BG Pulse Journal USA
ISSN:1947-2536 http://www.bgpulseusa.com/index.php/bg

THE IMPORTANCE OF ALISHER NAVOIY'S PHILOSOPHY IN GOVERNING

Kaxarova Madina Baxodirovna
Foreign Fulbright Grantee
Bukhara State University EFL instructor

Introduction

Alisher Navoiy (1441–1501) is one of the greatest thinkers, poets, and statesmen in the history of Central Asia. While he is primarily known for his literary achievements, his contributions to political thought and public administration are equally significant. Navoiy served in the government of the Timurid Empire and worked closely with Sultan Husayn Bayqara. Through both his practical experience in state affairs and his literary works, he developed a philosophy of governance based on justice, wisdom, morality, and service to the people.

Today, Navoiy's ideas remain relevant because modern governments continue to face challenges related to fairness, ethical leadership, and social welfare. His philosophy teaches that political power should not be used for personal gain but for the benefit of society. By examining his works, particularly "Mahbub ul-Qulub," "Hayrat ul-Abror," and other writings, we can better understand the importance of his ideas for effective governance.

Justice as the Foundation of Government

One of the central principles in Navoiy's philosophy is justice. He believed that a state could only prosper when rulers governed fairly and protected the rights of their people. According to Navoiy, justice creates social harmony, while injustice leads to instability and conflict.

In "Hayrat ul-Abror" ("Wonder of the Good"), Navoiy frequently emphasizes the responsibility of rulers to act with fairness and integrity. He argues that a king's greatness is not measured by wealth or military power but by the extent to which he ensures justice for his subjects. Navoiy presents the ideal ruler as a person who listens to the concerns of ordinary people and seeks solutions to their problems.

This idea remains important in modern governance. Contemporary democratic systems rely on the rule of law and equal treatment of citizens. Governments that uphold justice tend to enjoy greater public trust and social stability. Navoiy's emphasis on fairness therefore continues to provide valuable guidance for political leaders today.

Moral Leadership and Personal Responsibility

Another important aspect of Navoiy's political philosophy is moral leadership. He believed that rulers should possess strong ethical values because the behavior of leaders influences the entire society. If leaders are honest, responsible, and compassionate, citizens are more likely to adopt similar values.

In "Mahbub ul-Qulub" ("Beloved of Hearts"), Navoiy discusses the qualities of good leaders and public officials. He criticizes greed, corruption, arrogance, and dishonesty, arguing that such characteristics weaken both government institutions and public confidence. Instead, he praises humility, wisdom, generosity, and sincerity.

For example, Navoiy writes about the importance of self-control and accountability. He suggests that leaders should constantly evaluate their actions and ensure that their decisions serve

the public interest rather than personal ambitions. This principle closely resembles modern concepts of ethical governance and public accountability.

Today, corruption remains a major challenge in many countries. Navoiy's teachings remind government officials that moral conduct is essential for effective leadership. His ideas encourage transparency, honesty, and responsibility in public administration.

Service to the People

Navoiy believed that the primary purpose of government is to serve the people. He viewed rulers as guardians of public welfare rather than owners of political power. In his writings, he repeatedly emphasizes compassion toward the poor, support for education, and assistance to vulnerable members of society.

His own life reflected these values. As a statesman, Navoiy sponsored the construction of schools, hospitals, libraries, bridges, and charitable institutions. He considered public service an important duty of both rulers and wealthy individuals.

In "Mahbub ul-Qulub," Navoiy praises those who use their resources to improve society and criticizes those who ignore the needs of others. He argues that a successful government should focus on improving the quality of life for all citizens rather than benefiting a small elite.

This philosophy remains highly relevant in the modern world. Governments are expected to provide education, healthcare, infrastructure, and social protection programs. Navoiy's vision of governance highlights the importance of placing human welfare at the center of public policy.

Wisdom and Consultation in Decision-Making

Navoiy also stressed the importance of wisdom and consultation in governance. He believed that rulers should seek advice from knowledgeable and experienced individuals before making important decisions. According to him, wisdom is more valuable than force because wise decisions prevent problems before they arise.

In several of his works, Navoiy advises rulers to surround themselves with educated and trustworthy counselors. He warns against relying on flatterers who provide misleading information for personal advantage. Instead, leaders should encourage honest discussion and consider different perspectives.

This principle can be seen in modern governmental systems that rely on expert analysis, consultation, and institutional checks and balances. Effective policymaking often requires input from specialists in economics, law, education, healthcare, and other fields. Navoiy understood that successful governance depends not only on authority but also on knowledge and sound judgment.

