

# The State of the Patriotic Problem Studied by Foreign and Uzbek Scientists

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**Abstract:** *Patriotism has long been a topic of interest and debate among scholars around the world. This paper provides a review of research conducted on patriotism, nationalism and related concepts by academics in various countries, with a particular focus on work by Uzbek scientists. Definitions and measurements of patriotism are discussed, along with associated variables like national identity, civic engagement and outgroup attitudes. Motivations for and implications of patriotism are examined. The complex relationship between patriotism and nationalism is explored. Factors influencing patriotic attitudes and behaviors such as socio-political context, demographics, personality and values are analyzed. Key findings on the correlates, outcomes and antecedents of patriotism are summarized. Directions for future research are proposed, emphasizing the need for more empirical work on patriotism in the Uzbek cultural context. This review synthesizes international perspectives on the state of knowledge regarding the patriotism problem and highlights opportunities to expand understanding of this multifaceted phenomenon.*

**Keywords:** patriotism, nationalism, national identity, civic engagement, Uzbekistan

**Introduction:** Patriotism, defined broadly as love for or devotion to one's country, has been extensively studied by scholars around the world for decades. The phenomenon of patriotism has intrigued thinkers going back centuries, but scientific investigation of its psychological underpinnings, behavioral manifestations and implications has proliferated in recent years. As globalization has expanded interconnectivity between nations, many have observed a resurgence of nationalist and patriotic sentiments. This highlights the continued relevance of patriotism as a research subject.

While universal theories and measurements of patriotism have been proposed, most experts agree that its expressions are heavily influenced by socio-political contexts. As such, perspectives from diverse cultures are needed to fully illuminate this complex topic. Uzbekistan provides a unique setting for examining patriotism, as a newly independent nation focused on developing national identity and civic participation. However, Uzbek academics have yet to comprehensively review studies of patriotism conducted internationally and in their home country.

This paper aims to synthesize key findings on the patriotism problem in the existing literature, with particular attention to work by Uzbek scientists. Core issues to be reviewed include conceptualizations and measurements of patriotism, associated attitudes and behaviors, motivations and implications, distinctions from nationalism, and contextual factors shaping its manifestations. The ultimate goal is to assess the current state of knowledge regarding patriotism, highlight gaps that require further investigation, and offer suggestions for future research directions within the Uzbek cultural context.

## Literature Review:

**Defining and Measuring Patriotism.** Scholars have proposed various definitions of patriotism over the years. Early perspectives characterized it as uncritical affection or loyalty toward one's nation (Schatz, Staub & Lavine, 1999). More recent conceptualizations paint patriotism as a complex multidimensional construct involving cognitive beliefs, affective feelings, and behavioral expressions regarding one's homeland.

Most contemporary researchers differentiate patriotism from similar concepts like nationalism and national identity. National identity refers to one's sense of belonging to their nation. Nationalism denotes belief in national superiority and sweeping loyalty to state interests over other groups. In contrast, patriotism emphasizes positive regard for country without negativity toward foreign states (Parker, 2010).

Uzbek professor Kodirov (2010) defines patriotism as "love for one's Vatan (homeland) and desire to serve its interests" (p. 155). This positions patriotism as distinct from nationalism in the Uzbek context as well.

Various measures have been developed by psychologists to assess patriotic attitudes and behaviors. Common methods include national identity scales, patriotism/nationalism questionnaires, measures of civic involvement, and scenarios gauging willingness to sacrifice for one's nation. Some Uzbek researchers have adapted Western measures for use locally, while others crafted culturally-specific tools to quantify patriotism among Uzbeks (Akramov, 2007).

Multi-item inventories assessing nationalism and constructive patriotism as separate dimensions like the Patriotism-Nationalism Questionnaire have frequently been utilized (Zadorozhny et al., 2015). Singleton's (2006) 64-item inventory identifying four aspects of patriotism (political, constructive, symbolic, and blind) has also been influential.

Contextually-specific measures tailored for Uzbek samples are still needed. Developing localized measures with demonstrated reliability and validity should be a priority for future research on patriotism in Uzbekistan.

**Correlates and Outcomes of Patriotism.** Myriad studies have examined variables associated with patriotism and its effects on thoughts, emotions and behaviors. Patriotism consistently shows modest positive links with national identity and pride. It

demonstrates complex relationships with related constructs like cosmopolitanism, internationalism, and multiculturalism (Parker, 2010).

Patriotism is generally negatively associated with outgroup negativity, prejudice and xenophobia, whereas nationalism exhibits strong positive correlations with these tendencies. However, some forms of “blind” or uncritical patriotism demonstrate weaker links to tolerance (Schatz, Staub & Lavine, 1999).

In terms of outcomes, patriotism is related to various forms of civic engagement, including volunteerism, political activism, charitable donations and community involvement. Constructive patriotism appears especially predictive of civic participation and prosocial behaviors toward fellow citizens. However, some findings indicate even blind patriotism can elicit greater generosity and altruism, at least toward ingroup members (Schatz, Staub & Lavine, 1999).

In the Uzbek context, research on variables linked to patriotism is limited. One study by Umarov (2015) found schoolchildren’s patriotism positively predicted their attitudes toward state symbols and participation in cultural activities. Further empirical work examining psychological and behavioral correlates of patriotism in Uzbekistan is needed.

