



THE PRINCIPLES OF POLITICAL PARTY DIVISION AND THEIR MANIFESTATION IN UZBEKISTAN'S MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM

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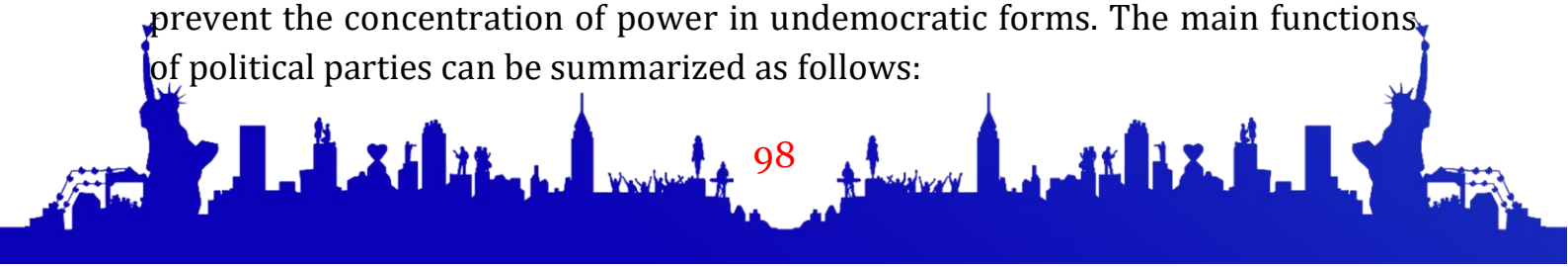
Abstract. This article thesis explores the principles of political party division into right, left, and centrist orientations, and analyzes their manifestation in Uzbekistan's multi-party system. Examines the theoretical foundations of party classification, tracing the historical origins of the left – right spectrum and its role in structuring modern political systems. And applies this theoretical framework to Uzbekistan, reviewing the emergence of political parties since independence, their ideological orientations, and the specific features of party competition.

The research concludes that while Uzbekistan's parties formally represent right, left, and centrist positions, their ideological diversity is limited. The system prioritizes stability and national unity over sharp political confrontation. The study highlights both the strengths and weaknesses of the current system and outlines future prospects for democratization, including greater youth participation, stronger civil society engagement, and clearer party differentiation.

Keywords: Political parties; party division; right-wing; left-wing; centrist; multi-party system; Uzbekistan; democracy; political pluralism; party competition; ideological spectrum.

Political parties are one of the essential institutions of modern representative democracy. They are voluntary associations of citizens united by common political goals, values, and strategies aimed at influencing state power through participation in elections, policymaking, and governance. Without political parties, modern states would lack an effective mechanism to channel social interests into the political process.

Scholars such as Maurice Duverger and Giovanni Sartori emphasize that parties are the “connecting link” between society and government. They provide legitimacy to political regimes, offer platforms for citizen participation, and prevent the concentration of power in undemocratic forms. The main functions of political parties can be summarized as follows:





1. Representation – aggregating and expressing the interests of social groups.
2. Political Socialization – educating citizens in political values and civic culture.
3. Recruitment of Elites – selecting candidates for leadership positions.
4. Formulation of Policies – creating programs to address economic, social, and cultural issues.
5. Control and Accountability – acting as watchdogs over government activity.

In transitional societies, including post-Soviet states like Uzbekistan, parties also serve as tools for nation-building and mobilization around developmental priorities.

The most fundamental principle in party classification is the division into right-wing, left-wing, and centrist orientations. This typology, though simplified, remains one of the most effective models for analyzing party systems.

➤ Right-wing parties. Emphasize conservative values, private property, economic liberalism, individual responsibility, and national identity. They are often associated with business groups, entrepreneurs, and traditionalist social segments.

➤ Left-wing parties. Advocate for social justice, equality, redistribution of wealth, and the protection of vulnerable groups. They support active state intervention in the economy and often find their base among workers, public-sector employees, and marginalized communities.

