
TOPIC: All about Uzbekistan

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ANNOTATSIYA

The Republic of Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991, after being part of the former Soviet Union since 1924, and it has begun its transition to a market economy. Uzbekistan is a presidential republic, and conducts presidential and parliamentary elections on a regular basis.

The President of Uzbekistan is Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Uzbekistan is a resource-rich, doubly-landlocked country, strategically located in the heart of Central Asia. Its population of about 32 million (as recorded in the beginning of 2017), approximately half of which lives in urban areas.

Uzbekistan's population accounts for approximately 46 per cent of Central Asia's population of 68 mln people. In 2011 the World Bank re-classified Uzbekistan from a low-income to a lower middle-income nation. Since the early 90s, Uzbekistan has pursued a cautious and gradual approach to economic reforms. The national trade regime is rigid, with extensive tariff and non-tariff barriers in place. Main economic policies have included active state interventions designed to achieve self-sufficiency in cereal and energy resources, import substitution, and the accumulation of foreign exchange reserves.

KEYWORDS: gained, presidential republic, approximately, included, self-sufficiency, gradual, energy resources, doubly-landlocked, import substitution, accumulation.

As of 2015, about 12.8 per cent of people in Uzbekistan lived below the national poverty line, 75 per cent of whom live in rural areas (ADB, Basic Statistics 2017)[1]. One of the most difficult challenges the country is facing is a lack of employment opportunities, and a high disparity in living standards between rural and urban areas.

High unemployment and low wages have resulted in a mass labour migration to Russia and Kazakhstan, while remittances have accounted for about 10-12 percent of the nation's GDP between 2010 and 2013. Since 2013, remittances have continuously declined and their share in GDP has been halved. The Government of Uzbekistan recognizes that governance at central as well as local levels remains an area where further reforms are needed to improve participatory decision-making, transparency, and the openness of government bodies. Other pressing issues include the need to improve public awareness of and adherence to human rights principles, ensure access to justice for vulnerable groups, and promote gender equality.

Uzbekistan faces a number of environmental challenges compounded by the country's geography and climate, by its rapidly-increasing population, and by its economic activities including those that have damaged the nation's fragile ecosystems. Access to drinking water is a pressing issue, while the Aral Sea disaster has had a negative impact on regional economics, the environment, and the health and livelihoods of local populations. In the last decade, Uzbekistan has achieved significant progress in reducing low income

rates and tackling malnutrition. Official statistics indicate that the national poverty rate has decreased from 27.5 per cent in 2001 to 12.8 per cent in 2015[1]. Social cohesion has been maintained through more equitable income distribution, the creation of employment opportunities with a specific focus on rural areas, and attention given to vulnerable populations. Gender equality in primary and secondary education has been maintained, but the percentage of female students among enrolled in higher education establishments remains low at about 36 per cent.

The number of women in the Parliament of Uzbekistan has increased from 6 per cent in 1994 to 16 per cent in 2015. Uzbekistan's maternal mortality rate has gradually decreased from 33.1 per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 20 in 2013. This achievement has been the result of a reduced fertility rate, fewer unwanted pregnancies and abortion cases, and longer time periods between pregnancies. Rates of iron, folic acid, iodine and vitamin A deficiencies have been identified and addressed by the Government, and work is underway with international partners to develop effective health care programs.

Uzbekistan is committed to halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria by 2015. The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Uzbekistan is still in its early stages, with a relatively low rate of infection. After rapid increase in 2000-2009, number of people newly diagnosed with HIV, has stabilized at the level of 4,000 people.

As for tuberculosis, the peak level of TB morbidity and mortality occurred in 2002, and since then, the situation has improved: in 2002-2013 the incidence of tuberculosis decreased from 79.1 (per 100,000 population) to 50.8 (per 100,000 population); mortality decreased from 12.3 to 3.9 (per 100,000 population) accordingly. The Government has also recognised the need to improve environmental management, and to develop and adopt a number of strategies on environmental protection, natural resource use, biodiversity, agriculture, renewable energy and the prevention of desertification.

I'm going to Samarkan by train, [aim 'gouir) tu ,saemo 'kaend bai trem] Men Samar-I qandga poyezdda ketyap man.

