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POLITICAL PARTIES AS THE DRIVING FORCE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Abstract: The author cited the definitions and views of a number of mature scholars on civil society and political parties, also analyzed the factors that determine the effectiveness of the activities of political parties. A number of proposals were also made by the author on the development of civil society and the role of political parties is also described.

Key words: political party, group of interests, civil society, political groups, multiparty.

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Introduction

Civil society is a society consisting of real citizens, that is, people with a legal and political culture who are in an inseparable link and rely on a moral culture. Civil society is a necessary rational way of social life, based on law and democracy; a social system in which a person is guaranteed a free choice of forms of his economic, political and cultural life, the rule of law and human rights and freedoms are decided, multi-party, political institutions, ideology and diversity of views are ensured, and the status of self-governing of every citizen of the country is actively involved in the work of public associations and funds, self-government bodies, political parties and non-profit organizations, through which they meet their needs in political, social, economic, spiritual and legal aspects.

Civil society has been expressed in the form (model) of the ideal model of the social and political system based on contemplation, justice, land-kinetics and prosperity in the imagination of advanced-thinking scientists since ancient times. In particular, Aristotle described the state in the style of the general community of citizens, while Cicero tried to prove the legal equality of people. At this stage of development, civil society is recognized as exactly the same as the state.

The essence and boundaries of civil society were mentioned in the works of G. Grosiy, T. Hobbs, John

Locke, Jan Jacques Russo, V. Gumboltd. In the works of Marx and other scientists, theories on the emergence and interaction of the state with society was created.

G. Hegel understood the set of separate individs, classes, groups and institutions, whose relations are regulated by civil law, are relatively independent from the state, according to civil society. He showed that civil society was formed as a result of the historical transformation (change in shape) of the whole social life, a long dialectical movement from family to state. The sosium formed as a result of this genesis covers institutions that ensure the realization of private ownership relations, market economies, social groups and civil rights of the ability of the society to live. G. Hegel recognized from the civil society of the state, as associations, corporations, representatives of communities, a certain superiority over the family and its leadership over them. In his opinion, the state serves as a real guarantor of the land of the landowner civil society as a highly organized harmonious unit (organic integrity) and is a representative of the whole society [1, 262-263].

A. Gramsci giving definition on civil society, he said, the "private" organizations of social classes and strata that do not directly belong to the apparatus of state power – professional, cultural, educational, religious, charitable, as well as a network of socio-political groups and associations [2, 43].

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In any complex structured society, of course, there will be a certain dimension that directly expresses the relations of citizens with the state. An important place among them is the interest of groups and political parties.

One of the important conditions for the development of any society that claims democracy is the existence and functioning of multi-party institutions and political parties that serve as intermediaries between the people and the state. The political party expresses the interests of some groups and strata of society, unites the most active representatives and leads them in achieving their political goals. Among the political objectives of the groups the following are important:

- creating a political program;
- gaining political power through democratic means;
- it is a free struggle for the votes of voters to implement their programming rules.

The problem of political parties in the history of mankind – no matter how simple it may seem – is much more complicated and even contradictory. The concept of “party” has taken an important place in the life of people since very ancient times as a certain part of a larger community, a group of “our own”, mutually close and distinguishing from others. Of course, the criteria for the separation of such groups were different, including the fact that in the initial period there was absolutely no connection with politics.

In the relations of the state with the people, the intermediary unions represent the social, national, regional interests of the units of people and they are the form of collective activity of their members. With participation in the activities of interest groups, citizens take a step towards transition from social activity to political activity. Different interest of groups have a wide range of opportunities to influence power, to convey the needs and demands of the population to political decision-makers and bodies [3, 278].

Consequently, interest of groups are defined as voluntary associations formed by people to express and satisfy their interests in various political institutions, primarily in relations with the state.

The term interest of group (interest group) is primarily used in political science. The interest group is an association of people who seek to express and protect their interests, which have a significant role in power, in relations with state bodies and other political institutions [4, 105].

