



Sustainable Development of Society: The Interrelation Between Demoethics and Democracy

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Abstract

The aim of this conceptual analysis is to explore the relationship between "Democracy" and "Demoethics" as tools for transforming sustainable development in society. The study adopts a general methodological approach, specifically a systems approach that incorporates logical synthesis, goal setting, and goal decomposition methods. The results reveal that "Democracy" is a political strategy and form of governance based on the principles of "Demoethics." The concept is rooted in the idea that sustainable development can only be achieved by adhering to ethical rationalities that strike a balance between economic, social, and environmental needs. The study concludes that Demoethic components, such as education and nurturing, contribute to holistic personal development by fostering intellectual growth, knowledge acquisition, and application of scientific principles. The integration of education and nurturing, well-developed intellect, knowledge acquisition, scientific principles, and honest work all contribute to sustainable development. Therefore, the application of the "Demoethics" concept helps shape individuals who possess ethical rationality to make decisions that balance economic, social, and environmental needs and display moral behavior in any life situation, thereby enhancing the quality of life and societal competitiveness.

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1 Introduction

Democracy is a universal value for all of humanity, but there is no one-size-fits-all model of political system applicable to all countries. Human civilization is diverse and rich, therefore democracy in every country should have a diverse character. In the United States, there is democracy of the American style; in China - with Chinese specificity; in Central Asia - with Central Asian specificity. All countries should have unique models of democracy that correspond to their national realities. Whether a country is democratic and the best way to achieve this goal should be judged by its inhabitants, not a handful of countries who consider themselves as such.

In the book "Democracy in America," Tocqueville (2000) emphasized the importance of a strong civil society for the functioning of democracy. In the same vein, modern scholars note that democracy works better in places with a higher level of social capital (Fukuyama, 1996; Putnam, 1993). Universal trust facilitates cooperation between larger groups, allowing democracies to solve collective action problems on a voluntary basis (Algan and Cahuc, 2014).

The key concern is that the Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the decline of democracy. Data published by Freedom House (2020) shows that democracy has been in recession for over a decade, and the speed at which countries are losing civil and political rights has increased since the 2000s (Diamond, 2020). The problems faced by democracy are well-known. In addition to being trapped in institutional mechanisms that hinder problem-solving (Fukuyama, F. (2014), Fukuyama, 2015), political disagreements, checks and balances, as well as interest groups can cause a deadlock (March, Olsen, 1984, Olsen, 1982), thereby limiting the ability of democratic governments to effectively respond to a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The democratic features of the index include the presence of institutions and procedures through which citizens can express preferences regarding policies and leaders, limitations on the exercise of power by the executive branch, as well as guarantees of civil liberties and political participation.

In 2023, the article "Demoethical Model of Sustainable Development of Society: A Roadmap towards Digital Transformation" (Zhanbayev et al., 2023) substantiated the need for the fundamental principles of "Demoethics" that contribute to the formation of a worldview that ensures the sustainable development of the modern world.

The world today needs modern, virtuous leaders capable of solving global problems and creating a strong civil society consisting of virtuous individuals. Members of this society must serve as an example and contribute to the establishment of peaceful, just, and open social structures in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Abu Nasr al-Farabi noted that the dignity of a ruler is determined by the presence of virtues, not by the power they hold. The philosopher is convinced that a ruler should lead by example, showing people the path to perfection and living a life worthy of imitation.

For us, the legacy of Al-Farabi plays a huge role, which highlighted the virtue of an individual as the highest wisdom. By perfection, Abu Nasr also understood the continuous transformation of the foundations of his own life and thoughts. «Perfection does not consist in a person being able to do and know everything, but in constant learning»... «Pointing the way to happiness al-Farabi reveals the possibilities that lie before a person and directs from one person to society as a whole. «There is a relationship between an individual and society that an individual, achieving happiness, contributes to the ennobling of the city in which he lives, and the city, in turn, should help a person achieve happiness».

In a modern context, the thoughts of ancient scholars are transformed by us into the postulate that an economically developed society, capable of withstanding the challenges of the time, is based on spiritual-moral and ethico-political principles, i.e. the principles of Demoethics.

Demoethics is a branch of ethics aimed at revealing the common understanding of the essence of the world and the place of a person in it, based on the concepts and principles of sustainable development of society. The theoretical foundations of demoethics, such as education, nurturing, mind, knowledge, science, and honest work, are based on the principles of Abu Nasr Al-Farabi, A. Kunanbayev, and Y. Balasagun, and it is they that today, in the methodology of demoethics, ensure the effective implementation of socially sustainable best available technologies (BAT).

