



FACTORS INFLUENCING THE FORMATION OF YOUTH POLITICAL AND LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN A DIGITAL DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT *This article provides a scientific and theoretical analysis of the key factors influencing the formation and enhancement of young people's political and legal consciousness within a democratic society. The study examines the education system, civic education, mass media, the digital information environment, and youth political participation as interrelated and mutually reinforcing factors. The article substantiates the pivotal role of political and legal consciousness in ensuring social stability and fostering the development of democratic institutions.*

Keywords: *political and legal consciousness, youth, democratic society, modernization, civic education, digital media.*

ANNOTATSIYA *Mazkur maqolada demokratik jamiyat sharoitida yoshlarning siyosiy-huquqiy ongini shakllantirish va yuksaltirishga ta'sir etuvchi asosiy omillar ilmiy-nazariy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda ta'lim tizimi, fuqarolik tarbiyasi, ommaviy axborot vositalari, raqamli axborot muhiti hamda yoshlarning siyosiy ishtiroki o'zaro bog'liq omillar sifatida yoritiladi. Maqolada siyosiy-huquqiy ongning jamiyat barqarorligi va demokratik institutlar rivojidadagi o'rni asoslab beriladi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *siyosiy-huquqiy ong, yoshlar, demokratik jamiyat, modernizatsiya, fuqarolik ta'limi, raqamli media.*

АННОТАЦИЯ *В данной статье с научно-теоретических позиций анализируются основные факторы, влияющие на формирование и повышение политико-правового сознания молодежи в условиях демократического общества. В рамках исследования система образования, гражданское*

воспитание, средства массовой информации, цифровая информационная среда, а также политическое участие молодежи рассматриваются как взаимосвязанные и взаимодополняющие факторы. В статье обоснована ключевая роль политико-правового сознания в обеспечении общественной стабильности и развитии демократических институтов.

***Ключевые слова:** политико-правовое сознание, молодежь, демократическое общество, модернизация, гражданское образование, цифровые медиа.*

In the context of the development of digital technologies, the acceleration of information flows, and the widespread use of social networks, the issue of forming the political and legal consciousness of young people requires new scientific concepts that fundamentally differ from traditional approaches. Today, it is observed that young people mainly acquire political and legal knowledge through the digital environment, while their perceptions of the state, law, and society are shaped under the influence of online communication and the media space. Therefore, the development of political and legal consciousness should now be studied not only within the education system but also in direct connection with digital culture and information security.

In a democratic society, the political and legal consciousness of young people appears as one of the main factors determining their civic position, social responsibility, and legal behavior. Especially in societies where modernization processes are intensifying, young people's conscious attitude toward political processes, their level of understanding of legal norms, and their social activity directly influence the effective functioning of democratic institutions. This article reinterprets the factors influencing the formation of young people's political and legal consciousness in the context of digital democracy and scientifically explains the role of this process in ensuring social stability and developing civic culture.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

The problem of forming and developing the political and legal consciousness of young people is considered one of the important research areas in modern social sciences. This issue lies at the intersection of political science, sociology, philosophy, pedagogy, and legal studies and is analyzed in close connection with the modernization of society and the stable functioning of democratic institutions. In academic literature, the process of forming political and legal consciousness among young people is interpreted as a complex and multi-stage process influenced by socialization, the education system, the cultural environment, the communicative space, and institutional factors.

Classical political and philosophical views play an important role in explaining the theoretical foundations of this issue. In particular, Jean-Jacques Rousseau's work "*The Social Contract, or Principles of Political Right*" (*Du Contrat Social, ou Principes du Droit Politique*) provides an in-depth analysis of civil society, political legitimacy, and the relationship between the state and power. The author explains the formation of an individual's political and legal consciousness through conscious consent to social rules and the principles of social agreement. In Rousseau's work "*Emile, or On Education*," the decisive role of upbringing and education in the development of the individual as a person and a citizen is substantiated, and the priority of moral education in shaping legal and political consciousness is emphasized.

Within modern socio-philosophical approaches, the scholarly views of Jürgen Habermas have special methodological significance. In his works "*The Theory of Communicative Action*" and "*The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*," the mechanisms of political consciousness formation through the public sphere, social communication, and discursive processes are examined. According to Habermas's theory, in a democratic society, political and legal consciousness develops on the basis of open dialogue, critical thinking, and communicative

rationality. This approach serves as an important theoretical foundation for ensuring the conscious and responsible participation of young people in political processes.

In studying issues of modernization and value transformation, Ronald Inglehart's theory of post-materialist values has significant scientific importance. In his works "*The Silent Revolution*," "*Culture Shift in Advanced Industrial Society*," and "*Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy*," the close relationship between economic development, cultural change, and democratic institutions is substantiated. Inglehart demonstrates, based on empirical evidence, that changes in the value system among young people lead to new forms of political activity, legal consciousness, and civic participation.

The scholarly views of Hannah Arendt also occupy an important place in revealing the human essence of political consciousness and political activity. In her works "*The Human Condition*" and "*Between Past and Future*," the significance of political participation, freedom, and the public sphere is analyzed. According to Arendt, political consciousness is not merely a set of theoretical knowledge but a socio-practical process that is formed and manifested through an individual's active participation in public life. This approach serves as an important methodological basis for understanding the role of young people in the life of the state and society.

In this study, comparative-analytical methods, logical analysis and synthesis, as well as a synergistic approach were used to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the process of forming political and legal consciousness among young people. These methods made it possible to generalize various theoretical concepts and systematically reveal the factors influencing the formation of young people's political and legal consciousness in the conditions of a modern democratic society.

In conclusion, under the conditions of a digital democratic society, the formation of the political and legal consciousness of young people is a complex, multi-factor, and dynamic process that develops not only through traditional mechanisms of socialization but also under the influence of the digital information

environment. The research results show that the education system, civic education, mass media, digital media, and political participation operate in close interconnection and act as complementary factors in enhancing the political and legal consciousness of young people.

In a democratic society, political and legal consciousness is formed not only as a set of legal knowledge and political perceptions but also as an important social value that determines young people's critical thinking, civic responsibility, and social activity. The expansion of the digital information space, on the one hand, provides fast and free access to political knowledge, while on the other hand, it creates risks related to manipulative information, fake news, and factors that distort legal consciousness. Therefore, in the process of developing the political and legal consciousness of young people, special importance is given to the formation of digital literacy, information security, and critical analysis skills.

The analysis of classical and modern theoretical approaches shows that the stable development of political and legal consciousness is closely linked to open dialogue, civic participation, and the effective functioning of democratic institutions. In particular, the ideas of Habermas, Inglehart, and Arendt scientifically substantiate the importance of the communicative environment, value transformation, and practical political participation in shaping young people's political consciousness.

Overall, in the conditions of digital democracy, the formation of the political and legal consciousness of young people requires close cooperation between state policy, the education system, and civil society institutions. The effective organization of this process contributes to social stability, the development of legal culture, and the strengthening of democratic institutions. In this regard, the issue of developing the political and legal consciousness of young people emerges as not only a scientific and theoretical problem but also an important and urgent socio-practical task.

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