➤ Centrist parties. Seek to balance between market mechanisms and social justice. They often appeal to the “middle class” and adopt pragmatic policies rather than rigid ideological positions.

This ideological triad is not static: parties may shift positions depending on changing socio-economic conditions, voter preferences, and global trends. The left-right distinction originated during the French Revolution (1789), when supporters of the monarchy sat on the right side of the National Assembly, while radical revolutionaries sat on the left. Since then, the terms “right” and “left” have symbolized conservative and progressive political positions respectively. In the XIX century, industrialization and class conflict reinforced this division:

- Conservative right-wing parties defended monarchy, religion, and property rights.

- Socialist and later communist left-wing parties mobilized workers for greater rights and redistribution.





- Liberal centrist forces advocated constitutionalism, limited government, and gradual reforms.

By the XX century, the model became more complex with the rise of Christian democrats, social democrats, green parties, and populists. Yet the left-right-center classification remains the backbone of political science discourse.

The number and strength of political parties determine the type of party system. Giovanni Sartori classified systems into: One-party systems – where only one political organization dominates (e.g., authoritarian regimes); two-party systems – where two major parties alternate in power (e.g., USA, UK); multi-party systems – where several parties compete, often requiring coalition governments (e.g., Germany, India). The effectiveness of each system depends on institutional rules (electoral system, constitutional design), political culture, and historical context.

Multi-party systems are widely regarded as a hallmark of democracy because they ensure political pluralism. They allow citizens to choose among alternative programs and leaders, encourage debates, and hold ruling elites accountable. Key advantages include: broader representation of interests; checks and balances on ruling elites; inclusion of minority voices in policymaking. However, multi-party systems also face challenges: fragmentation of the legislature, unstable coalitions, and populist competition. In young democracies, parties may lack strong ideological platforms and instead serve as vehicles for elite interests.

For Uzbekistan, understanding the principle of party division is crucial to evaluating its post-independence political trajectory. Unlike Western democracies, Uzbek parties emerged not from centuries of ideological struggles but from the state-driven need to build institutions of pluralism after 1991. Therefore, while the categories of right, left, and center apply in general terms, they are adapted to the national context:

- The right emphasizes entrepreneurship, modernization, and national values.
- The left stresses social protection and equality.
- The center combines elements of modernization, ecological sustainability, and national revival.

This theoretical framework will serve as the basis for analyzing how Uzbekistan's parties are positioned within the global left-right spectrum and how they function in the national multi-party system.





After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Uzbekistan inherited a one-party system dominated by the Communist Party. The newly independent state faced the urgent task of creating institutions of political pluralism. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan (1992) guaranteed freedom of association and political participation, laying the foundation for a multi-party system. The process of party formation was gradual and state-regulated. Unlike in some post-Soviet countries where opposition movements quickly turned into competitive forces, in Uzbekistan the development of parties occurred under conditions of controlled political liberalization. This approach was aimed at ensuring political stability during the fragile years of independence. The activity of political parties in Uzbekistan is regulated by several key documents:

- ❖ Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan (1992) – establishes the right of citizens to form associations and parties.
- ❖ Law on Political Parties (1996, revised in subsequent years) – defines the procedures for registration, financing, and functioning of parties.
- ❖ Election Code (2019) – regulates participation of parties in elections and campaign financing.

