

Analysis of Political Modernization of the Republic of Kazakhstan

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Abstract: In this study, we attempted to analyze peculiarities of political modernization of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Studying of processes that occur in the course of modernization changes, allows minimizing outlays of transitional period through creation of effective management system which would function at support of various strata of society. Thus, study of peculiarities of political modernization is a task that is of both general scientific and social significance. In the period of drastic structural transformations in economics and political life of society, one of the most important tasks of social and political sciences is development of models of transitional political processes on the base of analysis and critical reconsideration of available experience in modernization reforming of states of transient type. Suggesting and developing various concepts of political modernization, researchers consider it as one of the most effective means for establishment of modern political systems and implementation of evolution process. Performed analysis of tasks on further study of problems of Kazakh political modernization allows formulating recommendations, results of which allow concluding that political modernization of the Republic of Kazakhstan in spite of various outlays is quite up-to-date and gives hope for development of democracy.

Key words: Politology, political analysis, political modernization, modernization strategies, democracy

INTRODUCTION

Topicality of studied subject is conditioned by specific character of modern development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, needs of scientific analysis of political processes of modernization character that occur in independent states and needs of ways and tasks of further advancement to democracy and progress.

During the period of drastic structural transformations in economics and political life of society, one of the most important tasks of social and political sciences is development of models of transitional political processes on the base of analysis and critical reconsideration of available experience in modernization reforming of states of transient type. Suggesting and developing various concepts of political modernization, researchers consider it as one of the most effective means for establishment of modern political systems and implementation of evolution process.

With regard to Kazakhstan, one may speak of the variant of forced modernization. Elimination of belated industrial relations their substitution with more effective structures occurred within historically short timeframes. However, the main thing lies in the fact that the state managed to go between the upper and the nether millstone without significant sacrifices and losses: between the need in creation of effective economics and as much imperative request of social development.

Modernization of the state, advancement of its competitiveness in conditions of globalization, phasing and consistency of reforms are basic principles which was met by Kazakhstan during all years of independent development and which defined the context of political discourse. In his message to people of Kazakhstan as of February 28, 2007 which was called "New Kazakhstan in a new world", the President of the state N.A. Nazarbayev mentioned the way of all-round forced modernization as the only true direction of further development of the country.

The term "modernization" stands for the movement, the switch from traditional, agrarian society to modern industrial one. In this case as a rule, developing countries are meant which come into contact with Western industrial social model. Having found itself in front of the necessity to enter global world society, post-Soviet countries, including Kazakhstan, settled down to a course of modernization, i.e., a course of radical social, economic and political changes, oriented at paces and standards of mainly Western development.

Topicality of this problem acquires a special tone within the context of positioning of the country at the international stage, especially in the period of Kazakhstan's chairing in OSCE. This is explained by the fact that in conditions of globalization of democratic processes, the essence of modern political regimes at all their diversity is defined by the need in meeting

democratic legitimate principles, any violation of which inevitably leads to discrediting of the regime in the global public perception.

Understanding processes that take place in the course of modernization changes, allow minimizing outlays of transition period through creation of effective management system which would function at support of various strata of society. Thus, study of peculiarities of political modernization is a task that is of both general scientific and social significance.

Connection of subject of the research with leading scientific programs and topics: Selected topic of thesis research is an initiative. Statements, scientific, practical conclusions and recommendations of the thesis work may be used in new strategy design of country's development in solving issues of state administration in external and internal policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Analysis of the latest researches and publications: Various modernization theories became part of interdisciplinary concept on the base of thorough understanding of expertise on social and apolitical modernization in the USA, European and other countries. This modernization concept, consequently, consists of institutional, structural, functional, culturological, social and psychological approaches which study various aspects of transitional periods, conditions of societies and states. Many works of foreign and Kazakh authors are dedicated to analysis of various aspects of content and character of changes during political modernization of transitional period.

Considerable contribution to progress of various theoretical and conceptual approaches to democratization and modernization of transitional process was made by such Western scientists as Brzezinski (1993), Dal (2000), Przeworski (1991), Sztompka (1996) and Schumpeter (1995). Particular methodological value for understanding of transformational changes has the work of S. Huntington 'The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late 20th century'. Accumulation of practical expertise of political transformations led to growth of their theoretical understanding of scientists from CIS.

