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The role of the environmental movement in the political process

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ABSTRACT: The study of the political transformation of the ecological movement as one of the main modern social movements within the Uzbek socio-political environment, the formation of scientific and theoretical conclusions and practical recommendations on the basis of this, are essential for building a civil society in the country and its subsequent evolution.

The article analyzes the current stage of institutionalization of national eco-policy, the system of relationships and interaction of political institutions and actors in the eco-political process of modern society, highlights the specifics of the environmental movement, and notes that the adaptation of each state and society to the conditions of globalization is carried out using strategies of cooperation and interaction with institutions civil society, but taking into account national identity.

KEY WORDS : Globalization, risk society, institutionalization, ecopolitics, ecological movement, social actors, identity.

I. INTRODUCTION

Back in the early 90s, Western sociology recorded the general vector of development of the global ecological process, associated with the fact that modern civilization has turned into a society of risk, in which "even that which was not previously considered such becomes political" [1, p. 24].

The XXI century is characterized by unprecedented man-made pressure on natural complexes. Modern civilization has found itself at that point of the world-historical "breakdown", which determines the dynamics and direction of civilizational development in the long term. The crisis is fraught with irreversible degradation changes in the biosphere, a radical transformation of the traditional natural conditions for the functioning of civilization, which also poses a real threat to the vital interests of future generations of mankind. Taken together, these processes form the prerequisites for the development of social, man-made and other disasters. The need to identify ways, mechanisms to prevent these disasters actualizes the problem of studying the environmental aspects of the political process.

Fruitful is, in our opinion, the definition of environmental policy proposed by O. N. Yanitskiy, which he defines as "a scientifically grounded policy aimed at preserving and reproducing a healthy and safe living environment, at resolving socio-ecological conflicts through the gradual environmental modernization of all spheres of society's life, ranging from the transformation of the basic system of its values, observance of civil rights and freedoms and to the restructuring of industrial production based on the expanding use of environmentally friendly technologies. " [11, p. 30].

The state of civil society in Uzbekistan at the moment is of particular interest when considering the possibility of civil participation of public associations in the political processes of the country.

II. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SYSTEM

The relationship between the natural environment and the political system in the context of globalization is undergoing changes, changing the logic of civilizational development, the nature of socio-political dynamics. The ecological crisis has shown the limited priority of the economic efficiency of the economic system as a basic criterion for social progress. The relevance of the topic is due to the importance of environmental issues, which is gradually but steadily being established in



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the Uzbek political arena. The need to integrate environmental imperatives into the conditions of socio-political and economic development is becoming a factor that is increasingly influencing both the political process and social development as a whole. One of the main conditions for increasing the efficiency of this process is the strengthening of the role of the environmental movement. As an indispensable and fundamental structural part of civil society, this movement plays a connecting role between the power structures of the state and civil society, connecting the official, public and private within the boundaries of modern state and interstate formations. Analysis of the activities of the Ecological Movement allows us to understand the key trends as a new ideological trend in the life of modern society and as a new political force.

The activity of the eco-movement shows that in the management process they become important participants in the socio-political life of the country, and this circumstance dictates the need for closer attention and in-depth knowledge of their nature, features of their functioning in order to objectively assess their participation in the development of the political and administrative process. In addition, the importance of eco-movement must be taken into account when developing practical recommendations in order to bring management to a higher level of efficiency. In this regard, it can be stated that changes in the field of governance and public policy occur because civil society institutions, in addition to the state, become participants in the process of developing and implementing public policy. There is practically no scientific research on the issues directly related to the participation of the environmental movement in the political process of the period of social transformation and its role in the formation of eco-policy.

III. LITERATURE SURVEY

The practical need for the development of environmental institutions of civil society has led a number of specialists to conceptualize environmental protection as a specific type of social practice, to study its structure and dynamics [7].

The issues of the formation of an ecologically sustainable way of life, the study of the factors of its formation, their place and role in the structure of the quality of life are being developed by a number of scientists [8,9].

The works of O. N. Yanitskiy, which are devoted to the topic of interaction between science and civil society in the formation of environmental culture in a changing Russia and the prospects for environmental modernization in Russia, are of indisputable interest. [12,13].

Various aspects of the social and political practice of the ecological movement - analysis of its strategy, tactics, repertoire of actions - are highlighted in the works of some scientists [2,3,4,5,8,11].

IV. METHODOLOGY

In the course of the research, general scientific methods were used: analysis, synthesis, observation, deductive and inductive methods. As one of the main methods, the activity approach was used, which considers the political and environmental sphere of activity in their dynamics. The principles of the theory of collective action (M. Olson), the theory of rational choice (G. Becker, A. Sen and others), a number of provisions of the theory of resource mobilization (D. Friedman, K. Jenkins, C. Tilly and others) were also taken into account.

The use of elements of structural and functional analysis made it possible to identify and reveal extra-institutional role, social and group foundations of the ecopolitical process. Factual material characterizing the state of the ecological situation at the global, national-state and regional levels was used as the foundation of the sociological analysis.

V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The specifics of the modern environmental movement.

