

A LIFE DEVOTED TO KNOWLEDGE:
THE LEGAL HERITAGE OF HOJI AKBAR RAHMONQULOV



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Abstract. *This article analyzes the life, academic activity, and contribution of Academician Hoji Akbar Rahmonqulov, one of the most prominent representatives of Uzbek legal scholarship, to the formation and development of the national legal system. The study highlights his courage during World War II, his post-war academic formation, and his invaluable role in drafting the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as the Civil Code and the Family Code in the period of independence. Special attention is paid to Rahmonqulov's scholarly legacy in the fields of civil law, family law, and private international law, as well as to the academic school he founded and his students' activities. The article demonstrates that his legal ideas remain relevant to contemporary legal reforms and are consistent with modern international legal standards.*

Keywords: *Hoji Akbar Rahmonqulov, legal heritage, civil law, private international law, Constitution, legal system.*

Introduction

In every historical era, there are individuals whose lives and work shape the intellectual direction of an entire nation. In Uzbek legal scholarship, one such outstanding figure is Academician Hoji Akbar Rahmonqulov. He is widely recognized as a great scholar who successfully combined devotion to science, justice, and patriotism, and who played a direct and decisive role in the formation of the legal system of independent Uzbekistan.

Rahmonqulov's life path reflects a unique synthesis of personal courage, academic excellence, and public service. His scientific views and legislative initiatives laid the foundations for the modern development of civil law and private international law in Uzbekistan.

Early Steps on the Path of Courage and Knowledge

Hoji Akbar Rahmonqulov was born on September 2, 1925, in the Sayram district of the Chimkent region, into a peasant family.

In 1942, at the age of only seventeen, he volunteered for the front and fought courageously for four years on the 2nd Baltic Front during World War II. Despite being seriously wounded, he returned home with the rank of junior lieutenant and was awarded the Order of the Patriotic War.

These difficult wartime experiences strengthened his character, discipline, and sense of responsibility, forming a solid moral foundation for his future scientific perseverance and dedication to justice.

Academic Growth and Scientific Formation

After the war, Rahmonqulov continued his education at the Tashkent State Law Institute.

His deep interest in legal science soon led him from practical work within the justice system to full-time academic research. In 1957, he was admitted to postgraduate studies at Saint Petersburg State University.

In 1960, he became the first legal scholar in Uzbekistan to obtain the degree of Candidate of Legal Sciences, and in 1970, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Legal Sciences. These achievements marked the beginning of a new stage in the development of Uzbek legal science and opened the way for future generations of scholars.

Role in the Legal System of Independent Uzbekistan

During the years of independence, Academician Rahmonqulov played a leading role in shaping the legal framework of the Uzbek state. He headed the working group responsible for drafting the “Society and the Individual” section of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted in 1992.

In addition, he led the development of the concept and draft of the Civil Code, often referred to as the “constitution of the market economy,” and chaired the working group responsible for preparing the Family Code. In 1999, at his initiative, the first Department of Private International Law in Central Asia was established at Tashkent State University of Law, where he served as a professor.

Rahmonqulov famously described private international law as “the highest mathematics of legal science,” emphasizing its strategic importance for economic and social development in an increasingly globalized world.

Scholarly Legacy and Academic School

The scientific heritage of Academician Rahmonqulov is extensive and influential. He authored more than 300 scientific works, including over 60 monographs and textbooks. His publications have been translated into English, French, German, Japanese, and Korean, gaining recognition in the international academic community.

Under his academic supervision, more than 60 Candidates of Legal Sciences and 16 Doctors of Legal Sciences were trained. Many of his students currently hold leading positions in universities, state institutions, and international organizations, continuing the development of the scientific school founded by their mentor.

Conclusion

The life and work of Hoji Akbar Rahmonqulov represent a vivid example of selfless service to knowledge, the people, and justice.

The legal heritage he left behind forms one of the pillars of the modern legal system of Uzbekistan and remains an invaluable intellectual resource for future generations of legal scholars.

His name and ideas are firmly embedded in the history of national legal science, and his scholarly legacy continues to inspire legal thought, academic research, and legislative development.

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