The Dynamics of Ancient Thought: How Philosophies Shaped Changing Societal Ideospheres

Turdiev Bekhruz Sobirovich[1*]

[1]*Associate Professor, Department of Jurisprudence and Socio-Political Sciences, Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan.*
Corresponding Author (Turdiev Bekhruz Sobirovich) Email: bekhruz0302@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

In contemporary society, achieving significant national revival and progress necessitates a thorough and nuanced analysis of diverse ideas and perspectives aimed at rejuvenating our ideological framework. This includes drawing meaningful conclusions and lessons from these analyses. It is imperative to study the socio-philosophical dimensions of the evolution of various ideas concerning the renewal of societal ideology. This exploration should particularly focus on the contributions of Eastern and Western thinkers who have proposed transformative concepts for renewing consciousness and thought. The perspectives articulated by these philosophers have profoundly influenced the historical trajectory of spiritual and intellectual development across civilizations. These ideas emerged and evolved through the examination of the social environment, human relationships, and the ongoing quest to transform and understand the world. They reflect the advancement of scientific thought, spiritual progress, and the evolution of democratic societies, all of which contribute to the promotion and implementation of ideospheric renewal. This article provides an in-depth analysis of the scientific and philosophical perspectives of key thinkers, scholars, and public figures on the renewal of societal ideology. It explores the insights of ancient philosophers such as Zoroaster, Confucius, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, highlighting the critical importance of integrating these renewal concepts, with a particular focus on transforming individual consciousness.

Keywords: Thought; Ideosphere; Society; Reforms; Development; Progress; Dialectics; National identity; History; Philosophy.

1. Introduction

If we take a look at the history of social-philosophical thought, we will witness that the renewal of the ideosphere of society is profoundly influenced by the scientific heritage left by our ancestors in the development of the country's progress. The head of our state, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, acknowledged the following in his speech at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly: "Uzbekistan is undergoing rapid development today. We are following the wise traditions of our ancestors and deeply understanding them. We are implementing rigorous reforms as we strive to shape a new image of our country" [1].

Great scientists, historical figures and political thinkers have historically influenced societal development and national progress either positively or negatively through revitalizing the ideological sphere or exacerbating spiritual crises based on their life lessons, historical experiences, and the goals they set for themselves.

Therefore, great philosophers, thoughtful scholars, and just state leaders, aiming to lift the nation from a state of limitation and advance progress, primarily focused on shaping the ideological sphere of society. They have strived to foster maturity in the spirit of respecting universal values, responsibility towards the homeland, enhancing human dignity, advocating for justice, promoting lawful labor, fostering social cohesion, demonstrating loyalty to family, honoring friends and close relatives, and strengthening national pride, honor, distinction, and a sense of responsibility.

It is understood that the realization of national identity, safeguarding its honor and dignity, and striving for national unity, harmony, cooperation, and solidarity are criteria that also determine the level of national spiritual development.

1.1. Study Objectives

Understanding Philosophical Foundations: Investigate the foundational principles of key ancient philosophies such as Stoicism, Epicureanism, and Neoplatonism.

Analyzing Societal Impact: Explore how these philosophical schools influenced and interacted with societal norms, values, and governance structures of their respective times.

Comparative Study of Ideospheres: Compare and contrast the ideological landscapes shaped by different philosophical schools in ancient Greece, Rome, and other civilizations.

Exploring Intellectual Evolution: Trace the evolution of philosophical thought from pre-Socratic to Hellenistic periods, and examine how these changes reflected broader societal transformations.

Examining Cross-Cultural Influences: Investigate the exchange of philosophical ideas across ancient civilizations (e.g., between Greece, Egypt, Persia) and analyze how such exchanges contributed to intellectual diversity and innovation.

Relevance to Modern Thought: Evaluate the enduring relevance of ancient philosophical ideas in contemporary ethical, political, and metaphysical discourse, highlighting their legacy and adaptation over time.

1.2. Research methodology

In the study of the socio-philosophical essence of the renewal of the societal ideosphere, Eastern and Western thinkers' viewpoints have employed scientific knowledge methods such as analysis and synthesis, retrospective and comparative analysis, generalization, dialectics, and synergy.

2. Results and Discussion

In our opinion, the renewal of the societal ideosphere has also contributed to the development of relations between nations. The nation, having realized its identity, has earned the respect of other nations and endeavored to strengthen friendly relations with them.