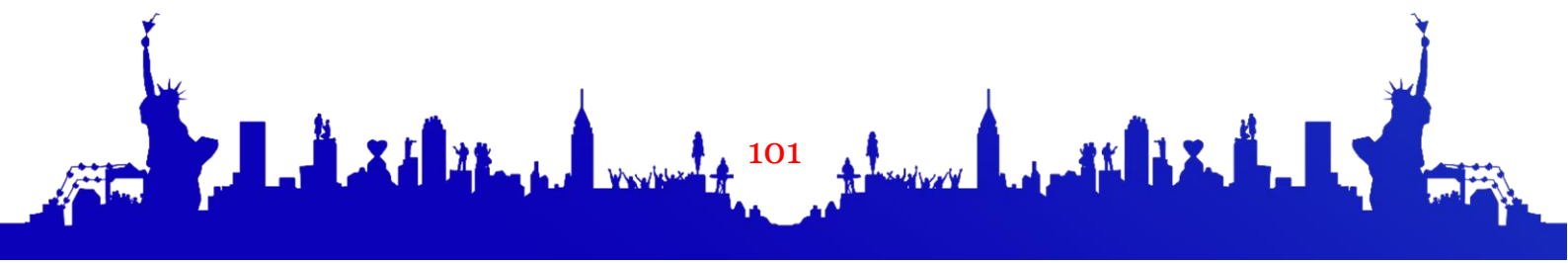
These legal instruments guarantee the existence of a multi-party system but also impose restrictions to prevent extremism and ensure national unity. Applying the principle of division (right-left-center) to Uzbekistan, we can identify the following party orientations:

Right-Oriented Parties. *Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (O'zLiDeP)* Established in 2003, O'zLiDeP positions itself as the party of entrepreneurs, businesspeople, and the middle class. It promotes market reforms, privatization, innovation, and private initiative. In ideological terms, it corresponds to right-wing liberal-conservative traditions.

Left-Oriented Parties. *People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (PDPU)*. Founded in 1991, the PDPU is the successor to the Communist Party of Uzbekistan. It emphasizes social justice, equality, and the protection of vulnerable groups (pensioners, low-income families, people with disabilities). Its platform resembles social-democratic or left-wing parties worldwide.

Centrist and Issue-Based Parties

• *Democratic Party "Milliy Tiklanish" (National Revival)* – Founded in 1995, it prioritizes national identity, cultural heritage, and patriotism, positioning itself between left and right.





• *Ecological Party of Uzbekistan* – Established in 2019, focusing on environmental protection, sustainability, and ecological reforms. It represents a global trend of “green” politics, which usually takes a centrist stance.

• *Adolat Social Democratic Party* – Founded in 1995, it emphasizes justice, equality before the law, and social reforms. While ideologically close to the center-left, it functions as a moderate balancing force.

Unlike in Western democracies where party competition is sharp and adversarial, Uzbekistan’s party system is characterized by consensus-oriented politics. Key features include:

1. Limited ideological polarization – all parties share commitment to stability, modernization, and national unity.
2. Support for presidential reforms – parties often align themselves with the reformist agenda of the state leadership.
3. Programmatic overlap – platforms of different parties show significant similarities, especially on issues like modernization, social welfare, and youth development.
4. Controlled pluralism – while multiple parties exist, their activities are coordinated within the framework of national development priorities.

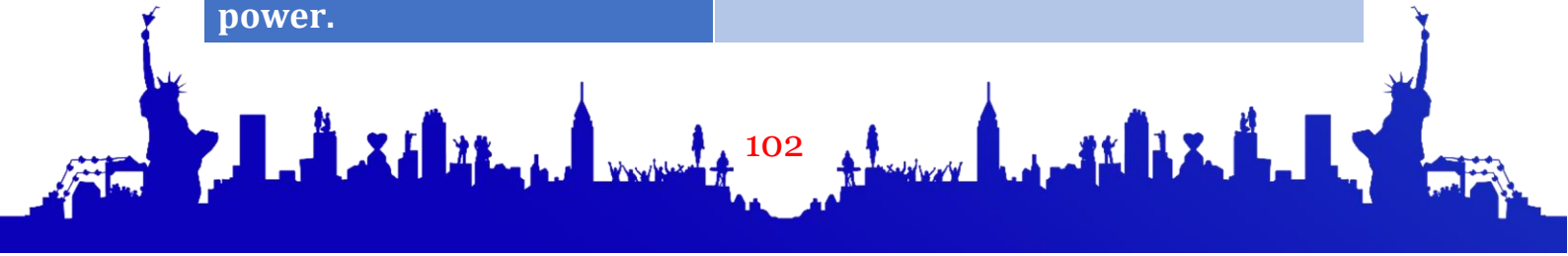
Uzbekistan’s parties primarily compete in parliamentary elections. The Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis is composed of party representatives, with seats distributed through proportional representation. Recent elections demonstrate:

- O‘zLiDeP often receives the largest share of votes due to its pro-business and modernization agenda.
- PDPU maintains a smaller but stable constituency of voters loyal to leftist ideals.
- Milliy Tiklanish and Adolat serve as balancing forces in parliament.
- The Ecological Party reflects the growing importance of environmental issues.

Despite formal competition, the elections usually produce results that maintain balance and prevent political fragmentation.

Table 1. Strengths and Weaknesses of Uzbekistan’s Multi-Party System

STRENGTHS:	WEAKNESSES:
Ensures political pluralism and prevents monopoly of power.	Limited ideological diversity – parties often resemble each other.





Provides citizens with alternative platforms for representation.	Weak grassroots mobilization – party structures are not deeply rooted in society.
Facilitates political socialization and participation.	Limited opposition – the system does not foster strong confrontational politics.
Contributes to stability during the period of reforms.	Public apathy – many citizens perceive parties as formal institutions rather than genuine vehicles of change.

Table 2. Challenges and Future Prospects

CHALLENGES:	PROSPECTS:
Ideological Convergence – need for clearer differentiation among parties.	Further democratization may create conditions for stronger party competition.
Youth Engagement – political apathy among young voters poses a long-term challenge.	Greater independence of parties could lead to a more dynamic parliament.
Civic Activism – strengthening links between parties and civil society is essential	Development of issue-based politics (environment, digital economy, women’s rights) may enrich the spectrum of political competition.
Global Trends – adapting to challenges such as digitalization, environmental change, and globalization.	Integration into international democratic standards will require strengthening intra-party democracy, transparency, and accountability.

This article thesis examined the principles of political party division and their manifestation in Uzbekistan’s multi-party system. The research highlighted both the theoretical foundations of party classification and the practical application of these principles in the political context of Uzbekistan. The main conclusions are as follows:

1. Universal Principle of Division: Political parties across the world are generally classified into right-wing, left-wing, and centrist orientations. This





triadic division reflects fundamental differences in attitudes toward state power, economy, social justice, and national identity.

2. Historical Legacy: The left-right-center distinction originates from the French Revolution and continues to shape global political discourse, even as new ideological movements (green politics, populism, digital activism) emerge.

3. Uzbekistan's Context: Following independence in 1991, Uzbekistan developed a multi-party system under conditions of controlled political liberalization. The Constitution and laws provided a legal framework, but party development remained closely linked to state policies.

4. Party Spectrum in Uzbekistan: Right-oriented: Liberal Democratic Party (O'zLiDeP) – pro-business, market-oriented; Left-oriented: People's Democratic Party (PDP) – social justice, equality; Centrist/issue-based: Milliy Tiklanish (national revival), Adolat (justice and law), Ecological Party (environmental protection).

5. Specific Features: Uzbekistan's parties operate in a consensus-oriented environment. They rarely engage in adversarial politics, instead supporting national unity and state-led reforms.

6. Strengths and Weaknesses: While the system ensures stability, representation, and political pluralism, it suffers from weak grassroots structures, limited ideological diversity, and relatively low citizen engagement.

7. Future Prospects: Strengthening ideological differentiation, expanding civic participation, and involving youth and civil society will be key to the development of a more competitive and dynamic multi-party democracy in Uzbekistan.

In conclusion, Uzbekistan's multi-party system reflects both universal principles of party division and unique national characteristics. It plays a stabilizing role in political life, but its future development will depend on the deepening of democratic practices, institutional reforms, and the capacity of parties to adapt to the changing needs of society.

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