

# CIVIL SOCIETY AND THEORETICAL APPROACHES OF THE STATE

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## Annotation

The article focuses on the strategy of civil society institutions to support the system of self-organization and self-government in protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens, improving the quality of social services provided by civil society institutions, combating poverty, protecting the interests of vulnerable groups. the development of a system of self-government.

**Keywords:** state, society, civil society, civil society institutions, NGOs, individual and state relations.

The history of the formation of civil society dates back to antiquity. Experts note that during the reigns of Plato and Aristotle, measures were taken to ensure the active participation of the people in power, who sought the origins of civil society at that time. Indeed, the transformation conditions of today's civil society, the peculiar views of civil society, began to develop in medieval Europe. M. Sharifkhodjaev writes that "it was stated that the Aristotle state is nothing but a general union of citizens and civil society"<sup>1</sup>. T.Dustjanov and S.Hasanov "The thinkers of the ancient world were the first to try to reveal the features and theoretical foundations of the rule of law of Socrates, Democritus, Plato, Polybius, Cicero. Therefore, a legally recognized and at the same time limited state power, according to the ancient thinkers, is a just state governed by the rule of law"<sup>2</sup>.

Renowned English philosopher, empiricist and liberal John Locke argues that civil society is more important than society and the state. Freedom is the most important value. The basis of a person's freedom, the guarantee of his political independence, is private property. Freedom is the inviolability of human life. Individuals enter into social contracts with each other, which leads to the formation of civil society. This creates a protective structure between the individual and the state. Consequently, according to John Locke, civil society is an institution of self-government protected by law from the direct influence of the state, from the voluntary gathering of people in various groups. The rule of law is aimed at regulating these civil relations. If civil society ensures human rights (living, freedom, the pursuit of happiness, etc.), the state must ensure the rights of citizens (political rights, i.e. the right to govern society)<sup>3</sup>.

The concept of "civil society" was formed by Aristotle, Cicero, Grotius, T. Hobbes, J. Locke, Hegel and other thinkers. All scholars recognize the human idea as the basic idea of civil society.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the German philosopher Hegel studied and analyzed the concept of civil society and enriched it with new rules. Hegel also sees civil society as the result of historical development, and concludes that civil society acts as a system of individuals who adapt their needs to the needs of others through labor<sup>4</sup>. The basis of civil society is private property, unity of interests and the official general equality of citizens established by law, protection of people from accidents. Unlike his predecessors, Hegel sees civil

<sup>1</sup> Шарифхўжаев М. Ўзбекистона очик фуқаролик жамиятининг шаклланиши. – Тошкент: Шарқ, 2003, 9-бет.

<sup>2</sup> Дўстжонов Т., Ҳасанов С. Ўзбекистон демократик тараққиёт йўлида. – Тошкент: Тошкент Молия институти, 2004. 8-бет.

<sup>3</sup> Локк Джон. Опыт о человеческом разумении; перевод с английского Александра Савина. - Санкт-Петербург : Азбука, 2022. - 859 с.

<sup>4</sup> Г.В. Гегель. Философия права.- М., 1990.

society and the state as independent institutions. According to Hegel, civil society does not exist within the state, but coexists with it<sup>5</sup>.

Explaining the meaning of civil society, the French thinker Benjamin Constant emphasizes that this idea is important only in the modern world. Between ancient and modern human freedom, Constant says, this is the most important freedom "In his view, if society is not free, human cooperation is not possible. The main goal of civil society is to achieve balance by neutralizing state power in society"<sup>6</sup>.

Civil society hinders the government by gaining the trust of the people, as a result of which the government cannot demand loyalty from the people. The non-governmental non-profit organizations, free trade unions, the media and institutions that make up civil society do not allow the government to become the only institution that the people trust. Civil society must create a network of mutual obligations for self-government by imposing a number of restrictions on political power. Civil society is the result of the spontaneous actions of free people.

As an expression of the democratization process in democracies, civil society also plays an important and leading role in its development.

Civil society actively reminds political leaders that different interests and interests should be taken into account when making public spending and public policy decisions. Consequently, an active civil society is a key condition for the development of democracy. It has the potential to resist the government and resist authoritarianism, and because of its pluralistic nature, it has every opportunity to oppose not becoming a state weapon in support of the interests of certain groups. "The state was the main institution that regulated social relations. Such an understanding of reality is the result of the absence of the concept of the relationship and duality of society and the state at this stage of development of society"<sup>7</sup>.

In general, the concept of civil society has been given different definitions from time to time. The essence of these definitions has changed in relation to the development of society and socio-economic formation.

Civil society is a set of moral, religious, national, socio-economic, family institutions and relations through which the interests of individuals and groups are met.

Civil society is an open, democratic, anti-totalitarian, independent developing society, centered on people, citizens and individuals. Civil society is not a political sphere, but a sphere of economic and personal life. There is no place for authoritarian rule, class animosity, totalitarianism, violence against people. He respects the principles of morality and humanity, laws, morality. In a democratic regime, this society is in close contact with the state, while in totalitarian and authoritarian regimes, it is in active or passive opposition to the state.

In short, the development of any society depends on the potential of active citizens and non-governmental organizations that are actively involved in the development of the country. Therefore, the state policy should also strive to increase the cooperation of active, open-minded, qualified citizens and public organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations in our country.

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<sup>5</sup> В.С. Нерсисянц. Философия права, М, 1997.

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