The problem of modernization of political systems has been actively developed by Russian scientists (Matiukhin, 2006; Nikitchenko, 1996).

In Kazakhstan, the issue of political modernization is a subjects of works by Zhaulin (2007). Methodological problems of modernization changes in the context of political transformational processes are considered by Seilekhanov (2009).

Common logic of modernization of social and political sphere of Kazakhstan has been studied by such scientists as Abosheva, Ashimbaev, Tasmagambetov and Tulegulov. Their study are the basis for understanding and consideration of the essence of Kazakh political modernization reforms and they are important for serious scientific research. Thus, in learning Kazakh political modernization some progress has been achieved. At the same time, in domestic political science there are no works which would be dedicated to complex analysis of all key peculiarities of political modernization in Kazakhstan. This fact is a main reason for selection of subject of this thesis work.

We should mention following Kyrgyz scientists who study the issue of political modernization (Elebaeva and Pokhova, 2001). The young scientist (Duisheeva, 2013) who study political processes as objectively present political reality. The above mentioned researches illustrate the stages of political modernization and processes of political transformation in Kyrgyzstan's society.

From what has been mentioned we should note that at the moment, no questions has been developed which would analyze the role of the state as a subject and object of political process in line with democratic transformation of society; besides, specific character of institutionalization and formation of democratic institutes has not been thoroughly detected as well as the role of the state in politics of their establishment; common factors of democratization of transient societies that act in specific conditions of post-soviet reality have been poorly studied. Factors that define the character of state's activity and influence of democratized society on state regulation require further profound analysis.

The rationale of the subject, insufficient level of understanding of the problem, ambiguous understanding among social scientists of complex theoretical and practical questions of mutual influence of state policy and democratization process into transitional and post-transitional periods conditioned the selection of the topic, aims and tasks of this thesis work.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The main objective of this thesis work is definition of peculiarities of political development of the Republic of Kazakhstan in conditions of global changes, for eshortened by modern democratic modernization of Kazakh society. For achievement of the objective in view, the following tasks were defined:

- To perform complex analysis of the category of political modernization and discover main theoretical and methodological approaches to investigation of political modernization process

- To consider and define main models of political modernization
- To investigate political modernization expertise in various countries all over the globe
- To analyze the stages of Kazakh society's political system as a political modernization process
- To define further tendencies of political modernization in Kazakh society
- To develop academic and research recommendations and suggestions, directed at optimization of state's policy on the base of democratization strategy for Kazakhstan

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We have made an attempt of complex scientific and theoretical research of Kazakhstan's political modernization institute. Analysis of these questions in complex relationship allowed obtaining the following results.

Political science of the Republic of Kazakhstan is in need of widening theoretical and methodological base for advancement of researches of a political modernization process. That is why analysis of peculiarities and perspectives of Kazakh political modernization may become one of the most perspective trends.

The character of democratic modernization in many post-autocratic states indicates that reference standards of Western democracy may not be naturally adopted by "new democracies" that occur in non-Western civilizations and that results of democratization of this or that society are conditioned by its civilizational peculiarities. Expertise and results of Kazakh transit prove this statement.

At analysis of modernization changes in transitional societies, one should consider main components of modernization of social system, i.e., presence of political preconditions and sociocultural conditions.

Modernization strategies of transformation in Kazakh political system should meet the criteria of legitimacy, stability, flexibility and efficiency. For this, it is necessary to modernize the current system of checks and balances which are able to provide stability in society and stable economic growth.

Democratic modernization is an essential condition for stable development of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The character of democratic modernization in the Republic of Kazakhstan justifies the statement that socio-economic conditions (welfare, urbanization, industrialization, education) should be considered as factors that favor advancement of democracy but not as factors that require democracy.

In the process of political modernization, significant role is played by elements of civil society which are important subjects for conducting modernization reforms.

