

# National Pride Through Folklore: A Historical Perspective

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Abstract: This article explores the historical evolution of philosophical perspectives on individual national pride formation from ancient times to the present. It highlights a lacuna in scholarly research concerning the role of folklore in shaping national pride, advocating for dedicated investigations in this area. Folklore, it posits, encapsulates the historical trajectory of national pride formation while articulating social experiences within a nation's mentality through artistic representation. Emphasising folklore's role as a unique form of social experience, it argues for its significance in shaping individual national pride over time. The article underscores the multifaceted nature of folklore's influence on national pride, subject to interpretation across different epochs. It concludes by framing folklore as a distinctive manifestation of spiritual culture, crafted through human intellect and labour, and contends that it serves a societal function in nurturing individual national pride.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

In various social and humanistic fields, scholars study the place, role, and significance of folklore art in society's socio-spiritual life. This investigation poses a significant scientific-theoretical challenge, spawning numerous publications in both academic and popular literature. Particularly, literature aimed at fostering national pride tends to emphasise the emotional, spiritual, and pedagogical dimensions of folklore art. This focus leads to a categorisation that delineates works of folklore art across historical periods and philosophical underpinnings, encapsulating the evolution of folklore philosophy from antiquity through colonial eras to the contemporary era of Uzbekistan's independence (Nazarov 2006, et al.).

Within the realm of philosophical analysis of national pride, literature explores two distinct avenues. Firstly, there's a strand that idealises national pride through religious and mystical lenses, drawing inspiration from diverse spiritual traditions such as Zoroastrianism, Christianity, and Islam. Secondly, there's a secular approach rooted in scientific principles, which scrutinises the concept of national pride through empirical, rational frameworks. These strands offer nuanced perspectives on the nature and expression of national

pride, enriching scholarly discourse on the subject (Karimov, 2011).

Scholarly discourse on folklore art and national pride underscores its multifaceted nature and its profound impact on societal dynamics. By categorising folklore art across historical epochs and philosophical paradigms, scholars provide a framework for understanding its evolution and significance. Furthermore, the exploration of national pride through religious, mystical, and secular lenses adds depth to the discourse, offering diverse perspectives that enrich our understanding of this complex phenomenon in the socio-spiritual fabric of society.

## 2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Throughout human history, the formation of individual national pride through folklore has held significant philosophical significance. Early examples from ancient texts like the "Avesta", Yusuf Khos Hajib's "Kutadgu Bilig", and Mahmud Koshgari's "Devonu lug'otit Turk" illustrate the exploration of human identity.

Philosophers like Abu Nasr Farabi further delved into the emotional impact of folklore on personal pride through works such as "The City of Virtuous People" and "Khamasa". These ancient and medieval

sources offer valuable insights into the role of folklore art in shaping individual national pride.

During the Middle Ages in the East and later in the European Renaissance, significant shifts occurred in the study of folklore and its societal impact. Scholars began to analyse the social significance of folklore in forming personal pride, leading to a deeper understanding of its influence. In the works of Behbudi, Avloni, Cholpon, and Fitrat, the practical ways of enhancing folklore's effectiveness in shaping individual national pride were thoroughly examined.

In more recent times, particularly towards the end of the 20th century and into the 21st century, Uzbek folklore studies have highlighted the significance of pride and the understanding of national identity. While earlier studies might have been influenced by the ruling communist system, contemporary research tackles universal issues of national pride. Scholars like S. Shermuhamedov, F. Solieva, S. Atamuratov, and A. Achildiev have conducted extensive research on the role of national and universal values in shaping individual national pride, aligning with the interests of a changing society and reflecting the evolving nature of folklore's influence.

### 3 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Folklore serves as a crucial element in shaping national pride within a nation's historical narrative. It acts as a conduit through which individual pride transitions into a collective national identity. This transition is influenced by subjective factors inherent in the interpretation and transmission of folk culture. Folklore embodies the spiritual essence of a people, reflecting their historical experiences and values. Thus, analysing the influence of folklore on personal pride becomes pivotal in understanding the unity of a nation's social fabric and its cultural identity.

