

## Comparative Analysis Of The Party Systems Of The Republics Of Uzbekistan And Kazakhstan

 Botirov Doniyor Utkirovich

Doctoral candidate at Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, Uzbekistan

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Submission Date: 30 August 2025

Accepted Date: 24 September 2025

Published Date: 29 October 2025

VOLUME: Vol.05 Issue10

Page No. 32-36

DOI: - <https://doi.org/10.37547/social-fsshj-05-10-06>

### ABSTRACT

In this article, the author conducts a comparative analysis of the party systems in the Republics of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The study examines post-independence political development, the structure of party systems, electoral processes, and international influences. In Uzbekistan's political system, government-supporting parties predominate. In Kazakhstan, the Amanat party holds a dominant position, while recent reforms aim to expand political pluralism. The article identifies similarities and differences in the political systems of the two countries, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses. It also evaluates the political dynamics in Central Asia and assesses future prospects for democracy in the region.

**Keywords:** - Political spectrum, party system, electoral system, single-party system, two-party system, multi-party system, political culture, historical institutionalism, democracy, and pluralism.

### INTRODUCTION

The political system of a state comprises various organizations and institutions involved in socio-political relations. Political parties are an integral component of the political system and one of its key elements. In the preceding sections of this chapter, we have separately analyzed the role of parties in the formation and development of statehood, civil society, and parliament, as well as the dynamics of party system formation in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. This article examines the similarities and differences in the establishment of political parties in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, disparities in party legislation, and the relationship and distinctive features of political parties' pre-election programs in connection with government development programs.

In essence, democracy necessitates the division of

active political parties and the presence of diverse opinions in society. A political party is a sophisticated political association that performs several crucial functions in democratic governance processes. One of the most important of these is participating in elections and striving for victory to gain a certain degree of control over state institutions and bodies. In the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan, social life develops based on the diversity of political parties, ideologies, and opinions. This naturally guarantees the emergence of political pluralism in society. Below, we will delve into more detail on issues related to the political systems in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, particularly their main component - political parties and party systems, as well as a comparative analysis of their activities.

### METHODS

In this article, the author analyzed political parties and party systems using various research methods. Specifically, the historical method, historical institutionalism, content analysis, and event analysis were employed to examine the establishment, legal foundations, development, and institutionalization of the party system in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Comparative and contrastive methods were used in analyzing the party systems of the two countries.

### LITERATURE ANALYSIS

Currently, numerous studies are being conducted on the theoretical examination, definition, and classification of political parties and party systems in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Specifically, Kazakh political scientist Marat Baypakov carries out analyses regarding the participation of political parties in parliament and elections. The political life of society encounters various influences of social institutions and processes affected by internal and external factors. This leads to constant changes in the political system, including parties. In his work "The Formation of Kazakhstan's Party System Between Formal and Informal Politics," Professor Rico Isaak thoroughly investigated the emergence and functioning of Kazakhstan's party system, including the activities of formal institutions, particularly legal ones. Turkish political scientist Gürhan Ünal presents scientifically grounded analyses on the establishment of the political system and party system in Uzbekistan and the unique characteristics of the transition period. Regarding the dynamics of formation of political parties and social movements in the political system and statehood of the Republic of Uzbekistan, party scholars such as M.Kirgizbayev, K.Zhurayev, U.Butayev, I.Bekov, S.Berdikulov, O.Babajanov, A.Yangibayev, N.Karshiyev, R.Goziyev, and B.Najmiddinov have presented their approaches.

### DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

When comparing the parties of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, one aspect stands out particularly. In the early years of independence, Central Asian states terminated the activities of the Communist Party and began establishing new parties. As Rico Isaacs noted, "In Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, regional communist parties swiftly and smoothly transitioned into two new 'democratic' parties - the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan and the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan. The internal structure and composition of the parties remained largely unchanged, but they did not wield the same power and influence in state

governance as their predecessors. Even in Kazakhstan, although President Nursultan Nazarbayev initially banned the Communist Party, after independence, he sought to create a single party similar in structure and form to the Communist Party. This was finally achieved at the end of 2006 - Nazarbayev united various pro-government parties into a large pro-presidential party called 'Nur Otan'." In agreement with the scholar's observations, it should be noted that although the communist party based on a single ideology was abandoned, the presence of individuals within the newly formed parties based on democratic principles who had worked in the communist system and still supported it hindered party development during the transition period.

In the Republic of Kazakhstan, there are numerous and active public associations, but special attention is given to the legal regulation of political parties among them. The foundations of the legal status of these parties, as in Uzbekistan, are established in the Constitution. The existence and implementation of laws on political parties and their financing make the legal status of political parties in Kazakhstan more firmly established compared to those in Uzbekistan.

