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## THE ROLE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN EDUCATING YOUTH IN THE SPIRIT OF PATRIOTISM

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### Abstract

This article examines the role of cultural heritage in the formation of a harmoniously developed generation. Cultural heritage is considered as an important socio-cultural factor that ensures continuity between past, present, and future generations. The study emphasizes that national traditions, customs, historical monuments, and spiritual values play a significant role in fostering patriotism, national identity, and moral maturity among young people.

In the context of globalization and social transformation, the preservation and effective use of cultural heritage are identified as essential conditions for educating youth who are intellectually developed, socially active, and spiritually rich. The article also highlights the importance of restoring historical truth and promoting respect for cultural heritage as a means of strengthening national consciousness and civic responsibility among the younger generation.

**Keywords:** Cultural heritage, youth education, national identity, patriotism, spiritual values, historical continuity, harmoniously developed generation.

### Introduction

In the modern era of rapid globalization and social transformation, the education of a harmoniously developed generation has become one of the most important priorities of society.

Alongside economic and technological progress, special attention is being paid to the spiritual, moral, and cultural development of young people. In this context, cultural heritage plays a crucial role as a fundamental factor in shaping the



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worldview, national identity, and patriotic consciousness of the younger generation.

Cultural heritage embodies the historical experience, spiritual values, traditions, and customs accumulated by a nation over centuries. It serves as a vital link connecting the past, present, and future, ensuring the continuity of national development. Through cultural heritage, young people gain a deeper understanding of their history, ancestors, and national identity, which contributes to the formation of a sense of pride, responsibility, and belonging to their homeland.

In recent years, increasing attention has been given to the preservation, study, and effective use of cultural heritage in the educational process. The integration of national traditions, historical monuments, and spiritual values into youth education contributes not only to the development of intellectual potential but also to the formation of moral integrity, civic responsibility, and patriotism. Therefore, analyzing the role of cultural heritage in the education of a harmoniously developed generation remains a relevant and significant issue in contemporary social and philosophical research.

As noted by the President of our country, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in his speech “Physically and Spiritually Mature Youth Are Our Support and Reliance in Achieving Noble Goals,” delivered at the IV Congress of the Youth Public Movement “Kamolot,”

“...the upbringing of the younger generation has always been an important and pressing issue. However, in the 21st century in which we live, this issue is truly becoming a matter of life and death. As the sages say, ‘The more perfect the upbringing, the happier the nation.’ Therefore, in order for upbringing to be perfect, no gaps in this sphere should be allowed”.

In the process of educating a healthy and harmoniously developed generation in our country, creating conditions for the realization of the creative and intellectual potential of young people, and shaping young men and women as well-rounded individuals who fully meet the requirements of the 21st century, the role of cultural heritage acquires particular significance. Under the conditions of national modernization and the democratization of society, real opportunities have



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emerged for the rational use of the cultural heritage created by our ancestors in fostering a sense of national pride among the youth.

As emphasized by the First President of our country, Islam Karimov, in his book “High Spirituality Is an Invincible Force”:

Historical truth shows that only a person whose soul is filled with national pride and love for the Motherland is capable of great achievements. We must create such a spiritual environment that in every corner of our country, in the image of all our cities and villages, a sense of pride in the Motherland illuminates our eyes and hearts.

Cultural heritage is a complex socio-cultural phenomenon that reflects the historical development of a nation. It is the most powerful force that connects the past of every people and every nation not only with the present but also with the future, presenting them as a single, integral process.

Cultural heritage serves as a major source for understanding the unique national characteristics of a people or a nation. It plays an essential role in forming a comprehensive understanding of a nation’s spiritual life. One of the means that ensures the transmission of cultural heritage from ancestors to future generations is national customs and traditions, rituals, festivals, and ceremonies—that is, national cultural traditions. It is precisely through these national cultural traditions that the cultural heritage accumulated by one generation is passed on to the next. This process, in turn, shapes national continuity.

Therefore, cultural heritage serves as a reliable bridge between ancestors and generations. At the same time, cultural heritage embodies a nation’s historical consciousness, its dignity, and its contribution to the treasury of universal human values.

