them. Each color holds symbolic meaning: turquoise blue represents the sky and stability, white symbolizes the purity and kindness of people, and green represents the natural wealth and fertility of the land. The thin red stripes symbolize the courage and resilience of the Uzbek people.

The national emblem of Uzbekistan features a rising sun over a blue sky, encircled by ears of wheat embracing a crescent moon. The rising sun symbolizes the dawn of independence and a bright future for the nation. The blue sky represents peace and stability, while the ears of wheat signify the agricultural abundance and prosperity of Uzbekistan. The crescent moon is a symbol of Islam, the predominant religion in the country.

The national anthem of Uzbekistan, titled "O'zbekiston Respublikasining Davlat Madhiyasi" (Anthem of the Republic of Uzbekistan), was adopted in 1992. The lyrics, written by Abdulla Oripov, celebrate the nation's rich history, natural beauty, cultural heritage, and the unity of its diverse people. The anthem emphasizes the values of patriotism, harmony, and progress.

The adoption of the national flag, emblem, and anthem in Uzbekistan holds significant symbolic and cultural importance. These symbols reflect the nation's aspirations, its historical heritage, and the values it upholds. The colors, patterns, and motifs used in these symbols pay homage to the country's natural beauty, traditions, and its Islamic heritage.

The adoption of national symbols in Uzbekistan has played a crucial role in fostering a sense of national identity and unity among its citizens. These symbols serve as a unifying force by representing the diversity of Uzbekistan's people, culture, and history. They help create a shared identity and sense of belonging, while also emphasizing the principles of peace, stability, and progress.

The adoption of national symbols in Uzbekistan, including the national flag, emblem, and anthem, has been a significant part of the country's journey towards independence and nation-building. These symbols have become powerful visual representations of Uzbekistan's values, heritage, and aspirations. They not only instill a sense of pride among the citizens but also serve as a reminder of the country's rich history and the importance of unity in shaping a brighter future for Uzbekistan and its people.

Language plays a crucial role in shaping the cultural identity of a nation. In Uzbekistan, language has played an instrumental role in preserving the country's rich cultural heritage and fostering a sense of nationalism.

The Uzbek language is the national language of Uzbekistan and holds deep historical and cultural importance. It is closely tied to the region's long-established cultural traditions and serves as a medium

to pass down age-old customs, beliefs, and folklore from generation to generation. By preserving its language, Uzbekistan safeguards its unique cultural identity and reinforces its historical continuity.

Language serves as a vehicle for cultural expression, allowing individuals to communicate and share their thoughts, ideas, and emotions. In Uzbekistan, the Uzbek language enables people to express their cultural values, traditions, and artistic expressions, such as literature, poetry, music, and dance. These forms of cultural expression not only connect people with their roots but also contribute to a sense of belonging and pride in their heritage.

The Uzbek language acts as a powerful unifying force in Uzbekistan, bringing together diverse ethnic groups and fostering a shared national identity. With over 30 million native speakers, the Uzbek language bridges linguistic barriers and promotes social cohesion among the citizens. It allows people from different regions of the country to communicate and collaborate, thereby strengthening the bonds of unity and fostering a collective sense of nationalism.

The Uzbek government has placed significant emphasis on promoting and preserving the Uzbek language through language policies and educational initiatives. The country's education system prioritizes the teaching and learning of the Uzbek language, ensuring that future generations have a strong command of their national tongue. Language policies also aim to protect and promote minority languages spoken by various ethnic groups in Uzbekistan, further fostering a sense of inclusivity and respect for cultural diversity.

Language is closely intertwined with national identity, and in Uzbekistan, the Uzbek language plays a vital role in shaping and reinforcing the nation's collective identity. Through the use of the Uzbek language, Uzbekistan has been able to establish its unique cultural and linguistic identity on the global stage. This strengthens the nation's presence and recognition, fostering a sense of pride and belonging among its citizens.

The rise of social media platforms has revolutionized the way information is disseminated and movements are organized worldwide. In Uzbekistan, social media has played a significant role in mobilizing and organizing nationalist movements, allowing individuals to unite around a common cause, express their patriotism, and advocate for their national identity.

