

The Role of Historical Science in The Promotion of Military Heritage

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Abstract

The evolution of historical science takes place amidst the needs of society and occupies a leading position in ensuring the protection and preservation of national memory, identity, and military-memory heritage. Research into and popularization of military heritage, especially in the context of globalization and growing ideological confrontation, is more important than ever, as it is a reminder not only of historical battles, but also traditions of heroism, devotion, resistance against oppression and national historical memory. But the most pressing challenge is ensuring that military history is interpreted in an objective, scientific manner so as to negate the ideological distortion and one sided narratives. This article fills the gap by observing the important role of historical science in promotion of military heritage, specifying the educational and methodological foundations of history studies in New Uzbekistan. The research is based on a qualitative analysis of scientific literature, special issues, and national policy documents on historical education and spiritual-moral development. The results indicate that history education plays a major role in the development of historical thinking, civic duty and identity, patriotism, and national pride among the youth. It also underscores that historical science was strictly ideologized under the Soviets, but repressions released with reforms give wider possibilities today to bring historical justice to bear, to provide humanities with research support and to modernize history education with digitization. The outcomes confirm the necessity of bolstering history education, quality and continuity of teaching in order to effectively promote military heritage and foster an enlightened society. These implications suggest that a need to maintain sufficient number of instructional hours, and updated course outlines in order to sustain the long term effect of history on national and spiritual liberation.

Keywords: historical science, development strategy, enlightened society, enlightened individual, Address (Presidential Address), national history, historical thinking, spiritual development.

1. Introduction

In the context of increasing globalization and intensifying ideological struggles, every nation is paying special attention to preserving its historical memory, national values, and military heritage, as well as instilling them in the minds of the younger generation [1]. Military heritage encompasses not only past battles or the activities of military commanders, but also the struggles for freedom, independence, and defense of the homeland, traditions of bravery and devotion, the development of military art, and the historical experiences that have shaped national identity. The role of historical science in studying this heritage on a scientific basis and conveying it to the broader public is invaluable.

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By studying the laws of social development, historical science contributes to the understanding of national identity, the formation of historical thinking, and the education of a spiritually mature individual [2]. Particularly in researching and promoting military heritage, it is essential to adhere to the principles of historicity, objectivity, and scientific rigor. Indeed, interpreting military history from a one-sided or ideological perspective may lead to the distortion of historical truth. Therefore, source-based research, archival documents, written and material monuments, as well as modern scholarly studies serve as an important methodological foundation in the study of military heritage.

2. Research Method

Qualitative analytical research methodology base of systematic review and disclosure of the scientific and academic works and normative legal literature on the development of historical science and military heritage in Uzbekistan, this article follows the qualitative analytical research methodology based on the systematic review and disclosure of the scientific and academic works and normative legal literature on the development of historical science and military heritage in ush paragraph. Drawing on the principles of historicity, objectivity and scientific rigor in order to prevent possible ideological distortion, the study promotes evidence based interpretation of military and national historical memory [3]. The comparative and logical analysis of scientific reports on the significance of history in society, educational purpose of historical knowledge, and priority areas of state policy for the consolidation of national identity serves as the methodological basis of this article. Second, I conduct a content analysis of official strategic documents, including presidential addresses and national development decrees, to showcase how history and military heritage are framed as tools of spiritual development, patriotism, and citizenship. We focus particularly on the lingering problems transmitted from the Soviet legacy of history teaching and research and the sociopolitical conditions that have led to some innovative thinking within the larger parameters of the New Uzbekistan [4]. The article further combines interpretive historical and educational perspectives to suggest the promotion of military heritage through education, outreach, and research. In the end, such an approach helps to draw conclusions based on the literature, policy documents and arguments based in historical experience, which helps the article to interpret the contemporary place of historical science in forming conscious citizens and in strengthening the national awareness.

3. Results and Discussion

In the context of New Uzbekistan, revisiting national history, restoring historical justice, and deeply studying and widely promoting the military and spiritual legacy of our great ancestors have become priority areas of state policy. In this process, the task of historical science is not only to study the past, but also to strengthen patriotism, civic responsibility, and national pride within society [5]. This article analyzes the essence of the concept of military heritage, the methodological and theoretical foundations of historical science in its promotion, as well as the role of historical knowledge in educating the younger generation, based on scholarly literature and modern approaches. Furthermore, it highlights the opportunities and prospects of historical science in the study and popularization of military heritage.

It is well established that historical science and its teaching play a decisive role in shaping and developing social consciousness and intellectual thought. Today, the education system of Uzbekistan has entered a new stage of development, characterized by continuity

across educational levels and the improvement of instructional materials [6]. Since independence, the modernization of the national education system and the enhancement of teaching methodologies have contributed to training highly qualified and intellectually enriched personnel, who serve as the driving force of national development.

In the context of building the foundations of the Third Renaissance in New Uzbekistan, the study and teaching of history have reached a new level. As emphasized by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in his Address to the Oliy Majlis, the development of a national idea as a source of strength is essential for achieving the country's ambitious goals [7]. He particularly stressed that strengthening national self-awareness requires a deep study of the nation's ancient and rich history, revitalizing research in this sphere, and providing comprehensive support to scholars in the humanities (Mirziyoyev, 2018).

