



History of the Press in Uzbekistan

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***Annotation:** This article contains analytical thoughts about the history of the press of Uzbekistan, the policy carried out by the state in order to develop it, achievements and problems in the field.*

***Keywords:** Mass media, press, periodicals, newspaper, magazine, democratic values.*

Along with historical works, the role of the press in covering the history of each nation is incomparable. Because the press is distinguished by revealing aspects of history that are not covered in books. The press is at the forefront of social and political life as a messenger of news and an expression of the spirit of the times.

The press refers to the set of printed products in the narrow sense of periodicals, mainly newspapers and magazines. As a sharp and effective tool of social consciousness, the press has a constant and active influence on the society of individuals, shapes public opinion, and is a powerful ideological factor in instilling certain views into the public mind. The press covers various aspects of society¹.

After the independence of our country, our national press also entered a new stage. As President Sh.Mirziyoev noted, "our people know very well that you, the press, are selflessly working to establish democratic values in our society, to ensure the constitutional rights of our citizens in the field of information, to provide prompt and truthful information about the socio-political processes and events taking place in the world and in our country. and appreciates highly²".

In the press, a lot of space was devoted to important topics such as the essence of independence and its importance. The role of the press in the restoration of national, historical and religious values has increased several times. In 1991, the total number of mass media in Uzbekistan was 395, and by 2018, this figure reached 1,636 in total. In addition to print publications, TV and radio channels, 480 websites are also active, registered as a new type of mass media³.

In Uzbekistan, many laws, decrees and decisions were adopted in order to develop the national press and to support publications with a new spirit after independence. Due to this, in the first years of independence, there was an increase in the number of press publications and the emergence of new ones. In these processes, the protection and encouragement of press and media workers by the state is of particular importance.

On June 24, 1993, according to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Designating the Day of the Press and Mass Media Employees", journalists and the media, in recognition of their services in promoting the ideas of independence of the press and mass media, building a new democratic society, and educating the population in the spirit of loyalty to the

¹ Encyclopedia of the Republic of Uzbekistan. - T., 1997. - P. 279

² Shavkat Mirziyoev's greeting to the press and mass media workers. People's word. June 17, 2018.

³ ALIMOV B. O'ZBEKISTON JURNALISTIKASI: 150 YILLIK TARIXGA NAZAR // [HTTPS://BERUNIYALIMOV.UZ/ARCHIVES/654](https://beruniyalimov.uz/archives/654)



Motherland in order to encourage employees, June 27 was designated as the day of press and mass media employees⁴.

According to the decree of the President of August 25, 1993, the "Fund supporting the press of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was established. The fund was established in order to help newspapers and magazines to solve issues related to improving their activities, publishing and distributing periodicals, as well as strengthening the social protection of journalists in the context of the transition to market relations. Фармонга кўра Республика даврий нашрларининг молиявий ва моддий техникавий базасини мустаҳкамлаш мақсадида Жамғармага Вазирлар Маҳкамаси захирасидан 1 миллиард сўм ажратилди⁵. Бу эса ўз навбатида матбуот ходимларини рағбатлантириш ва уларни ҳар томонлама қўллаб қувватлашга йўл очди.

According to the decree, 1 billion soums were allocated to the Fund from the reserve of the Cabinet of Ministers in order to strengthen the financial and material technical base of the republic's periodicals. This, in turn, paved the way for encouraging press workers and providing them with comprehensive support.

The State Press Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established in order to implement the state policy on development of mass media, publishing, printing and book trade in the republic⁶.

The State Press Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan is responsible for the economic and legal protection of citizens' right to receive unbiased information, timely press and book publishing, strengthening the material and technical base of the press industry, coordinating the work of printing enterprises, ways of their modern, scientific and technical development, social network - it was established in order to develop the perspective of economic development, to provide personnel training and retraining.

In 2002, the State Press Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan was reorganized as the Press and Information Agency of Uzbekistan⁷. In 2004, this agency, as a state management body authorized to solve tasks related to the development and implementation of state policy in the field of mass media, information exchange, press, publishing, printing activities, and distribution of periodicals, was to more fully satisfy the needs of citizens to obtain information, , first of all, it became a state organization that supports the wide development of mass media, publishing works and printing in order to raise the educational, spiritual and cultural level of the growing generation, to educate them in the spirit of national independence ideas⁸.

According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 2, 2019 "On additional measures for the further development of the information sector and mass communications" No. PF-5653, the "Uzbekistan Press and Information Agency" was transformed

⁴ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 24, 1993 "On establishing the day of the press and media workers". Bulletin of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 1993, No. 7, Article 276.

⁵ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 25, 1993 "On the establishment of a fund supporting the press of the Republic of Uzbekistan". Bulletin of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 1993, No. 8, Article 307.

⁶ The decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 10, 1997 "On approval of the statute of the State Press Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan". <https://lex.uz/docs/536352#536354>

⁷ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 3, 2002 "On improving management in the press and information sector". Bulletin of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2002, 6-7-con, Article 119.

⁸ The decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 11, 2004 "On further improvement of the activities of the Press and Information Agency of Uzbekistan". Collection of legal documents of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2004, No. 24, Article 272.



into the Information and Mass Communications Agency under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan⁹

This decree implements complex measures aimed at training, retraining and improving the qualifications of journalists and employees of mass media, press, publishing-printing and information-library enterprises, as well as assisting in the training of engineering and technical specialists of the network, their social and legal protection. served to provide.

In short, the national press was literally reorganized during the period of independence. For this purpose, the "Fund supporting the press of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was established, and the press was supported from a socio-economic point of view. Initially, the "State Press Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan" developed this field, later this committee was transformed into "Uzbekistan Press and Information Agency", then "Information and Mass Communications Agency".

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⁹ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 2, 2019 No. PF-5653 "On additional measures for the further development of the information sector and mass communications". National database of legal documents, 04.02.2019, No. 06/19/5653/2568; 11.12.2019, No. 06/19/5892/4134