

## Social-Philosophical Characteristics Of Modernization And Innovative Development Of Society

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**Abstract.** This article provides a scholarly analysis of the social-philosophical characteristics of modernization and the innovative development of society, the transition from traditional social life to a modern stage, and the profound transformations occurring across all spheres of social existence. The article argues that modernization and innovation represent processes through which societies move beyond traditional modes of living toward contemporary forms, resulting in deep changes across the social structure. It is demonstrated that modernization and innovation function as driving forces in building modern societies.

**Keywords:** society, human, modernization, innovation, fundamental changes, welfare, development, social relations, stability, social life, civilization, modernity.

### Introduction

In the developmental processes of world societies during the 20th-21st centuries, modernization and innovative development emerged as the primary trends. Modernization entails the renewal, digitalization, and rational restructuring of society's economic, political, cultural, and institutional systems. Innovative development is characterized primarily by the application of scientific knowledge, technology, and creative potential to economic and social life. Analyzing these processes from a socio-philosophical perspective allows for a deeper understanding of their essence, potential, and inherent contradictions.

The purpose of modernizing society is to achieve human well-being and future development, serving to stabilize social relations. Modernization has its specific forms and scale in all spheres of society. Modernizing and innovating society is a process in which traditional social life transitions to a contemporary stage, resulting in profound changes in all areas of social life. It can therefore be emphasized that modernization processes act as a specific driving mechanism in establishing civil society, creating democratic institutions, and providing citizens with real opportunities for active participation in social processes.

### Literature review

In classical modernization theories (T. Parsons, W. Rostow, R. Inglehart), modernization is interpreted as society's transition from a traditional form to industrial and post-industrial stages. In this process, social structures become differentiated, the division of labor grows more complex, and formal institutions gain paramount importance.

According to postmodern authors such as J.-F. Lyotard and Z. Bauman, modernization is not a single path for all societies, but rather a multi-model development process. They argue that technological progress may reduce cultural diversity and intensify identity issues.

In theories of innovative development (C. Freeman, B.-Å. Lundvall, J. Schumpeter), innovation is viewed as the primary driver of societal progress. Schumpeter uses the concept of "creative destruction" to describe how innovations dismantle old economic structures while creating new economic and social forms.

Modern regional studies, particularly those conducted in Uzbekistan, emphasize that modernization is being implemented through the digital economy, innovation ecosystem, educational reforms, and transformation in public administration. Local researchers focus on the socio-philosophical aspects of modernization, such as the shift in values, digital culture of youth, and the formation of science and innovation infrastructure.

Thus, existing literature interprets modernization and innovative development not only as a technical or economic process but as a complex phenomenon with profound socio-philosophical implications, transforming the entire way of life of society.

### **Research Methodology**

This research is conducted within a philosophical–sociological framework and is grounded in the qualitative research paradigm. Since the subject matter requires an examination of the essence of modernization processes, transformations within social institutions, the societal impact of innovations, and the philosophical interpretation of these developments, a qualitative approach is considered the most appropriate.

The methodology of this study envisages analyzing existing theoretical approaches, comparing them, and applying them to contemporary social processes in order to formulate scientifically grounded conclusions.

### **Analysis and results**

According to American sociologist N. Smelser, "Modernization is a complex condition that encompasses socio-economic, cultural, and political changes and occurs as a result of industrialization processes in society and the effective assimilation of scientific and technological achievements"[1]. Modernization represents changes, renewals, and processes of modernization in the political, legal, social, and cultural spheres of society. In social development, the need for innovation also requires changes and novelties in all spheres of society; this process occurs based on the relative independence of each sector and the laws of synergy.

Modernization, as a key factor of social development, ensures active relations between social institutions, social groups, and citizens, which, in turn, positively affects the principles of development. Russian scholar R. Mukhaev emphasizes that "During modernization, the socio-economic life of society undergoes the following changes:

- it transitions from a simple social structure to a complex system;
- social integration acquires an economic character;
- there is a shift from statism to market relations;
- humans move from being merely a part of nature to being a creative – a discoverer
- pluralistic views emerge in human consciousness;
- there is a transition from totalitarianism and authoritarianism to democracy"[2].

Under conditions of societal modernization, the social sphere and economic development play an important role. Modernizing the economy and its sectors, in turn, positively impacts social development, creating new traditions that serve the public interest. A. Auzan and K. Kelimbetov note, "In the context of globalization, implementing modernization to elevate inter-sectoral economic relations to a new level is not only important but a necessary condition for development"[3].

It is worth noting that in these scientific interpretations, the role of individuals, the state, and society in the modernization process is not sufficiently recognized. Cultural, economic, and social development, and modernization in general, are primarily linked to the predominance of human potential, secondly to the continuous initiative of the state, and thirdly to the stability of societal sectors.

