

## **POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN THE WORKS OF THOMAS PAINE AND ABDURAUUF FITRAT**

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### **Abstract**

This article is dedicated to the description of political views in Thomas Paine and Abdurauf Fitrat's works. Thomas Paine as an inventor and political philosopher is known for his works *Common Sense* (1776) and «*The American Crisis*» (1776–1783). Fitrat is a famous member of Jadid's movement in Central Asia and Uzbek literature a specialist in theory in and practice of Jadids School, a playwright, publisher, writer and scientist. Two authors made significant contributions to developing and achieving their countries' independence.

### **THE MAIN PART**

The political views of American intellectuals were formed under the direct influence of colonial America's struggle against the British rule, which in history is called the War of National Liberation (1775 - 1783). The Enlightenment was formed and nurtured by their political views, and this aspect found expression in the formation and development of the United States

The "Declaration of Independence" (1776) of Thomas Jefferson, who was the next president after George Washington and John Adams, was also very important in the formation of the American state. The Declaration is defined as follows: "The Declaration of Independence announced the separation of the colonies from the metropolis and the establishment of a new independent state - the United States of America, as well as the freedom of the people and the equality of all people before the law. The Declaration of Independence was of great historical importance<sup>1</sup>.

In particular, it should be noted that Jefferson emphasized the right of the people to reform the state power, and justified the right to overthrow it in a revolutionary way if this power acts against the interests of the people, takes away human rights and freedoms. In his political activities, he focused on human rights

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<sup>1</sup> <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1776-1783/declaration#:~:text=By%20issuing%20the%20Declaration%20of,colonists'%20motivations%20for%20seeking%20independence.> [Accessed: 26.04.2023 ]

and civil liberties. Paine visited America for the first time at the age of 37. He became a hero of the American Revolution, espousing separatist sentiments in his famous pamphlets "Common Sense" (1776) and "The American Crisis" (1776-1783)<sup>2</sup>. Paine was a supporter of women having equal rights as men in political processes. Also, in his political pamphlets, he specifically acknowledges that the political and legal equality of American citizens, regardless of their profession and religion, should be ensured.

Abdurauf Fitrat, one of the Uzbek Jadids, is not only a literary critic, an enlightened scientist, a playwright, but also a statesman who has a perfect knowledge of law and politics. Fitrat also begins to think about the forces that hinder the development of society throughout his life. These processes are also the impetus for the development of his political views. Literary scholar Begali Kasimov asserts in this regard: "*Fitrat was not only a writer, but also one of the ideological and organizational leaders of the Bukhara revolution, and later one of the founders of the Bukhara People's Republic, as well as a revolutionary, politician, and personality*"<sup>3</sup>. It is generally perceived and widely obvious that Fitrat was more active in political affairs than other members of the Jadid Movements.

From 1917, Fitrat withdrew a little from educational work and began to engage in political activities. He served as the chairman of the "Young Bukharians" party, which was formed on the initiative of Bukhara youths. He was an active writer in the newspaper "Hurriyat" published in Samarkand, and after a short time he worked as its editor-in-chief. During this period, Fitrat continued his political activity with many articles on establishing relations with the Provisional Government in Russia on the basis of mutual equality. But Fitrat's dream of equality and freedom was shattered by the Bolsheviks. For this reason, the coup that took place in October 1917, in which the "Bolshevik scourge" rose, was perceived as "the country's disaster"<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Thomas-Paine> [Accessed: 26.04.2023]

<sup>3</sup> Қосимов Б. Маслакдошлар.- Тошкент: Шарқ, 1994.- Б.80

<sup>4</sup> <https://daryo.uz/2021/03/30/millatga-najot-yolini-korsatgan-jadid-abdurauf-fitrat-hayotiga-chizgilar?ysclid=m17v6api7a283942134> [Murojaat sanasi: 18.09.2024]

Fitrat led the cultural-educational, scientific-literary organisation called "Chigatoy Gurungi" founded by the Turkestan modernists and reformers. This society had been operating for 3 years and had begun to seriously explore such fields as the Turkic peoples' culture, art, literature, history, language, and traditions. The members of this group, along with fighting for the purity of the Uzbek language, strove to build a new Uzbek national culture. Also, this society was regarded in history as the first scientific research society formed by local intellectuals in the history of Uzbekistan, and laid the foundation stone of the current Writers' Union of Uzbekistan, the Institute of Uzbek Language, Literature and Folklore of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan. A number of scientific treatises published in the field of science, especially publications related to the issue of language and spelling, were also published by this "Chigatoy Gurungi".

Similarly, as we noted above, Thomas Paine is best known for his 1776 pamphlet *Common Sense*, which advocated American independence from Great Britain, as well as it played a decisive role in shaping public opinion in favour of the American Revolution. During the American Revolution, Paine served as a propagandist, writing articles and pamphlets in support of the revolutionary agenda. His work in the "*American Crisis*" series was well received by the public and helped raise morale among American troops. In addition to the American Revolution, Paine's social and political writings greatly influenced the French Revolution. He travelled to France in 1790 and got acquainted with the French social environment. In 1791, Thomas Paine published another political work entitled *The Rights of Man*, which defended the principles of the French Revolution and criticized the monarchy and aristocracy. However, Paine's support of the French Revolution eventually got him into trouble. He was arrested, imprisoned and escaped execution in France during the Reign of Terror. Paine was released in 1794 after the fall of Robespierre.

Because Thomas Paine took his origins from the ordinary people, he propagated his socio-political views among those people. The issue of British lands, the distribution of land in the western regions, the system of giving land to the "uppers", and the country's policy of preserving large landowners caused popular discontent. America's political and economic dependence on England further

angered the young bourgeoisie who opposed British rule. In America, the domestic system was also in a difficult situation.

Fitrat, a son of Turkestan, was also interested in the social and political events taking place in his country. He said that at first he opposed the Jadid movement, and then, after realizing its essence, he joined this movement, and even became one of acute propagandists<sup>5</sup>. The establishment of the revolutionary party, "Young Bukharians", was one of the most important events after the February Revolution of 1917. Fitrat was elected as the head of this group, and they received a congratulatory telegram from the Provisional Government and an appeal to force the emir to reform based on Russia-Bukhara relations. "Young Bukharians" began to propose political demands. Their political program was as follows: establishment of a competent body under the emirs and beks; improving the administration and establishing control over it by people's representatives; abolition of taxes not mentioned in Sharia; giving the people freedom of the press and schools; to dismiss some officials from administration.

## **CONCLUSION**

From the beginning of his literary and political career, Paine, like other intellectuals of the 18th century, focused on the problem of society and the state, their origins, tasks and relations. In America, the American colonies trying to preserve feudal institutions were freed from semi-feudal England in a revolutionary way, and the crisis of the feudal system in Europe raised the question of what the new social order would be.

The idea of the struggle against colonialism, which appeared in Fitrat's works, became stronger after the October Revolution, writes literary scholar Sherali Turdiyev. This theme began to be widely covered in the writer's stage works such as "Englishmen in the East", "Afghan Affairs", "Cry, Islam!"

Thomas Paine and Abdurauf Fitrat, the progressive intellectuals of American and Uzbek literature, devoted not only their creativity, but also their lives to the development of the country, national culture and education, literature, and politics.

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<sup>5</sup> Ҳасанов Б, Ирзаев Б. Миллатимиз фидойлари.-Т.: Фан ва таълим, 2022.-Б.38

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