Realizing national identity involves not only understanding national interests but also accurately envisioning development prospects and ensuring cooperative advancement along this path. For this reason, the wise and experienced scholars of the people have recognized that respecting other nations and establishing friendly relations with them are important spiritual factors in enhancing the national ideosphere aimed at progress.

The philosophical heritage of Central Asian peoples added its distinctive touch to the history of world philosophy. Their philosophy differs not in its antiquity, like the philosophies of India, China, Egypt, and Greece, but in its evolution of philosophical and religious ideas that have strongly influenced the spirituality of world nations on the path of their own development.

Based on this, it is appropriate to scientifically analyze the role of social ideosphere updates in the development of society on the basis of examples from the works of ancient Eastern and Western philosophers. The East has been described as a center of spirituality and civilization since ancient times. We can see that many unique ideas aimed at

the elevation of noble ideals and the realization and perfection of the individual were put forward in the concepts of ancient Eastern philosophers, particularly in the philosophies of Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, and Confucianism.

In the advancement of the societal ideosphere, the noble ideals of the ancient **Zoroastrian** philosophy among the people of Central Asia have held particular significance. It embodies the spirituality, culture, traditions and moral values of the ancient peoples of our territory. In it, the aspirations for peace and stability contributing to the advancement of societal ideosphere, and the goal of individuals achieving excellence through honest labor with each other, have been outlined in advance. According to the renowned philosopher Nigina Shermukhamedova, in Zoroastrian philosophy, nurturing children as knowledgeable, respectful individuals beneficial to society, and planning for the future are emphasized as universal moral values [2.112]. In Zoroastrian philosophy, ideas such as "those who desire enlightenment for others will themselves be enlightened" and "under the rays of truth, bestow upon us your enlightenment, born from Good Thoughts, so that we may enjoy happiness and security every moment, every hour, every day of our lives" have not lost their importance even today. Thoughts like "it is necessary to show enthusiasm for the welfare of the world, to protect it with kindness, and to bring it into the light" remain relevant [3.52]. In its time, Zoroastrianism advocated for the ideals of goodness and justice among the people, shaping life-affirming traditions, and emphasizing the importance of agriculture and urban culture development. The values in Zoroastrianism have lived on to this day and are enriching our national lifestyle with unique characteristics.

In October 2001, the 2700th anniversary of the creation of the Zoroastrian holy book "Avesta" was celebrated with a grand ceremony to acknowledge the service of this ancient philosophical monument to humanity [4]. Our spiritual endeavors are a vivid manifestation of deep respect and reverence towards the heritage left by our ancestors.

The views of **Confucius (551-479 BCE)** hold a special place in the history of socio-philosophical thought in ancient China. The philosopher made significant contributions to the development of socio-philosophical thinking in ancient China. His "Analects" are an integral part of the spiritual heritage of peoples worldwide. In his philosophical teachings, he asserted that the ideosphere of every member of society can be renewed, that people's lives are influenced by destiny, and that those who strive for noble goals will inevitably achieve wealth and greatness.

Ethical issues hold a central place in Confucius's philosophical views. Confucius, renowned for his adherence to the customs, rituals, and traditions of ancient ancestors, emphasized the importance of refining and adhering to these ancient customs, rituals, and traditions to elevate subsequent generations and strengthen the true essence and foundation of society [5.9].

Today, we can see the relevance of Confucius's teachings in our spiritual and educational reforms aimed at restoring ancient customs, traditions, national ceremonies and holidays, and the historical memories of our ancestors.

Despite the fact that the first socio-philosophical ideas in human civilization first appeared in the East, they literally reached their peak in the West, especially in Ancient Greece and Rome. In this regard, the socio-philosophical ideas of ancient Greece are particularly distinguished.

The views of representatives of the philosophical school founded by Socrates, Plato and Aristotle in ancient Greece on the renewal of the ideosphere of society serve the rise of philosophy not only in the West, but also in the East.

In Greek philosophy, one of the thinkers who profoundly influenced the development of philosophy, despite not leaving any written works behind during his lifetime, was **Socrates (469-399 BC)**. The essence of his wisdom lies not in his current state, but in his potential to become, not in his achievements, but in his aspirations. However, to manifest this potential, it must be illuminated by the light of knowledge that guides. According to Socrates' philosophy, education assists in cultivating noble intentions within a person.