The United Nations has focused its attention on adopting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), while advocating for a new sustainable approach to development policy. In SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), it specifically mentions promoting the building of a peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development, ensuring access to justice for all, and creating effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

The main problems in effectively implementing human rights are the deficit of democracy, the weakness of leaders and democratic institutions. This requires a massive transformation of society and its institutions.

However, the study of scholars' works did not reveal any research on the relationship between 'Democracy' and Demoethics as tools for transforming sustainable development of society. These issues are relevant in the current stage of development in the light of sustainable development of society.

The study attempts to analyze the conceptual connection between Democracy and the new concept of Demoethics as a tool for transforming sustainable development of society.

2 Materials and Methods

Studying the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), specifically SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), we have outlined recommendations and some strategies that are applicable to understanding the relationship between Democracy and "Demoethics". The key points of the recommendations are aimed at forming long-term sustainable solutions to enhance stakeholder engagement in decision-making processes.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, it is necessary to build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. All individuals should feel safe, free from the fear of violence, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. Effective government institutions, based on active population participation, are necessary to ensure quality education, healthcare, fair economic policies, and environmental protection. Crimes such as murder, human trafficking, corruption, and organized crime, as well as violations of freedom of speech and discriminatory laws, have a negative impact on all countries. Even leading democratic regimes face challenges in combating corruption, crime, and human rights violations. There are 46 million people in modern slavery worldwide. Armed violence and lack of security disrupt a country's development, affect its economic growth, and cause societal discontent. Violence has a profound impact on the health, development, and well-being of children, limiting their opportunities for progress. It also causes injuries and hinders social integration. The lack of access to justice means that conflicts remain unresolved, and people do not receive protection and compensation.

3 Results and Discussions

The previously conducted study "Features of the Relationship 4D = "D + 3D": Demoetic – Demographic – Democratic – Demoeconomic and Environmental Components in the Assessment of Sustainable Development of Regions" (Zhanbayev and Maksimov, 2022), considered the rationale for a fundamentally different approach to solving the problem of sustainable development based on an integrated approach, including the four components of the economy. This study attempted to analyze the relationship between Democracy and the new concept of Demoethics in order to use them as a tool for sustainable societal development.

Demoethics (D+):

The principles of modern family upbringing, creating favorable conditions for quality education, responsibility, justice, equality, respect for human rights and labor, sustainable development, and responsibility towards future generations are considered as the factors of "Demoethics". The concept of "Demoethics" is based on the idea that sustainable societal development can only be achieved by adhering to ethical rationalities (principles) that can balance the economic, social, and ecological needs of humanity.

Ethical rationality is associated not with finding means to achieve a specific goal, but with a more fundamental problem, namely, the legitimacy of the goal itself. In the case of ethical rationality, the problem is not the search for means to solve technological issues, but the attainment of mutual understanding regarding what development goal is acceptable to all stakeholders. It is ethical rationality that has given rise to the paradigm of sustainable development, which is oriented not only towards economic growth but also towards meeting basic human needs, reducing socio-economic inequality, respecting cultural values, and increasing ecological responsibility.

Within the framework of the "Demoethics" concept, work should be carried out to create modern technical means that can manage and control processes in society, ensuring their stability and efficiency. Such means include new information technologies, resource management systems, monitoring and diagnostic devices, ecological certifications, and many others.

It is proposed to actively apply the concept of "Demoethics" in various areas of life, including business, education, science, medicine, and government. Its principles should be taken into account when creating new laws and regulatory documents aimed at reducing the impact of production on the environment and maintaining social justice. Thus, the concept of "Demoethics" is an important factor that enables society to achieve sustainable development and create conditions for a better quality of life and population competitiveness.

The main features of the "Demoethics" component are as follows:

Equality: In "Demoethics," all citizens are equal before the law and have equal rights and opportunities in political and social life.

Participation: "Demoethics" entails active citizen participation in political decision-making and state governance.

Openness: "Demoethics" is based on principles of openness and accessibility of information, so that citizens can be informed about political processes.

Accessibility: "Demoethics" aims to ensure accessibility of government services and facilities for all citizens, regardless of their social status and condition.

Stability: "Demoethics" assumes stability in the political system to ensure long-term stability and prosperity for citizens.

Justice: In "Demoethics," the state strives to ensure fair and equal distribution of resources and opportunities among citizens.

Rights protection: The "Demoethics" system is designed to protect the rights and freedoms of citizens, other national minorities, and minorities of various social groups.

Thus, "demoethics" is a new approach to governance that takes into account the interests of all participants in the process and aims to reduce inequalities in the economic, social, and environmental spheres.

In the economic direction, "demoethics" implies a transition to an economy model based on sustainable development and fair distribution of wealth.

In the social direction, it involves building a society where every person has the opportunity to freely express their ideas and participate in making important decisions.

