

ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION IN UZBEKISTAN: HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT, SCIENTIFIC-CULTURAL HERITAGE AND MODERN SIGNIFICANCE

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Abstract

Islamic civilization is one of the most important cultural and scientific systems in world history. Central Asia, particularly the territory of Uzbekistan, was one of the major centers of Islamic culture and science in the Middle Ages. Great scholars who emerged from this region contributed not only to religious sciences but also to the development of mathematics, medicine, astronomy, geography, and philosophy. This article analyzes the formation of Islamic civilization in Uzbekistan, its historical stages of development, scientific centers, the heritage of scholars, and its significance in the modern era.

Keywords: Islamic civilization, Central Asia, Uzbekistan, scientific heritage, culture, scholars, history.

Introduction

Islamic Civilization in History Islamic civilization occupies an important place in human history as a cultural, scientific, and spiritual system. From the 7th–8th centuries, Islam spread widely, creating the foundation for a new scientific and cultural environment. Central Asia, especially present-day Uzbekistan, became one of the key centers of Islamic culture in the Middle Ages. Geographically located at the heart of the Great Silk Road, this region played a major role in the development of scientific, cultural, and economic relations between East and West. Cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, and Termez became famous centers of science, education, and culture. Madrasas, libraries, and scientific institutions operated in these cities. The great scholars who lived and worked here played a crucial role in the development of Islamic civilization. Their scientific heritage remains an important source for world science today.

From the 8th century onwards, Islam spread widely in Central Asia. This process influenced not only religious life but also social and cultural life. New scientific centers emerged, madrasas and libraries were established. The 9th–12th centuries are considered the “Golden Age” of Islamic civilization. During this period, science, culture, and education reached a high level of development. Scholars from this era became famous not only in the Muslim world but throughout the globe. Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva developed as major scientific centers. Bukhara was called “the dome of Islamic culture,” while Samarkand became a leading center for astronomy and mathematics. Uzbekistan produced many great scholars who made significant discoveries in various fields. Muhammad al-Khwarizmi is regarded as the founder of algebra. Abu Rayhan al-Biruni left a vast scientific legacy in astronomy and geography. Abu Ali ibn Sina (Avicenna) was one of the greatest figures in medicine; his “Canon of Medicine” was used as a textbook in European universities for centuries.



Islamic Civilization in the Modern Era

Today, Uzbekistan pays great attention to studying and preserving Islamic cultural heritage. Historical monuments in Samarkand and Bukhara are recognized internationally. The Imam Bukhari International Research Center and other institutions serve to study Islamic cultural heritage in depth.

Table 1. Great Scholars of Central Asia

Scholar	Field	Main Contribution
Imam al-Bukhari	Hadith science	Sahih al-Bukhari collection
Imam al-Tirmidhi	Hadith science	Sunan al-Tirmidhi work
Muhammad al-Khwarizmi	Mathematics	Founder of algebra
Abu Rayhan al-Biruni	Astronomy	Research in geography and astronomy
Abu Ali ibn Sina	Medicine	Canon of Medicine

Table 2. Major Scientific Centers of Islamic Civilization

City	Scientific Significance
Samarkand	Center for astronomy and mathematics
Bukhara	Center of Islamic sciences and madrasas
Khiva	Cultural and scientific center
Termez	Center for hadith studies

Conclusion

Uzbekistan has historically been one of the major centers of Islamic civilization. The scientific and cultural environment formed here contributed greatly to the development of world science. Today, studying, preserving, and transmitting this rich heritage to future generations is an important task.

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