At its core, folklore represents a tangible manifestation of subjective influence on societal dynamics. Through artistic expression and metaphorical imagery, it encapsulates the ethos of a nation, fostering a sense of pride and belonging among its people. Folklore not only mirrors historical events but also shapes perceptions of national pride within the individual and collective consciousness. Its significance lies in its ability to encapsulate societal evolution and preserve cultural heritage.

The functional role of folklore in cultivating individual and national pride is multifaceted. It serves as a medium for transmitting societal values, encapsulating historical experiences, and fostering a sense of unity among citizens. By idealising aspects

of daily life and historical events, folklore imbues individuals with a sense of patriotism and heroic virtue. Moreover, it provides a platform for individuals to engage with and contribute to their cultural identity, thus reinforcing their place within the social fabric of the nation.

In contemporary philosophical discourse, folklore is often conceptualised as an artistic interpretation of social existence. Through its narrative constructs, folklore encapsulates societal attitudes towards historical realities, shaping individual and collective perceptions of national pride. Its influence extends beyond mere storytelling; folklore instils moral and ethical concepts such as honour and greatness, thereby enriching the cultural landscape and reinforcing the sense of national pride within society.

In folklore, the fusion of content and form encapsulates the collective aspirations of social groups, national interests, and individual pride. This amalgamation reflects the societal ethos and prevailing trends of a given historical era. Particularly in contexts marked by enduring colonial influence, folk art plays a crucial role in nurturing national pride, offering a means to reclaim and cultivate spiritual heritage.

Moreover, folklore transcends specific ethnic or national boundaries, embodying shared experiences and fostering cultural convergence. The archetypal figures within folklore, resonating with the collective psyche, serve as conduits for expressing national identity and nurturing a sense of belonging, underscoring the universality of their significance.

The aesthetic and social dimensions of folklore mirror humanity's creative ethos and the spiritual essence of individual belonging to a particular community. Its efficacy lies in the seamless integration of creative methods that harmonize content and form, coupled with a nuanced understanding of its socio-cultural context.

Through this synergy, folklore becomes a conduit for the expression and embodiment of national pride, permeating the fabric of everyday life. The process of individual pride formation through folklore entails not merely passive consumption but active engagement, manifesting in practical endeavours that enrich and reinvigorate cultural heritage.

Diverse individual responses to folklore underscore the complex interplay between socialization and intellectual disposition. The effectiveness of folklore in shaping national identity hinges on the degree of engagement and comprehension exhibited by individuals. Moreover, the societal reception of folklore reflects evolving spiritual needs across historical epochs, with the

alignment of folklore narratives with societal ideals serving as a barometer for evaluating national pride. However, the multifaceted nature of national identity and the varied influences of subjective factors underscore the challenges in assessing individual pride formation through folklore.

Folklore's portrayal of societal realities resonates with the spiritual yearnings of communities, offering a pathway for personal and collective growth. Its narrative motifs and characters encapsulate societal aspirations, guiding individuals towards self-realization and societal betterment. The transformative potential of folklore lies in its ability to engage with historical realities while evolving to meet contemporary spiritual needs. Hence, the evaluation of national pride formation through folklore hinges on its capacity to reflect and inspire societal ideals, illuminating pathways for future progress and cultural enrichment.

#### 4 CONCLUSION

The influence of folklore on an individual's sense of national pride is a multifaceted phenomenon, with interpretations varying across different historical periods. It has been shaped by the prevailing priorities in nurturing spiritually mature individuals. Today, the significance of folklore in shaping personal national pride is on the rise.

This warrants a nuanced, comprehensive examination to understand its role in determining the characteristics of national mentality. Folklore art, a product of human intellect and labour, is a distinct facet of spiritual culture. It serves as a social construct aimed at instilling a sense of national pride in individuals.

The prominence of issues surrounding national identity and pride within folklore underscores the creativity, talent, and character of individuals within society. Rooted in reality, folklore acts as a conduit for expressing societal ideals through the portrayal of idealised imagery.

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