As society modernizes, it becomes more civilized, development accelerates, and in human life, a stage of refinement is observed in accordance with the criteria of global civilization, occurring alongside the development of human worldview and consciousness. American political scientists S. Verba and L. Pye[4] emphasize that modernization first requires changing the psychology of society's members and adopting a new system of values, while W. Moore and H. Eckstein[5] prioritize industrializing society.

In the process of modernizing contemporary society, innovations emerge in all spheres, this process prevails over traditions, social life acquires a secular character, and a free democratic system along with active citizen participation is observed. Analyzing all stages of modernization, we can clearly see its complex nature, encompassing all aspects of society. It is characterized by complexity, systemic nature, global scope, continuity, staged development, homogeneity, and progressiveness. Russian philosophers, including V.G. Fedotova, argue that "Transforming traditional societies into modern societies is an important form of modernization development"[6].

According to A. Saitkasimov, "In the process of modernizing society, the state implements highly effective socio-economic policies, expands socio-economic infrastructure, introduces large-scale innovations, and thereby accelerates development. Modernizing society is the process of transitioning from traditional social life to a contemporary stage, encompassing profound changes in socio-economic relations"[7].

The strategic task of modernizing society is not merely to implement separate scientific, technical, and technological innovations, complete short-term programs, or change certain quantitative indicators of economic and social development, but rather to ensure sustainable social development, improve the standard and quality of living, implement effective institutional reforms and advanced structural shifts, and achieve fundamental qualitative changes in the social sphere and the formation of a new socio-economic system based on scientific, technical, and technological innovations.

In essence, modernization means renewing, transforming, and developing society to meet contemporary requirements. The process of modernizing society occurs in the following stages:

- in the first stage, the economic and political life is liberalized, a transition to market relations takes place, and state monopoly is limited in all spheres of society;
- in the second stage, processes of transformation occur in society in the social, political, economic, and cultural spheres; the reform process deepens further, and its goals are directed towards human interests and the enhancement of democratic values;

- in the third stage, the results of global changes and forms of technogenic civilization enter society; innovations are introduced in all spheres, and modern development standards gain priority;

In analyzing the process of comprehensive modernization of society from a socio-philosophical perspective, processes related to introducing innovations into all systems play an important role. According to N. Shchokin, "As a philosophical-methodological concept, novelty and innovation identify the continuous characteristics of the development process. They constantly revive historically and culturally specific traditions. Therefore, novelties and innovations play a crucial practical role in introducing new elements into life and modernizing social development"[8]. At the same time, the modernization of societal systems also aims to elevate the relationships between the state, society, and individuals to a new level, accelerate democratic reforms, and establish optimal social mechanisms for the development of civil society.

Indeed, from a philosophical perspective, the category of innovation holds an important place in the development of contemporary social sciences, since it lies at the core of societal changes, renewals, and reforms, serving as a key instrument of social development. Innovations function to implement new ideas created through human intellectual potential into practice and contribute a unique positive dimension to social progress. From this, it can be concluded that innovation significantly influences the qualitative transformation and dynamic development of society and individuals, as well as the laws of development at the core of their interactions.

Thus, modernization, determined by innovative processes, gives rise to relationships in social existence connected with the dissemination of values related to development, the evolution of human worldview, the advancement of science and culture, the increase of economic activity among the population, and the formation of progressive processes in spiritual life. In Western terms, this corresponds to the culture of "modernity," which ensures free thinking, ideological pluralism, and the adaptation of individuals to constant changes in stages of social development.

It should be emphasized that in social development, modernization and innovations are inherently interconnected and complementary. According to E. Kuchko, "Innovation is one of the key elements in implementing the fundamental laws of social development. It ensures the dynamic development and survival of society, enhances its intellectual capacity, improves the quality of human life, and increases production efficiency"[9].

In the case of Uzbekistan, the integration of the national development and modernization model performs theoretical-methodological, practical, and regulatory functions for the modernization process. Ultimately, this creates broad opportunities to reach higher levels of development. In the processes of modernizing and innovatively developing societal spheres and structures, human potential plays a crucial role, providing material and social existence with intellectual resources, and ensuring that individuals fulfill the fundamental social law in these relationships. As a result, material and spiritual goods that ensure human well-being emerge in society, and social stability is achieved.

### **Conclusion/Recommendations**

Material, and particularly economic culture ensures the implementation of the fundamental law of material existence in society. This law functions as a regulatory mechanism in the production of material goods necessary to ensure human well-being. Material opportunities for individuals are created and expanded through the modernization and innovation of all societal systems. It is appropriate to implement key measures in this regard. Their main directions include:

- developing priority directions for nationwide modernization and the introduction of innovations across all sectors for the benefit of the nation;
- considering regional and cross-sectoral interests to effectively ensure socio-economic development and system modernization;
- analyzing and forecasting the unique characteristics of existing infrastructures in each region, as well as their significance and future role in ongoing socio-economic reforms;
- establishing and further developing the legal, economic, and organizational foundations for modernizing societal sectors on a contemporary scale.

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