The specificity of the modern environmental movement, which originally developed in the industrialized countries of the West, is that it arose as a reaction to the deepening crisis phenomena in the processes of interaction between society and the environment and was aimed at protecting and preserving the human environment. Awareness by the public and official circles in the industrially developed countries of the West of the planetary scale of the environmental hazard has led to the involvement of more and more citizens, representing various socio-demographic strata and professional groups, in environmental, resource-saving activities.

Despite the fact that in each country they have special characteristic features, it is conditionally possible to speak about a certain, already emerging contour of a universal, global environmental movement. Its local, regional and national associations have in common not only that they put forward all kinds of environmental warnings, demands and proposals



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for alternative solutions in the field of environmental protection, but also that they propose and disseminate proposals for an alternative organization of the world community.

The fundamental changes taking place in the political and economic systems of Uzbekistan at the present time have led to the expansion of its foreign policy space, spheres and forms of its international activities, to the need to integrate into the world community. These circumstances force our country to assume the obligations enshrined in international documents. Responsibility for fulfilling international obligations presupposes making adjustments to the concept and process of reforms being carried out in the country.

Within the framework of national (state) security, the state guarantees the society protection from environmental risks, thereby environmental safety becomes an integral part of national policy. The ecological movement today has turned into a significant political and ecological force and is able to act as not only one of the subjects of national environmental policy, but also a subject of civilization. It should be noted that the adaptation of any state and society to the conditions of globalization is carried out using strategies of cooperation and interaction with civil society institutions, but taking into account national identity, it has its own specifics. [6]. The creation of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan in August 2008 was an important event in the development of civil society in the republic. Today it has turned into a significant political and ecological force and is capable of acting as not only one of the subjects of national environmental policy, but also a subject of civilization. The environmental movement is a socio-political phenomenon. It is carried out on two levels. Since the goals of the environmental movement are part of the national programs of socio-economic transformations, in this regard, this movement at the national level merges with other large social and political movements. At the same time, the ecological movement is peculiar in that it is inextricably and closely linked with the life of the local population, with the regional interests of the masses, manifesting themselves on a daily basis, for example, the interaction of the local population and industrial enterprises.

There is still a fairly strong role of the state in the country's environmental policy. This is facilitated by the weak development of civil society in Uzbekistan, the strengthening of the executive power, as well as the concentration in the hands of the state of such levers as legal and economic mechanisms for the implementation of environmental policy. The choice by the state of mechanisms for the implementation of environmental policy depends on the choice of priorities. The allocation of priorities is dictated by the fact that funds are always limited and the simultaneous implementation of all the necessary measures is impossible.

Support and confidence in the environmental movement on the part of the people is ensured by the following circumstances: a) focusing more on intangible values (quality of life); b) reliance on the broad masses, thereby legitimizing their activities; c) make extensive use of international solidarity; d) by their structure, they are networks that include both institutionalized and non-institutionalized forms and have nodes for coordinating actions; e) combine "virtual" mobilization of people, using Internet technologies, with their mobilization for direct participation in major actions; h) widespread use of mass media is characteristic for the purpose of informing people and drawing the attention of the general public to the problem.

The ecological movement possesses the resources to provide advisory services, to monitor the state of the environment, which are in demand in the decision-making process at the international level.

VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

Environmental policy includes such a direction of the functioning of the political system as a civil society, which allows the most optimal and effective regulation of the interactions of individual individuals and groups in the "nature - society" system. The conditions for the inclusion of environmental issues in the system of political relations presuppose the ability to position and use the environmental factor as a resource of power, allowing for the transformation of power relations, institutions, and also directly influence the political process. The politicized nature of environmental issues invariably means its inclusion as a factor in the formation of basic institutions, practices and technologies of society.

The main purpose of environmental policy is to ensure that social needs are met in such a way that they do not harm the long-term development of natural resources or the vitality of ecosystems on which the safe functioning of nature depends. However, the social conditions for meeting environmental needs are often the opposite of those required to meet material needs. This is the dialectic, ambiguous and problematic nature of inscribing environmental imperatives into the system of political relations. The main spokesmen for the imperatives of nature conservation are such institutions of civil society as environmental movements.

The environmental movement is an institution of civil society aimed at combating the destruction of the environment, countering the deterioration of the environmental situation through various methods (demands, open public hearings on



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environmental issues, the formation of public opinion, etc.). The social conditions for meeting environmental needs are often the opposite of those required for meeting material needs.

The most important task of environmental policy at all levels is the problem of reanimating public consciousness, forming an objective and competent body of the expert community, whose activities will not allow a number of political forces to manipulate environmental issues in order to gain political capital.

The environmental movement contributes to the development of democracy in the country, consistently engaging in environmental activities, maintaining constant contacts with the authorities and other social actors, trying to participate in the decision-making process and putting pressure on the authorities, demanding that the interests of the population, its various strata and groups, be taken into account. Today, the environmental movement is strengthening its position as one of the most developed and active structures of civil society and one of the main actors in the eco-political arena.

Trends in the development of the ecological movement reveals an alternative orientation, expressed in attempts to go beyond the traditional values of industrial and technical civilization, the desire to develop a new system of values, a democratic nature of development, a humanistic approach to the future of the planet and awareness of the planetary nature of the environmental threat and, as a consequence, the globalization of movements.

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