According to Kazakhstan's legislation, political parties are voluntary associations of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan formed to represent the interests of citizens and various social groups in representative and executive bodies of state power and local self-government bodies, as well as to express their political will.

Neither Uzbekistan nor Kazakhstan has regional parties. In both countries, the activities of parties representing the interests of specific administrative-territorial units are prohibited by law. As evidence of this stance, the First President of our country, I.A. Karimov, stated: "We have no regional parties, and there will never be any. It is absolutely unacceptable to allow the fragmentation of our unified country through various regional parties. The existence of such parties would lead us into a whirlpool of disputes and conflicts between different regions." In agreement with this opinion, the formation of parties that protect the interests of certain administrative-territorial units would create political and socio-economic problems for the country. This situation is considered contrary to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Law "On Political Parties," and such a party's activities would be prohibited.

A comparative analysis of the laws "On Political

Parties" adopted in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan reveals the following similarities and differences.

1. According to Article 3 of the Law "On Political Parties" in Uzbekistan, it is prohibited to establish parties that aim to forcibly change the constitutional order; oppose the sovereignty, integrity, and security of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the constitutional rights and freedoms of its citizens; promote war, social, national, racial, and religious hatred; encroach upon the health and morality of the people; and promote national and religious sentiments. Similarly, Article 5 of the law in Kazakhstan states that "the formation and activity of political parties whose goals or actions are aimed at forcibly changing the constitutional order of the Republic of Kazakhstan, violating its integrity, undermining state security, and inciting social, racial, national, religious, tribal, and clan conflicts are prohibited."
2. In accordance with the laws of both countries, judges, representatives of special state and law enforcement agencies, officials of the Accounts Chamber of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Chairs and members of the Supreme Audit Chamber of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Human Rights Commissioner in the Republic of Kazakhstan, and foreign citizens cannot be members of political parties.
3. According to Article 6, the formation of a political party in Uzbekistan requires the signatures of at least twenty thousand citizens residing in at least eight territorial entities (regions), including the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the city of Tashkent, who wish to join the party. In Kazakhstan, a political party is established on the initiative of a group of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan, numbering no fewer than seven hundred people, who convene the founding congress (conference) of the political party and represent two-thirds of the regions, cities of republican significance, and the capital.
4. To register a party in Kazakhstan, it must have at least five thousand party members representing the party's structural subdivisions (branches and representative offices) in all regions, cities of republican significance, and the capital, with each subdivision having at least two hundred party members.
5. Documents required for state registration of a political party in Kazakhstan must be submitted to the registering body no later than four months from the date of the founding congress (conference) of the political party. In Uzbekistan,

to register a political party, the relevant documents must be submitted within one month from the date of adoption of the charter.

6. Political parties of the Republic of Kazakhstan may establish international relations, conclude relevant agreements, and join international non-profit non-governmental organizations as collective members, except for religious associations. Unfortunately, this aspect is not explicitly specified in the legislation of Uzbekistan.
7. According to Richard Gunther and Larry Diamond's interpretation of political party types, all parties in Uzbekistan are considered mass parties. Most Kazakh parties are also considered mass parties, while the Amanat party is categorized as a catch-all party that encompasses all segments of society.
8. Analysis shows that, according to Giovanni Sartori's typology of political parties, Kazakhstan has currently established a multi-party system with a hegemonic party. A multi-party system with moderate pluralism is more suitable for the party system in Uzbekistan.
9. According to party scholar L. Martin's typology of party systems, the party system in Uzbekistan can be characterized as a moderate multi-party system, while a strong multi-party system with a dominant party is characteristic of the Kazakh party system.
10. In the Republic of Kazakhstan, between 2007 and 2011, the Nur Otan party held an absolute majority of seats in the Mazhilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan. Between 2012 and 2016, it occupied nearly 81 percent of the seats, while the other two political parties shared a small number of seats. From this perspective, according to Joan Blondel's classification, a one-and-a-half party system was established. In Uzbekistan, during this period, a passive form of the multi-party system prevailed.
11. Robert Dahl, in his work "Party Systems and Opposition Modes," presented his views on the typology of parties and party systems. According to his classification, the constellation of parties in Uzbekistan manifests as a multi-party system with high internal cohesion. In Kazakhstan, it is characterized as a multi-party system with low internal cohesion. In other words, the election platforms and development programs of Uzbek political parties are closely aligned and complement each other, while Kazakh parties differ sharply from one another both ideologically and politically. Specifically, the development

program of the leading Amanat party for 2023-2027 includes plans for developing the country's cities, including Almaty. The People's Democratic Party of Kazakhstan "Ayl," on the other hand, has primarily focused on the development of the country's agriculture and rural areas as its main election platform.