**Motivations for Patriotism.** Scholars have proposed various psychological motivations underlying patriotic attachment. From a psychoanalytic perspective, patriotism allows expression of unconscious needs for order and security provided by authority figures. It channels desires for glory and recognition into socially acceptable forms (Schatz & Lavine, 2007).

Human needs for belonging and esteem have also been implicated as drivers of patriotism. Identity theory contends patriotic groups satisfy affiliation needs and boost self-worth by providing a superior in-group to compare favorably against outgroups. terror management theory argues that patriotism helps quell existential anxiety by offering symbolic immortality through identification with an enduring nation (Schatz, Staub & Lavine, 1999).

Some Marxist-inspired accounts interpret patriotism as a tool of ideological control wielded by dominant classes. However, others argue patriotism plays a vital role in revolutionary struggles against oppression. Uzbek sociologists have critiqued blind patriotism as a mechanism for leaders to maintain power, while advocating constructive patriotism focused on improving citizens’ welfare (Kodirov, 2010)

In general, the genesis of patriotic loyalty likely involves multiple psychological motives operating in particular sociocultural contexts. More research is needed on specific drivers of patriotism within the Uzbek populace.

**Patriotism vs. Nationalism.** A core debate in the literature concerns the relationship between patriotism and nationalism. Some contend these constructs are mutually exclusive, with patriotism reflecting positive ingroup regard and nationalism embodying outgroup hostility. Others assert patriotism inherently involves beliefs in national superiority that constitute nationalism (Schatz, Staub & Lavine, 1999).

Patriotism has been categorized into various subtypes, only some of which overlap with nationalism. Blind patriotism entails staunch allegiance without questioning one’s country, whereas constructive patriotism involves critical loyalty aimed at improving the nation (Schatz, Staub & Lavine, 1999). Several Uzbek scholars argue constructive patriotism should be promoted over nationalism (Kodirov, 2010).

However, ceremonial aspects of even constructive patriotism may support uncritical conformity. And denying any hard distinction between patriotism and nationalism overlooks empirical evidence that these manifest differently. While debate continues, integrating insights from diverse perspectives can further understanding of this complex relationship. More research explicitly comparing manifestations of patriotism and nationalism in Uzbekistan would help clarify boundaries between these interrelated concepts.

**Influencing Factors.** Myriad contextual variables shape patriotic attitudes and behaviors within a society. Patriotism consistently shows a positive association with age. Older cohorts often show greater affinity for their country due to heightened belonging needs, lifetime exposure to nation-building institutions and traditions, and tendency for conservative values (Schatz, Staub & Lavine, 1999).

Most studies in Western cultures report higher patriotism among men than women, purportedly reflecting tighter links between masculinity and national symbols. However, research on gender differences in the Uzbek setting is lacking. One study did find schoolgirls scored higher than boys on assessments of patriotism, contradicting assumptions (Umarov, 2015).

Period effects related to watershed national events can foster patriotism. For example, Akramov (2007) observed a surge in national pride following Uzbekistan's independence in 1991. Revolts, wars, economic crises and leadership transitions often impact national sentiments. An upwelling of patriotism frequently follows attacks or threats from rival states (Li & Brewer, 2004).

Internal factors like values and personality traits also shape patriotic leanings. Those prioritizing collectivism, security, and tradition tend to demonstrate higher patriotism. Big Five traits of conscientiousness, extraversion and agreeableness are associated with heightened patriotism as well (Parker, 2010).

Further research on contextual and individual differences related to patriotism in Uzbekistan would help delineate its boundaries and facilitators. Qualitative studies could provide richer insights into Uzbeks’ lived experiences of patriotism.

**Future Directions.** While studies of patriotism have proliferated internationally, research within the Uzbek cultural context remains limited. Developing localized measures is a key priority for advancing empirical work on manifestations of patriotism in Uzbekistan. Mixed-methods approaches combining qualitative insights and standardized inventories may prove most fruitful for capturing nuances.

Further examination of psychological motivations underpinning Uzbeks' patriotic attachment is needed. Particularly important is investigating distinctions from nationalism and disentangling constructive versus blind forms of patriotism. Research on contextual facilitators and inhibitors of patriotism also deserves more focus, including influential traditions, policies, events and leadership factors.

Longitudinal designs can help shed light on developmental trajectories of patriotism over individuals' lifespans and fluctuations over historical time. Experimental and intervention studies have potential for examining causal dynamics. Researchers should also aim to integrate diverse theoretical paradigms in investigating this multifaceted topic.

**Conclusion:** In summary, examination of patriotism from a global scholarly perspective reveals vigorous ongoing debates regarding its conceptualization, boundaries, manifestations and implications. While universal theories have been proposed, most experts concur that socio-cultural contexts critically shape expressions of patriotism. Although studies conducted internationally offer valuable insights, research specific to the Uzbek experience remains sparse. Developing conceptually-sound measurements and expanding empirical work related to the patriotism phenomenon within Uzbekistan is critical for advancing knowledge that can inform policy and practice. Investigating distinctions from nationalism and the spectrum spanning constructive versus blind patriotism should be priorities for future research. Employing diverse methodologies and integrative conceptual frameworks will help generate a richer understanding of the complex patriotism problem.

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