The mere fact that the Head of State has emphasized the importance of national history sets a significant task: to study history objectively, free from ideological influence, and to instill the achievements and shortcomings of the nation's rich historical heritage into the minds and hearts of the younger generation. In January 2021, during the meeting of the Council on Spirituality and Enlightenment, the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, highlighted the necessity of conveying national history to the people, especially youth, in a spirit of national identity, stating that without such an approach, its educational impact would be lost. He stressed the importance of teaching young people to learn from history, draw conclusions, and equip them with historical knowledge and historical thinking (Mirziyoyev, 2021).

Taking into account the crucial role of history in the development of the country and society, Uzbekistan has begun implementing measures to develop history in a national spirit [8]. This is particularly reflected in the drafting of the "Concept for the Development of Historical Science in Uzbekistan for 2021–2030," which critically analyzes the current state of the field, identifies existing problems, and establishes priority directions and objectives based on domestic and international best practices. The concept has been presented for discussion among the general public and historians.

The urgency and importance of this issue is further confirmed by Presidential Decree PF-60, "On the Strategy of Development of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026," issued on January 28, 2022 [9]. Chapter V of the decree, titled "Ensuring Spiritual Development and Advancing the Sphere to a New Stage," Goal 77, explicitly focuses on "further developing the study and promotion of the history of Uzbekistan." This framework aims to comprehensively modernize the teaching of history, ensure it meets contemporary requirements, and transmit knowledge objectively to the younger generation, ultimately contributing to the implementation of the "New Uzbekistan – Enlightened Society" concept.

Education, as one of the most important social institutions, determines the position and role of the individual in societal development. Alongside contemporary disciplines, teaching historical knowledge plays a significant role in advancing society [10]. This indicates that addressing the teaching and study of historical knowledge in Uzbekistan, within the framework of historical development, and implementing it in practice are crucial aspects, particularly when examined through the lens of historical science.

It is well known that during the Soviet era, historical science was evaluated primarily through an ideological lens, which resulted in a number of restrictions on studying the discipline as well as on research methodology and practice [11]. Consequently, strict ideological control led to the exclusion of talented historians and individuals with broad historical perspectives from the study of history in regions under Soviet rule. As noted by

academic A. Asqarov, during the period of the Soviet Empire, historical science became a “tool of cultural erasure,” serving as an instrument of the totalitarian regime’s theorists and the ideology of the Bolshevik Party.

Historian Kh. Ziyoyev, in his article “How Should the History of the Motherland Be Studied?”, argues that during the former Soviet period, the suppression of religion led to the impoverishment of spiritual life [12]. Eventually, the long-awaited period arrived when broad opportunities were created for the revival of religion. However, he emphasizes that instilling the foundations of Islam into the consciousness of individuals who had lived for decades in an officially atheistic society is not an easy task. As a result, some individuals may follow religion blindly and fall into fanaticism. Ziyoyev further notes that in the contemporary world where constitutional order, parliamentary systems, and democratic principles prevail turning religion into a “political weapon” constitutes an unnatural phenomenon.

During the period of Soviet rule, the so-called “residual principle” in the allocation of state funding to the social sphere held a dominant position. This was particularly evident in the field of education for the local population of Central Asia [13]. The party-Soviet leadership of the Union clearly demonstrated preferential support for conducting instruction in Russian in schools and other educational institutions. In this process, the aspirations of the local population specially those of the national intelligentsia to acquire secular knowledge were either largely disregarded or only formally acknowledged without substantive support.

The historical processes that took place in the recent past of Uzbekistan demonstrate that, during that period, historical science was often distorted in accordance with prevailing ideological demands, and access to authentic historical knowledge was restricted. In contrast, an analysis of the current state of history education and the accumulated experience indicates new opportunities for development [14].

The comprehensive digital transformation of all branches of history, along with the modernization of history teaching in accordance with the objectives of the “Digital Uzbekistan – 2030” program, creates broader conditions for enhancing competitiveness and introducing advanced technologies into the field (Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2020).

Instilling the essence of the idea “From National Revival to National Progress” into students is considered one of the strategic goals of developing history education. Ensuring that history education is staffed with competitive specialists, modernized in line with contemporary requirements, and strengthened through the mastery of advanced educational technologies is of particular importance [15]. Furthermore, equipping graduates with systematic knowledge related to worldview formation and enabling them to apply historical knowledge, skills, and competencies in independent professional activity remains a key priority of educational reform.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, a new stage has begun in our country aimed at creating and studying history in the spirit of national identity. This process places a responsibility on every member of society not only to study the recent past of Uzbekistan, but also to possess sufficient knowledge and understanding of its various historical stages. The successful implementation of these tasks will contribute to increasing the number of enlightened individuals in society and strengthening in each person a sense of continuity and connection with their own history and heritage.

At the same time, it is advisable not to reduce the number of instructional hours allocated to history in educational curricula at various levels of education. Where necessary, the content of historical topics should be reinforced and updated in accordance with contemporary demands. In particular, it is important not to decrease the number of hours devoted to the subject "Modern History of Uzbekistan," which is currently taught in higher education institutions. This is because the subject plays a crucial role in familiarizing young people with present-day realities and conveying to them the true essence and significance of the historical reforms being carried out in our country.

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