From the historical experience of human development, it is well known that when a state or a nation values and honors its cultural heritage, encourages its citizens to cherish national cultural traditions, historical monuments, and architectural landmarks, and fosters respect for those who have created material and spiritual wealth, cultural, moral, economic, and political stability prevails in that society. Citizens of a country that fails to appreciate the labor of ancestors and generations, that forgets the cultural heritage created through the efforts of great scholars, poets, writers, artists, and cultural figures who constitute the pride and



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honor of the nation, cannot live in prosperity. In such a society, spiritual impoverishment dominates the social outlook of individuals.

Glorifying national cultural heritage and studying it comprehensively make a worthy contribution to the formation of national consciousness and national pride among all citizens of our country, especially among the youth who represent the future of society.

In order to instill in young people love for the cultural heritage left by our ancestors—particularly devotion to national customs and traditions, rituals, festivals, respect for great architectural monuments and various historical sites—it is necessary to convincingly explain to today's youth, through solid evidence, scholarly sources, and comprehensive analysis of the bitter lessons of the past, that the human being is the highest value, that in a humane and democratic society the entire community and the state must serve the individual, and that every law, rule, or regulation is aimed at honoring human dignity.

Explaining the disrespect shown toward national cultural heritage during the former Soviet period and exposing the policies implemented in this regard is a requirement of a humane and democratic society.

During the years of Soviet rule, it was widely propagated that higher education in Central Asia began with Tashkent State University. However, if there had been no centers of learning in ancient times in Central Asia, particularly in the territory of present-day Uzbekistan, how could such great scholars as Al-Farghani, Al-Biruni, Al-Farabi, Al-Khwarizmi, and Abu Ali ibn Sina have emerged? Higher education in ancient Turan has a history of more than 1,200 years. The remains of ancient madrasahs preserved in Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Shahrisabz, Termez, Kokand, Gijduvan, and other cities serve as clear evidence of this fact. In order to distance citizens, especially young people, from the history of their nation and people and to foster indifference and apathy toward it, historical truth was distorted and falsified. Various slanders and accusations were directed against historical figures, great statesmen, and military leaders.

This can be clearly seen in the attitudes and assessments given to such outstanding statesmen as Amir Temur, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, and Husayn Bayqara; to great military commanders such as Spitamen, Tomyris, Jalal ad-Din Manguberdi, and Muqanna; as well as to Sufism and its ideological and



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theoretical foundation—Tasawwuf—and to the Jadid movement and the socio-political movements labeled as “basmachism.” For many years, little attention was paid to the study of the philosophical heritage of great Muslim thinkers such as Al-Ghazali, Gijduvani, Kubra, Yassawi, Naqshbandi, Aziziddin Nasafi, Rumi, Bedil, and Olloyor, who made an immense contribution to the treasury of world philosophical thought. As noted in the book “High Spirituality Is an Invincible Force”,

“During the period when Soviet ideology dominated, speaking about such matters and adopting such an attitude toward our ancient and rich history was criticized as ‘idealizing history’ and subjected to pressure—a fact well remembered by our elder writers who lived through those times and suffered from the oppression of communist ideology.

The history of Uzbek statehood was deliberately falsified. It was claimed that Uzbek statehood emerged only in the 1920s of the twentieth century. In reality, however, Uzbek national statehood—particularly the Khorezm state—has a history spanning 2,700 years, which is an established historical fact. Experience shows that historical truth is singular, although its interpretations may vary. For this very reason, under the present conditions in which the construction of a humane and democratic society is gaining momentum in our country, the most important prerequisite for enhancing the role of national cultural heritage in accelerating the process of fostering national pride among the youth is the restoration of historical truth. In other words, we must restore an authentic and truthful history and equip our people and our nation with this historical consciousness.

As rightly emphasized in the work “High Spirituality Is an Invincible Force,”

“...the issue of approaching the upbringing and spiritual education of the younger generation with an exceptionally high sense of responsibility is of paramount importance. This is because young people are the rightful inheritors of the nation’s spirituality. Therefore, every son and daughter must, from their very first steps, have access to and benefit from our cultural wealth.



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