Interest of group itself does not try to come to power is difference from a political party that seeks to come to power in this or that way (in any case) in the state. The interest group differs from a wide range of social movements by its compactness, the development of individual relations, the high level of management. At the same time, the interests of the

group can also arise in the atmosphere of social action, as well as become political parties when there are certain conditions.

The main difference between interest groups and political parties is their attitude to state power. Interest groups achieve their goals by influencing more public authorities than by nominating them in elections and taking responsibility for the activities of the government [5, 82-83].

The concept of “civil society” reflects a complex sphere of social existence. The emergence of parties is associated with the development of society. Today, the world experience shows that no matter how many shortcomings political parties have, it is an important link in the structure of civil society. Parties ensure the integrity and stability of the political system [6, 234].

Political parties occupy one of the important places in the life of society. Without them, state power can not be realized in a democratic system. Political parties of different orientations either act as ruling parties, depending on the situation, or play the role of a loyalist opposition, which at any time can form the government itself.

Parties are an important element of the political system of society. They are owners of political courses that compete among themselves and serve as a connecting link between civil society and the state, reflecting the interests, needs and goals of certain social groups. The task of the parties is to transform the numerous private interests of individual citizens, social strata, interested groups into their common political interest. Through the system of parties and elections, the participation of citizens in political life takes an official form. They are actively involved in the work of political power or indirectly influence it. Another important aspect of the activities of the parties is their ideological influence on the population. Their role in the formation of political consciousness and culture is also great.

Political parties have two different nature: they are simultaneously an element of civil society and a part of the state system. The roots of the party penetrate into the depths of civil society, where group interests arise and formalize, at the same time, they penetrate the mechanism of state power through their managerial instances, giving it a unique quality as civil society and the bilateral communication agent of the state [7, 53].

Today, before the parties, there are big tasks directly related to the need to establish legislative power and carry out deeper democratic reforms in society as a whole.

It means that the party is a voluntary union of people united by ideological interest, striving to have political power or to participate in the implementation of state power. The party is a stable public organization that seeks to use state power to solve problems in accordance with its ideas and conceptions. It seeks to possess such power, even if it

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is partial or temporary. A parties is a constituent element of the political system, an important institution of civil society, fostering political life, establishing relations between different degrees and branches of state power.

Democratic and legal institutions of civil society create favorable conditions for political parties to combine their prime duty, which are the private interests of citizens, individual social groups and strata, to develop political decisions based on compromise, to act as an intermediary between different social groups that form the electoral base. Political parties are the base structures (devices) of the political system, forming the general political interest to a greater extent.

Thus, both interest groups and political parties play an intermediary role in the relations of the population with the state. In general, in political science today, there are formed representations about the specific “division of labor” between the interest group and the political parties, that is, the interest group represents individual interests and supplies them to political parties; and political parties put these interests into one system and enter them into their own party programs, which is an alternative to public policy.

It is desirable to make a number of proposals on the development of civil society and the role played by political parties:

– mass discussion of the decisions made in the public authorities;

– organization and activity of social (public) councils with the participation of representatives of civil society in the presence of executive authorities;

– to direct civil servants to cooperate with citizens and their associations; to teach them the relevant technologies to launch the service “public relations”

– political parties have to advance leaders who can manage the state at any level between themselves, the party should prepare a professional elite who is ready to take over the executive power when it receives the appropriate mandate of trust from voters and parliament;

– political parties should be able to demonstrate in their programs the alternative ways of solving problems in society, socio-economic reforms and constantly improve their programs and action plans;

– the parties should adopt the advanced technologies of working with the public and go as far as possible to the circle of progressive-minded, initiative, self-sacrificing people in their ranks;

– political parties should reach a level where they can not only compete among themselves, but also critically assess the policies of the current government, promote alternative programs and ideas.

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