In the environmental direction, it focuses on protecting nature and human health, adopting environmentally responsible decisions, and promoting the development of environmentally friendly technologies.

This allows for the formation of a diverse and creative society capable of solving problems and developing in accordance with the needs and interests of the population.

Democracy

Overall, democracy is an essential element of the functioning of modern society, the advancement of the rights and freedoms of all citizens, and the creation of favorable conditions for economic, social, and cultural development. However, in order to ensure long-term stability, preserve democratic institutions, and protect the rights of citizens, the involvement and participation of residents in the process of state governance and the resolution of common problems are necessary.

Democracy also guarantees freedom of expression, participation in elections and public life, and the protection of human rights and civil liberties. However, democracy requires constant support and protection from society and the state in order not to fall victim to corruption, authoritarianism, and other negative phenomena.

For effective support and protection from society and the state, the model/concept of "Demoethic governance" is proposed, which contributes to minimizing negative phenomena in democracy, eliminating risks, and ensuring ethical rationality for sustainable societal development.

The interconnections between "demoethical" and democratic development are important for understanding the challenges and obstacles that influence the process of forming and strengthening democratic systems in different countries. For example, corruption, restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly, limited access to reliable and accurate information, and other issues can hinder the development of democracy and even threaten its existence. On the other hand, taking measures and initiatives to address these problems and strengthen democratic institutions and processes can be a key factor in building a stable and sustainable democracy based on the principles of "Demoethics". In this sense, "demoethical" and democratic development are closely linked and interdependent.

What is the main difference between "Democracy" and "Demoetika"?

Demoetika and Democracy are the main components of the economy that are used to shape and develop the core values of society, forms of governance, and interactions among members of society, based on principles of accountability and transparency.

We believe that "Demoetika governance" can be considered a fairer form of democracy (or economic component) as it actively promotes people's participation in all aspects of state affairs, including the development of just laws and their adoption in order to achieve ethical rationality.

Thus, "Demoetika" minimizes risks and eliminates the following democratic problems: corruption, manipulation of public opinion or control over it, instability of coalition governments, thereby creating favorable conditions for sustainable development of society.

On the other hand, traditional democracy typically involves elections and representation of the people through parliaments and state institutions. Therefore, it can be said that "Demoetika" emphasizes greater citizen participation in decision-making processes, while democracy gives more attention to the institutional aspect of state organization.

How do members of society interact with each other within the frameworks of "Demoethics" and Democracy?

The interaction between members of society will be based on the components of Democracy and "Demoethics". Within the framework of "Democracy", the equality of all members' voices will be ensured when making decisions. Each member of society will have the opportunity to express their opinions and participate in the discussion of proposed ideas. Thus, the interaction will be based on principles of mutual respect and trust.

On the other hand, "Demoethics" will guarantee that decisions are made based on specific rules, principles, and ethical rationality that takes into account the interests of all members of society. The interaction will be founded on principles of responsibility and transparency, ensuring fairness and equal rights for all members of society.

Overall, the interaction between members of society based on the components of Democracy and "Demoethics" will contribute to the formation of a strong and sustainable community, where each member feels equal and protected within society.

"Demoethics", on the other hand, pertains to ethical and moral issues related to democracy, human rights, freedom of speech, freedom of the media, etc. These two spheres may intersect in matters concerning resource distribution, social justice, and economic fairness.

Thus, members of society will interact and apply the advantages of the tools of the "democracy" and "demoethics" component, using their rights and freedoms to work together for the benefit of their country and the people as a whole, observing ethical rationalities that can ensure a balance between the economic, social and environmental needs of humanity.

4 Conclusion

Thus, "Democracy" is a political strategy and form of governance, based on the principles of "Demoethics" that enable the population to confidently raise children, receive fair and quality education, engage in scientific pursuits, and earn money through honest work. It allows for the realization of useful ideas under the guidance of reason, which ensures active participation of society members in decision-making processes. This is based on the idea that sustainable development of society can only be achieved by adhering to ethical rationalities that can balance the economic, social, and environmental needs of humanity. "Demoethics" is a system of societal interaction values that is based on an ethically rational decision-making method, promoting sustainable societal development and minimizing risks. It eliminates the following democratic problems: political hegemony, corruption, manipulation of public opinion or control over it, instability of coalition governments, and others.

Conflict of interest statement

The authors declared that they have no competing interest.

Statement of authorship

The authors have a responsibility for the conception and design of the study. The author(s) have approved the final article.

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Gratitude

In scientific work based on the principle of transdisciplinary research, a constructive dialogue was conducted between specialists from different fields, which contributes to the transformation of other components of the economy. Scientists were included as co-authors of the article in order to acquire new knowledge in the field of sustainable development goals formation.

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