Social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, have provided a platform for individuals to amplify their voices and spread awareness about nationalist movements in Uzbekistan. Hashtags, trending topics, and viral content allow nationalists to create online communities, share their views, and ignite conversations around issues related to national identity, cultural preservation, and patriotism. Through the power of social media, these movements have gained visibility and attracted attention from larger audiences.

Social media has facilitated connections and organizing efforts among nationalists in Uzbekistan. Online platforms provide a space for individuals with similar ideologies to come together, share resources, and coordinate their activities. Virtual communities and groups allow nationalists to exchange ideas, plan events, and create campaigns that further their cause. By providing a convenient and accessible platform for communication and collaboration, social media has facilitated the growth and organization of nationalist movements in Uzbekistan.

Social media has become a powerful tool for shaping public opinion in Uzbekistan. Nationalist movements effectively utilize social media platforms to present their narratives, share information, and challenge mainstream discourse. Through multimedia content, such as videos, infographics, and testimonials, nationalists can engage and persuade a wider audience, challenging existing narratives

and stereotypes. Social media allows these movements to bypass traditional media channels and share their perspectives directly with the public.

Social media has proven to be an effective means to mobilize and engage supporters in nationalist movements. Online platforms provide nationalists with the ability to disseminate calls to action, encourage participation in protests, and organize demonstrations or events. The real-time nature of social media allows movements to rapidly spread messages, gather supporters, and rally them around a cause. By mobilizing individuals through social media, nationalist movements in Uzbekistan can achieve broader impact and raise awareness about their goals.

Social media has also allowed nationalist movements in Uzbekistan to overcome government constraints on traditional forms of activism and public expression. Due to the decentralized nature of social media, individuals can share information, organize, and express their nationalist sentiments without being subject to traditional forms of censorship or government control. This has provided nationalists with a platform for free expression and the ability to challenge the status quo.

Social media has had a profound impact on mobilizing and organizing nationalist movements in Uzbekistan. It has empowered individuals to amplify their voices, facilitate connections and organizing efforts, shape public opinion, mobilize supporters, and overcome government constraints. By leveraging the power of social media, nationalists in Uzbekistan have been able to advocate for their national identity, preserve their cultural heritage, and foster a sense of patriotism among fellow citizens. As social media continues to evolve, its role in nationalist movements is likely to remain significant, contributing to the shaping of political, social, and cultural landscapes in Uzbekistan.

CONCLUSION

The revival of Uzbek nationalism in post-Soviet Uzbekistan represents a multifaceted and complex phenomenon rooted in historical, political, and socio-cultural factors. By exploring the historical background, political climate, language policies, economic challenges, and socio-cultural aspects, this study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the new national identity formation in Uzbekistan. Understanding the dynamics of this revival is crucial for analyzing the present and future of Uzbek nationalism in a rapidly changing global context.

In Uzbekistan, language serves as a powerful tool in preserving cultural heritage, promoting cultural expression, and fostering a sense of nationalism. The Uzbek language acts as a binding force, connecting different ethnic groups and playing a key role in shaping a collective national identity. By placing importance on the preservation and promotion of the Uzbek language, Uzbekistan ensures the safeguarding of its cultural richness and contributes to the unity and pride of its citizens.

Uzbek national identity before the Soviet rule was rich, diverse, and deeply rooted in history. The Uzbeks' Turkic and Mongol origins, combined with Persian influences, shaped their unique cultural expressions and sense of belonging. From language and literature to music, arts, and cuisine, each aspect reflected the vibrant tapestry of their national identity. Communal values, as exemplified by the mahalla system, fostered a strong sense of community and shared responsibility.

Understanding this pre-Soviet era helps us appreciate the enduring resilience of Uzbek culture and its significance in preserving the country's heritage today.

The impact of Russian colonialism and Tsarist policies on Uzbek national consciousness cannot be overstated. The suppression of cultural identity, economic exploitation, political marginalization, and Soviet-era transformations have all played a significant role in shaping the Uzbek people's collective memory and identity. However, recent years have seen a revival of Uzbek national consciousness, as

the nation embraces its historical heritage while navigating the complexities of a globalized world. Recognizing and understanding the impact of this painful history is crucial for future generations, as Uzbekistan continues to forge its path towards a stronger, more confident national identity.

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