HSR (LONDON),
HOUGHTON STREET REVIEW JOURNAL
ISSN: 2058-5519|Impact factor-15.9
http://houghtonstreetreview.com/index.php/hsr

A MAJOR STEP IN THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE: THE SCIENTIFIC LEGACY OF ACADEMICIAN HOJI-AKBAR RAHMONQULOV AND ITS CONTEMPORARY SIGNIFICANCE

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doi:https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23731326

ABSTRACT: This research article examines the rich scholarly and legal legacy of Hoji-Akbar Rahmonqulovich Rahmonqulov, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, Honoured Scientist of Uzbekistan, Doctor of Law, and Professor, as well as his fundamental role in the formation of the national school of civil law. It systematically analyses the mechanisms through which private-law principles were incorporated into legislation during the transition to a market economy, particularly the process of drafting the Civil Code. It also highlights the continuing relevance and practical significance of Academician H.-A. Rahmonqulov’s theoretical views on contractual obligations and property rights in the context of today’s digital private law, e-commerce, and smart contracts.

Keywords: Hoji-Akbar Rahmonqulov, civil law, Civil Code, private law, law of obligations, contractual discipline, Academy of Sciences, digital economy.

1. INTRODUCTION

The stable economic development and socio-legal system of any sovereign state rest on a well-developed national private-law framework. From the early years of independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan abandoned the socialist planned economy based on administrative command and chose to transition to free-market relations. During this historical and economic turning point, it became necessary to liberalise business activity, guarantee the inviolability of private property, and regulate contractual relations in a new way.

The development of civil-law scholarship in Uzbekistan as an independent field and a coherent academic school is closely associated with the renowned scholar Hoji-Akbar Rahmonqulovich Rahmonqulov (1925–2013), a full member of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, Doctor of Law, and Professor. Rightly recognised by colleagues and students as the founder of the national school of civil law, Academician H.-A. Rahmonqulov was not merely a theorist: he was a prominent legal expert who contributed to a fundamental reform of the country’s legislative system and was awarded the Jasorat (Courage) Medal. As private-law relations increasingly move into cyberspace, scholarly analysis of the fundamental methodology he left behind and an explanation of its contemporary significance have become pressing tasks.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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This article employs systemic-legal, historical-retrospective, comparative-logical, and legal-interpretation methods. The research draws on Academician Hoji-Akbar Rahmonqulov's published foundational monographs, textbooks, and study guides, as well as the conceptual principles of the Civil Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan developed under his leadership. In the course of the study, the scholar's classical views on contractual obligations and property rights were comparatively analysed alongside contemporary rules governing digital civil transactions.

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

An examination of Academician Hoji-Akbar Rahmonqulov's many years of scholarly and practical work reveals that his contribution to Uzbek legal scholarship and state-building can be seen in three strategic areas:

- Establishing the legal foundations of a market economy: In the early years of independence, a new Civil Code was needed as a principal legal instrument for enabling a free-market system. Academician H.-A. Rahmonqulov led the government working group established to draft the Code. He helped elevate such principles as equality among participants in civil transactions, the diversity and equal legal status of forms of ownership, and freedom of contract to the level of law.
- Developing national terminology and a textbook base: During the Soviet period, all major works on civil law were published only in Russian. Rahmonqulov took a major step in advancing legal scholarship by producing the first comprehensive Uzbek-language textbooks on Civil Law, the Law of Obligations, and Property Law, thereby helping establish the field's national terminology.
- Building a school of highly qualified researchers: Over many years at Tashkent State University of Law and the Institute of Philosophy and Law of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, he trained hundreds of Candidates of Sciences, Doctors of Law, and thousands of legal-system professionals, including judges, prosecutors, and advocates.

4. DISCUSSION

Professor H.-A. Rahmonqulov adapted the three pillars of private law—property rights, contract law, and legal liability—to Uzbekistan's national circumstances and economic model.

In his works, the scholar paid particular attention to strengthening contractual discipline. In his view, entrepreneurship and the investment climate cannot develop in a country without strict legal oversight of the fulfilment of obligations.

Even in today's world of e-commerce, the transfer of intellectual property into virtual spaces, blockchain technology, and AI-based smart contracts, the fundamental principles advanced by Academician Rahmonqulov remain relevant. In substance, every digital contract is built on the principles of mutual freedom of will and the fulfilment of reciprocal obligations that he substantiated. His scholarly methodology therefore continues to provide guidance for contemporary cyber law.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Academician Hoji-Akbar Rahmonqulov was a distinguished figure who devoted his life to the development of national legislation, the advancement of justice, and the progress of science. The extensive and substantial scholarly and legal legacy he created continues to serve as a foundational resource for today's courts, legislative institutions, and higher-education establishments.

Every major step he took in the pursuit of knowledge serves as an outstanding example for today's young generation of legal scholars. To further preserve his legacy, it would be appropriate to:

1. To introduce the **"State Scholarship named after Academician Hoji-Akbar Rahmonqulov"** for gifted students at higher legal education institutions;

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2. It is advisable to name laboratories focused on "Digital Private Law and Cyber-Civil Legislation" at modern research centers after the scholar

3. This step serves to further enhance the international standing of our national legal scholarship.

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