I'm going to see the Registan Square. [aim 'goinj ta 'si: 5o ,regi'staen skweo] Men Registon maydonini ko'rmoqchiman.

Republic of Uzbekistan (Uzbek: O'zbekiston Respublikasi), is a doubly landlocked country in Central Asia. It is surrounded by five landlocked countries: Kazakhstan to the north; Kyrgyzstan to the northeast; Tajikistan to the southeast; Afghanistan to the south, Turkmenistan to the south-west. Its capital and largest city is Tashkent. Uzbekistan is part of the Turkic languages world, as well as a member of the Organisation of Turkic States.

Where's Uzbekistan? ['weaz ,u:zbeki'sta:n] O'zbekiston qayerda joylashgan?

Where are you going to? L'weora: ju: 'gooii] tu] Qayerga ketyapsan/ ketyapsiz?

Uzbek language is the majority-spoken language in Uzbekistan. Islam is the predominant religion in Uzbekistan, most Uzbeks being Sunni Muslims.^[15]

The first recorded settlers in what is now Uzbekistan were Eastern Iranian nomads, known as Scythians, who founded kingdoms in Khwarazm (8th–6th centuries BC), Bactria (8th–6th centuries BC), Sogdia (8th–6th centuries BC), Fergana (3rd century BC – sixth century AD), and Margiana (3rd century BC – sixth century AD).^[16] The area was incorporated into the Iranian Achaemenid Empire and, after a period of Macedonian rule, was ruled by the Iranian Parthian Empire and later by the Sasanian Empire, until the Muslim conquest of Persia in the seventh century. The Early Muslim conquests and the subsequent Samanid Empire converted most of the people, including the local ruling classes, into adherents of Islam. During this period, cities such as Samarkand, Khiva, and Bukhara began to grow rich from the Silk Road, and witnessed the emergence of leading figures of the Islamic Golden Age, including Muhammad al-Bukhari, Al-Tirmidhi, al-Khwarizmi, al-Biruni, Avicenna and Omar Khayyam.

The local Khwarazmian dynasty and Central Asia as a whole were decimated by the Mongol invasion in the 13th century, after which the region became dominated by Turkic peoples. The city of Shahrisabz was the birthplace of the Turco-Mongol conqueror Timur (Tamerlane), who in the 14th century established the Timurid Empire and was proclaimed the Supreme Emir of Turan with his capital in Samarkand, which became a centre of science under the rule of Ulugh Beg, giving birth to the Timurid Renaissance.

The territories of the Timurid dynasty were conquered by Uzbek Shaybanids in the 16th century, moving the centre of power to Bukhara. The region was split into three states: the Khanate of Khiva, Khanate of Kokand and Emirate of Bukhara. Conquests by Emperor Babur towards the east led to the foundation of India's newest invasions as Mughal Empire.

All of Central Asia was gradually incorporated into the Russian Empire during the 19th century, with Tashkent becoming the political center of Russian Turkestan. In 1924, national delimitation created the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic as an independent republic within the Soviet Union. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, it declared independence as the Republic of Uzbekistan on 31 August 1991.

Uzbekistan is a secular state, with a presidential constitutional government in place. Uzbekistan comprises 12 regions (vilayats), Tashkent City and one autonomous republic, Karakalpakstan.

While non-governmental human rights organisations have defined Uzbekistan as "an authoritarian state with limited civil rights", significant reforms under Uzbekistan's second president's administration have been made following the death of the first president Islam Karimov. Owing to these reforms, relations with the neighbouring countries of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan have drastically improved. A United Nations report of 2020 found much progress toward achieving the UN's sustainable development goals. The Uzbek economy is in a gradual transition to the market economy, with foreign trade policy being based on import substitution. In September 2017, the country's currency became fully convertible at market rates. Uzbekistan is a major producer and exporter of cotton. With the gigantic power-generation facilities from the Soviet era and an ample supply of natural gas, Uzbekistan has become the largest electricity producer in Central Asia.^[24] From 2018 to 2021, the republic received a BB- rating by both Standard and Poor (S&P) and Fitch.^[25] Strengths indicated by Brookings Institution include Uzbekistan having large liquid assets, high economic growth, and low public debt. Among the constraints holding the republic back is the low GDP per capita.^[26] Uzbekistan is a member of the CIS, UN and the SCO.

References

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