

Islam: A Crucial Unifying Force and a Fundamental Aspect of Uzbek Identity

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Abstract

The paper examines Islam's significant contribution to the historical unification of the Uzbek people. The impact of Islam on Uzbeks' contemporary identities is also highlighted in the study. Uzbekistan stands out from other Central Asian nations due to its strong Islamic heritage. The Arab invasion in the eighth century gave rise to Islam as a religion, which has since united the populace. The centre of the Islamic renaissance has been Uzbekistan ever since. The study highlights how the Soviet government severely damaged this reinforced Islamic identity, but Islam was able to endure. Initiatives to bolster Islamic identity and cultural pride among Uzbeks persisted despite outside pressures and a decline in local Islam, exhibiting tenacity and commitment to conserving their Islamic history. Ultimately, Islam saw a revival following independence, which served as the basis for nationalist rhetoric in Uzbekistan.

Keywords

Islam, revivalism, Uzbekistan, Uzbek identity.