According to Socrates, the aim is not to impart knowledge to the student, but to reveal existing inner knowledge. Knowledge, according to Socrates, is not acquired through imparting it, but through inquiry and continued growth throughout life. Considering that Socrates referred to himself as a philosopher rather than a sage, it is important to note that the pursuit and search for knowledge are lifelong endeavors.

Plato was a great scholar, philosopher, and historian of art who left an indelible mark on the history of world philosophy. The doctrine of society and the state occupies a central place in Plato's worldview. Plato wrote works on social and political issues such as "The Republic", "Laws", "Politics" and "Critias".

In the work "Laws", he put forward his views on society and its ideal political system in a continuous connection with his central doctrine - the theory of ideas. According to his thinking, "if someone considers legislating laws based solely on the moral principles governing society and international relations between states without deeming it necessary to pay attention to individual life, then they create an opportunity for everyone to live their lives as they wish. Citizens who believe they are living in accordance with societal and international laws, even if their private lives are not regulated by laws, will be mistaken in their reasoning" [6.197].

Plato's ideal state is based on the concept of justice. According to Plato, the adherence of all members of society to the laws of the just society is the fundamental guarantee of social progress.

Aristotle (384-322 BC) is a great philosopher recognized in the East as the "First Teacher", who profoundly influenced the world with his scientific and philosophical ideas.

Aristotle's thoughts on the advancement of society are central to his philosophical teachings. The philosopher's views on societal development are analyzed in works such as "Politics", "Rhetoric", "Ethics" and "Physics". He meticulously details the elements necessary for the existence of a state, dividing them into qualitative and quantitative categories. In the realm of quality, he included freedom, upbringing, birth, and nobility, while in terms of quantity, he emphasized the numerical superiority of the population [7.149].

Therefore, different political systems replace each other and new ones appear. Even if the state changes, people will not change, they will remain as they are, only the form of government will change.

According to Aristotle, the goal of the human community is not merely to live, but rather to live well, which means to live happily. Therefore, the aim of the state is to create a happy life. Thus, the task and purpose of the state are to ensure a happy life for families and successive generations. The state is a community of equals who come together to build the best possible life for themselves. Aristotle views the state as the most perfect form of human

association, where social life achieves its highest prosperity. The state promotes justice in general. Although justice is a relative concept, Aristotle considered it synonymous with general happiness. Happiness, according to him, can only be attained through political life, making justice the ultimate goal of politics. Justice must correspond to the general well-being and happiness, and it must be equally applicable to all parts related to the general public. Equality in justice benefits the entire state as well as all its citizens.

According to the philosopher, the best state is prosperous, and the best of these is the best political system. The best form of government serves the best life. The best happiness is a happy life, that is, a life full of virtues and power, and one should know how to apply these virtues correctly to all events of life [7.155].

Aristotle's political teachings are ultimately of great theoretical and historical significance. His ideal state project, like any utopian state, is a utopian feature that reflects the historical relations of the real community without distorting them [8]. Aristotle's social-political teachings, especially his theories about the ideal state, have not only been developed by his citizens, but have also greatly influenced the social-political views of Central Asian philosophers of the Middle Ages, as well as the social-political views of Western European philosophers who lived and worked in the 16th and 17th centuries [9].

3. Conclusions and Suggestions

Based on the discussed ideas, it is clear that the exploration of societal meaning and ethical development has been central to the socio-philosophical frameworks of both ancient Eastern and Western thinkers. Their diverse perspectives, deeply grounded in the humanitarian and intellectual ideals they championed, address fundamental issues such as human dignity and individual freedoms. These perspectives are not merely historical artifacts but hold profound relevance for contemporary society. They underscore the ongoing interplay between philosophical thought and the evolution of democratic ideals and societal ideospheres.

The concepts advanced by these eminent thinkers and philosophers resonate with enduring humanistic values that continue to shape our understanding of social and ethical progress. Their insights provide a rich foundation for addressing modern challenges, reinforcing the relevance of ancient philosophical traditions in guiding contemporary discourse on democracy, human rights, and societal transformation. As we navigate the complexities of today's globalized world, the universal humanistic principles articulated by these historical figures remain vital, offering valuable lessons and inspiration for fostering a more equitable and enlightened society.

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