Distinctive features of Kazakh political modernization lie in the fact that democratic transformations may not be completed, since they are constantly developing and changing. Although, democracy principles are of universal character in practice different countries that chose modernization, demonstrate its various subtypes that reflect national character of this or that county. In the framework of political science in general and in theory of democracy in particular, sufficient amount of material has been accumulated for application of existing models of transitional societies' analysis. The Republic of Kazakhstan which took the path of transitioning from authoritarianism to democracy from traditional society to post-industrial one, demonstrates the state when changes that influence formation of political, economic and organizational structures, institutionalizes within the framework of the state and the society. Transitional state in society's development is the time when differently directed social powers exist and collide around the systems of values, tasks and means of changing of government institution and political relations. Substitution of autocratic regime by democratic one requires political leaders to be decisive and able to maintain political and economic stability. At analysis of modern tendencies of modernization development in Kazakhstan, one should consider that transition from autocratic regime to representative democracy was preceded by significant changes in the system of industrial relations which led to a certain success in business activity.

After obtainment of independency, Kazakhstan faced the problems of development of new landmarks in state economic policy, development of legal base for market relations, strengthening of market directionality of all industrial process, decentralization of managing business activity, changes of methods of management at update of economic mechanism, preparation of qualified staff.

These tasks of modernization character have been successfully resolved. Analysis of character of Kazakh political modernization, provided in this thesis work, allowed making the following conclusions.

Methodology of studying the process of modernization reformation is represented by integrated strategical analysis. Modernization represents one of the forms of political reformation which represents the factor of stabilization and stable development.

Global expertise proves that the most contemporary political models would not give positive effect if they were mindlessly simulated without considering political,

economic, social and mental peculiarities of state's development. Implementation of new modernization model of development for our state is a complex and long process. We should not mechanically imitate political models of other states without consideration of specific character of Kazakh development.

Analysis of modernization changes shows that in Kazakhstan liberalization and democratization processes were initiated by political leaders without sufficient preconditions for effective democracy building. However, awareness and influence of international factors including geopolitical location and external ecological and financial support allow the Republic of Kazakhstan to conduct successful democratization. The grounds for such conclusion are not only latest successes in the sphere of economic growth but also changing socio-cultural values and attitudes of Kazakh people.

Modernization strategies of transformation of Kazakh political institutes are performed within the context of modern world's globalization which creates certain limitations for its successful implementation. In particular, they should be in line with international universal standards of democratic regime. At implementation of modernization reforms it is not sufficient to create new institutes and proclaim democratic ideas and slogans. It is necessary to conduct goal-oriented activity at people's support which is aimed at creation of structures that would make democratic way of life reliable and self-reproductive.

The result of 20 years development of independent Kazakh state lies in fortification of strategical course of democratic reforms that excludes the possibility of return to (even a short-term one) to authoritarian orders and reanimation of associated ideology, the country faces the task of establishing a real, not verbal pluralism which forms basis of civil society that lives on the base of supremacy of law.

Well-developed civil society is a key precondition for successful modernization of Kazakhstan's political system for creation of civilized market system and democratic rightful state. At the same time, we may observe strengthening of state's role in social life as a main subject of modernization changes. The perspective of overcoming authoritarian regime in analyzed countries significantly depends on condition of mass political cognition and the level of its preparedness to adopt and support main political institutes of democracy and rightful state. Building on that, new national identity that is forming now, inevitably contains threats to democratization. On the one hand, we may observe the process of adaptation of earlier established somehow authoritarian government structures to new conditions,

on the other hand, new approaches and ideas are being introduced (though inconsistently), democratic political institutes are being filled with real contents which earlier were in fact factious. As a result, we may observe an occurrence of contradiction between form and content of new state structure which is typical for transitional period.

CONCLUSION

Provided analysis of tasks on development of further investigation of Kazakh political modernization allows making the following recommendations) it is necessary to continue analyzing peculiarities of modernization processes in the Republic of Kazakhstan at the level of global modernization expertise) by proceeding with modernization reforms it is necessary to consider local, ethnical and sociocultural factors) there is a need in creation of stable system of socio-political interrelations which would be supported by generally accepted democratic values and which would provide social stability) as far as modernization reforms are advanced it is required to widen political participation of population in this process, by this developing civil society. In general, we may conclude that political modernization of the Republic of Kazakhstan in spite of various outlays, gives satisfactory response to challenges of modernity and gives hope for development of democracy.

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