

## The civil society development in the historical retrospective



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**Abstract.** *The article analyzes theories, stages, developments in the historical retrospective of the civil society formation, as well as the prospects for civil development in Ukraine. It is also indicated that civil society, accumulating healthy forces, can become the basis and means for implementing radical political and socio-economic reforms. Only its active representatives and carriers are able, realizing their responsibility to the present and future, to develop and propose a strategy of profound transformations for Ukraine.*

**Key words:** *civil society formation, historical retrospective, civil society development, political and socio-economic reforms.*

### Problem statement

The specified period in the history of Ukraine, which shook the whole world, convincingly demonstrated that the process of formation of civil society in our country rapidly moved into the practical phase and, with all acuteness, made scientists face a number of problems that require not only deep understanding, but also relevant conclusions and recommendations.

**Analysis of recent publications on issues.** Source of information for writing are the results of scientific research [1 -11].

**The purpose of the article.** The purpose of this article is to analyze theories, stages, developments in the historical retrospective of the civil society formation, as well as the prospects for civil development in Ukraine.

**The statement of basic materials.** Analyzing the current development of Ukraine, one should recognize that the state itself is often not only reluctant, but also just incapable of ensuring the democratic goals, standards, and values, the need for which is increasingly felt in

society, on its own. In this sense, the main present-day problem consists not so much in further development and improvement of various institutions of the state as in the development of society, which should turn the state not into a sovereign master, but into an effective tool of ensuring general socially significant goals, needs, and values. One of the main foundations of the functioning of the democratic system, when democracy is interpreted primarily as a democratic process, is the participation of citizens in state government. Political participation, which not only guarantees citizens the opportunity to express their attitude to public policy, but reflects the

will of citizens to participate in political life, is the most important of them. The main feature of such citizens is the presence of their own political position and their own vision of ways of the social and political development of the state.

Only civil society, accumulating healthy forces, is able to become the foundation and a means of implementing radical political and socio-economic reforms. Just its active exponents and bearers are able (being aware of their responsibility to the present and the future) to develop and propose a strategy for profound transformations, a strategy for future choice that is a coherent ideology of development, relying on our own historical experience, on the best of our achievements, on our strength in conjunction with such main European and international values as democracy, freedom, human rights, and the rule of law. This is a historic opportunity that Ukraine has not yet lost to choose such a model of the development of democracy in which civil society and democratic constitutional state interact as equal partners. It is a return to the original meaning of the notion of the rule of the people and strong willingness to revive the Ukrainian democracy just as a possibility translated into action and an inalienable right of the community to influence its own life and the life of the country. Its social ideal is to build a well-developed civil society, a democratic, legal, prosperous, and successful state - an equal and respected partner in international relations. It is an ideology of creating new Ukraine, which is an incarnation of the nationwide, country-wide interest of a contemporary Ukrainian national idea that is focused on the future but related to the present, and that is based on the fundamental traditions, mentality, law, and culture.

Today, the path of the Ukrainian state, if it really does not want to be left behind, to find itself in a whirlpool of indifference, and at the same time does not want to get lost in the grip of "chauvinistic" dreams, consists primarily in adequate and clear understanding the condition in which we find ourselves. Real evaluation of what is now happening in Ukraine, no matter how unattractive it is, neither disgraces nor discredits nor humiliates Ukraine. It is the diagnosis - a statement of fact - that is necessary for the recovery of the

country, state, and society. As a result, each several citizen makes his own decision for himself. Acknowledging that further living in the same way is shameful and impossible encourages action to achieve positive changes.

The problem of contemporary Ukraine is not that society is lacking new goals and new values, but that it is extremely lacking specific goals and specific, clearly defined tasks that can be implemented and, most importantly, can give a result significant for the society, and not only for a narrow stratum, for which Ukraine is only a means of self-enrichment and realization of its own ambitions. In this sense, one should seek to formulate not something new, but, above all, something specific that is understandable to most citizens who have lost their faith in the authorities, that is supported by those citizens and can be implemented through joint efforts. This approach allows a fundamentally new way to look at the problems that have arisen and now are facing Ukraine.

Today, we often hear that the main thing is to find good, honest, and competent parliamentarians, good judges, good officials, etc, and this will allow the society to live better and quieter. The real objective of the reforms proposed is not changing individual personalities, but changing the system which always includes changing the procedure for formation and functioning of this system. For example, referring to the judiciary and its independence, the main goal is not to search for responsible and honest judges, but to change the procedure for formation of this branch of government which must necessarily engage the public.

The goal of the state is not to bring discipline with a powerful hand, but to constantly promote the development of civil society, because the stronger civil society, the stronger the state. However, this perception should not be interpreted as permanent management of society by the state. The state must provide society with only one thing - the opportunity to develop and to create means for this development.

This step is the first, but a necessary shift towards filling the concept of "the rule of the people" with real content. If the primary resources of a country are its people and society, then it is them who should decide

how the country should live and develop, how to fight against corruption, and what priorities should be chosen for the society. Therefore, the main conclusion to be made is that one should radically rethink, above all, the general approach to the development of Ukraine and to the consolidation of democracy. The essence of this approach is to turn regard to civil society, its strengthening and development. Society cannot be changed by decree or law; it cannot be quickly "rebuilt" like public authorities. In relation to society, fundamentally different mechanisms act (primarily educational, cultural, and ideological ones), the action of which manifests itself not even after years, but in the long run. There is no other path, because any attempts to follow the same path as

before will lead not just to another error, but the loss of a historical chance together with Ukraine itself as an integral and sovereign state. The limit of errors is exhausted! There can be no delays, either - the contemporary globalized world, in which the intensity and complexity of "challenges" only increases, simply does not allow to have such delays. What for a choice it will be is a matter of conscience and responsibility of every citizen, because this choice is not so much one of a dream as one of an everyday reality. Today's dream may in the future become an everyday reality through efforts of civil society. However, it should be emphasized that if today everyone does not realize this dream, it will have no chance to become a reality.

## Conclusion

Intellectual understanding the origins of formation of civil society, its theory, stages, institutions, and prospects deeply convinces that overcoming a systemic crisis in all spheres of a country is possible due to its progress. This belief is based on an analysis of theoretical achievements of foreign and domestic thinkers of the past. No less interesting and important is current research of this urgent problem that intensifies the perception of a holistic image of civil society, understanding and vision of what one wants and what one should say about it. As experience conclusively proves, it is civil society that, accumulating healthy forces, is able to become the foundation and a means of implementing radical political and socio-economic reforms. Just its active exponents and bearers are able, being aware of their responsibility to the present and the future, to develop and propose a strategy for profound transformations for Ukraine.

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