His emphasis on consultation demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of political leadership. It suggests that rulers should remain open to criticism and continuously seek ways to improve their decisions.

Education and Human Development

A further contribution of Navoiy's philosophy is his strong support for education and intellectual growth. He believed that knowledge enables individuals to contribute positively to society and strengthens the state as a whole.

Throughout his literary works, Navoiy praises scholars, teachers, and intellectuals. He argues that ignorance leads to poor decision-making and social decline, whereas education promotes progress and prosperity. As a patron of culture and learning, he actively supported educational institutions and literary development.

Modern governments similarly recognize education as a key factor in national development. Investment in schools, universities, and research institutions contributes to economic growth and

social advancement. Navoiy's ideas therefore align closely with contemporary views on human capital and sustainable development.

By emphasizing the value of knowledge, he demonstrated that strong governance requires an educated population capable of participating in civic and economic life.

Conclusion

Alisher Navoiy's philosophy of governance remains remarkably relevant despite being developed more than five centuries ago. His ideas are based on several fundamental principles: justice, moral leadership, service to the people, wisdom in decision-making, and support for education. Through works such as "Hayrat ul-Abror" and "Mahbub ul-Qulub," he presented a vision of government that prioritizes ethical conduct and public welfare.

Navoiy believed that rulers should govern with fairness, compassion, and responsibility. He warned against corruption, selfishness, and abuse of power while encouraging leaders to act in the interests of society. His own career as a statesman demonstrated his commitment to these values through charitable activities and public service.

In the modern era, governments continue to face challenges that Navoiy identified centuries ago. Therefore, his philosophy offers valuable lessons for contemporary political leaders and public administrators. By applying his principles of justice, integrity, and service, governments can build stronger institutions, increase public trust, and promote the well-being of their citizens. For these reasons, Alisher Navoiy's philosophy remains an important source of guidance for effective and responsible governance.

Bibliography

1. Navoiy, A. Mahbub ul-Qulub. Tashkent: Gafur Ghulom Publishing House.
2. Navoiy, A. Hayrat ul-Abror. In Khamsa. Tashkent: Gafur Ghulom Publishing House.
3. Navoiy, A. Muhokamat al-Lug'atayn. Tashkent.
4. Khalid, A. Central Asia: A New History from the Imperial Conquests to the Present. Princeton University Press, 2021.
5. Findley, C. V. The Turks in World History. Oxford University Press, 2004.
6. Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Ali-Shir Nava'i."
7. UNESCO. Materials on the life and legacy of Alisher Navoiy
8. 13. Baxodirovna, Kaxarova Madina. "CHOL VA DENGIZ (ERNEST XEMINGUEY)." БАРҚАРОРЛИК ВА ЕТАКЧИ ТАДҚИҚОТЛАР ОНЛАЙН ИЛМИЙ ЖУРНАЛИ (2022): 704-707.
9. 14. Kaharova Madina Bakhodirovna. Group dynamics and the role play activities to raise awareness on social issues in the ESL classes // Проблемы педагогики. 2017. №5 (28).
10. 15. Kakharova Madina Bahodirovna, "INTERNATIONALIZING UNIVERSITIES AND STUDIES", IEJRD - International Mult idisciplinary Journal, vol. 7, no. 1, p. 7, Jan. 2022.
11. 16. Kaxarova Madina Baxodirovna. (2023). MODERN REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSLATIONS OF SHAKESPEARE'S WORKS. Ethiopian International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research, 10(11), 281–283. Retrieved from http://www.eijmr.org/index.php/eijmr/article/view/497
12. 17. Kaxarova Madina Baxodirovna. (2023). HISTORY OF TRANSLATION OF WORKS OF ALISHER NAVOI INTO FOREIGN LANGUAGES. Journal of Science-Innovative Research in Uzbekistan, 1(8), 164–168. Retrieved from https://universalpublishings.com/~niverta1/index.php/jsiru/article/view/2687

13. 18. Kaxarova, M. (2023). SPECIAL ASPECTS OF THE TRANSLATION OF COLLOCATIONS. Инновационные исследования в современном мире: теория и практика, 2(26), 20–22. извлечено от https://in-academy.uz/index.php/zdit/article/view/23124
14. 19. Bahodirovna, K. M. (2022). “ALIEN” ALBERT CAMUS AND THE PHENOMENON OF GETTING STRANGER. BARQARORLIK VA YETAKCHI TADQIQOTLAR ONLAYN ILMIY JURNALI, 709-714.
15. 20. Кахарова М. Б. Boosting education quality is not myth anymore (from personal experience) //Молодой ученый. - 2016. - №. 14. - С. 544-546