12. According to the classification in Alan Ware's "Parties and Party Systems," both Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan can be classified as party systems with one large party and several significantly smaller parties.

Furthermore, the following can be noted regarding the similarities and differences of the political parties operating in the two fraternal republics:

#### 1. Similarities:

- In both Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, parties participate in shaping the political will of the people;
- In both neighboring states, the process of building a democratic state from the authoritarian system inherited from the former Soviet system has been quite arduous.
- According to the legislation of the two fraternal states, the activities of parties based on certain beliefs, as well as ethnic, social, and military parties, are not permitted.
- Every newly created political party in both Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan must undergo state registration.
- Practically all aspects of party activity (establishing a party, participating in elections, financing, etc.) are regulated by relevant party laws in both countries.
- In both Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, parties can restrict or completely cease their activities only after a court decision.
- In the first years of independence, laws supporting multi-party systems were adopted in both republics.

#### 2. Differences:

In the Republic of Kazakhstan, there are parties operating outside the Parliament, but in Uzbekistan, there are no such parties.

Until recently, during the presidency in Kazakhstan, the president did not leave the party, which ensured the dominance of this party.

In Kazakhstan, the formation of parties supporting a specific gender (feminist parties) is legally prohibited. In the early years of independence, the Women's Party of Kazakhstan was established. However, after the 2004 changes to party formation regulations, the party could not re-register with the Ministry of Justice of Kazakhstan.

## CONCLUSION

In summary, it is important to analyze and compare the political parties and party systems of the Republics of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. As a result of analyzing various typological approaches, it should be emphasized that the formation and development of political parties and party systems in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are in harmony with national characteristics. In Uzbekistan, the formation of the party system has been stable, while in Kazakhstan, during the initial years of independence, the development of parties and the formation of the party system were somewhat unstable. However, in the subsequent period, a party system serving the political system has been established.

## REFERENCES

1. Isaacs R. Party System Formation in Kazakhstan Between Formal and Informal Politics// Central Asian Studies. -New York: Routledge, 2011. - P. 152.
2. Kirghizboev M. Civil Society: Political Parties, Ideologies, Cultures. -T.: Sharq, 1998. - P.56-57.
3. Juraev K. Formation of multi-party system in developed countries as an important factor of democratic development (on the example of the political experience of France)
4. Butaev U. Political Science. Textbook. Tashkent. Best publish. 2023. -P.86.
5. Bekov I. Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Political Parties: Monograph. T.: TDYI Publishing House, 2010. -P.96.
6. Berdikulov S. Philosophical genesis and development prospects of the national model of multi-party system in Uzbekistan. Doctoral dissertation.
7. Yangibayev A.K. Participation of political parties in the formation of state representative bodies and their activities. Abstract of dissertation for the degree of Candidate of Juridical Sciences. -T., 2020. -P.21.
8. Law on Political Parties in Kazakhstan. 15.07.2002. // Electronic resource: <https://adilet.zan.kz/kaz/docs/Z020000344>
9. Karimov I.A. Uzbekistan on the Threshold of the 21st Century: Threats to Security, Conditions of Stability, and Guarantees of Progress. -T.: Uzbekistan. 1997. -P.85.
10. Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Political Parties dated July 2, 1996 N 16-I. // Electronic resource: [https://zakon.uchet.kz/kaz/history/Z960000016\\_/11.07.1997](https://zakon.uchet.kz/kaz/history/Z960000016_/11.07.1997)

11. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Political Parties. // Electronic source:  
<https://lex.uz/docs/-54191?ONDATE=07.02.2024&ONDATE2=18.03.2020&action=compare>
12. Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated July 15, 2002 No. 344 "On Political Parties." // Electronic resource:  
<https://zakon.uchet.kz/kaz/history/Z960000016/11.07.1997>
13. Richard Gunther, Larry Diamond. Types and Functions of Parties // Political Parties and Democracy series. The Johns Hopkins University Press. 2001. -P.16.
14. Giovanni Sartori. Parties and Party Systems: A Framework for Analysis. Cambridge University Press. 2005. -P.117.
15. Alan Siaroff. Comparative European Party Systems: An Analysis of Parliamentary Elections Since 1945. Routledge. 2019. - P.82.
16. Jean Blondel. Comparing Political Systems. Praeger Publishers. 1972. -P.91.
17. Dahl, Robert A. "Party Systems and Patterns of Opposition" in The West European Party System. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1990. pp. 296-301.
18. Ware, Alan. 1996. Political Parties and Party Systems. Oxford: Oxford University Press. - P.56.