

## **ABSTRACT**

**of the thesis of Malik Galym on the topic «The value basis of the phenomenon of power» submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the Specialty «8D02202 – Philosophy»**

**General characterisation of the work.** The dissertation work is devoted to the value analysis of theories related to the phenomenon of power in the history of philosophy, identification of its spiritual and ontological foundations, philosophical study of axiological aspects of the study of power, the relationship of power mechanisms with values, forms and types of power in traditional Kazakh society, the specifics of the system of power in modern Kazakhstan.

### **Relevance of the research topic:**

The study, understanding of the problem of power, its analysis, conceptual consideration are relevant for the development of science, the development of these aspects of social theory contributes to the solution of socio-philosophical problems. Social life and national culture depend on power, the need for which never disappears.

Power has been studied for more than a thousand years, but it has never left the research field without losing its relevance. At present, the teachings of Confucius, Lao Tzu, Shang Yang, Han Fei Tzu, Aristotle and Plato, N. Machiavelli, Hegel, K. Marx are being revived and studied today in a new way. For no matter how human existence, consciousness, knowledge, science, production change with the change of society, new relations appear, while the nature and essence of man do not change.

Besides, the general complication of social relations with the transition of mankind to each new stage in the development of civilisation makes the problem of cognition of power from the positions of various sciences relevant.

The choice of socio-philosophical orientation of power is conditioned by scientific-theoretical and practical significance of the topic for the life of society. For modern sovereign Kazakhstan, emerging from the bowels of totalitarian regime, the issue of power (primarily political) is not only theoretical, but also directly practical, vital issue. The experience of Kazakhstan's development shows that the state, ruling persons, who proclaimed democracy and legitimacy, often take actions directly opposite to these principles. The reason is that our society has not formed common values of power.

In the dissertation research the essence of power is considered as a special social phenomenon. The general concept of social power should be considered not as a starting point for the study of political power, but as a prerequisite for deductive deduction of one concept from another, and as a stage of research of a certain type of power by the method of ascent from the abstract to the concrete.

The research is complicated due to the presence of different levels of scientific databases collected in different studies, which create a common concept of power. This dissertation study analyses the relationship between the development of society

and power, its value significance. Power is studied in the ontological dimension, in terms of its essence, as well as in the epistemological dimension, from a socio-philosophical point of view.

**Degree of scientific development of the thesis topic.** Power is one of the most ancient phenomena, the meaning of which has not yet been fully revealed. At present, the division and exercise of power is still the basis of politics. Hidden and open struggle for power exists everywhere. History contains very rich material for understanding the problems of power: its formation, development, role in society and the life of each individual.

Literature studying the phenomenon of shared power can be divided into four groups. The first group includes works that serve as a basis for considering the phenomenon of power in world culture. The studies of ancient philosophers formed the basis of the doctrine of power and left a creative heritage of great importance. The problems of power, its origin, historical forms are considered in the works of: Plato, Aristotle, N. Machiavelli, S. Montesquieu, T. Hobbes, J. Locke.

The classical approaches that consider power as a product of interpersonal relations were used by P. Bourdieu, M. Foucault, and as a phenomenon that fulfils a systemic function in human society is reflected in the works of D. Easton, N. Luman, T. Parsons. The thesis is based on the works of Kazakh philosophers K. Abishev and A.A. Khamidov, who studied the essence of power in connection with the theory of values.

Systematic analysis of power is considered in the works of G. Almond, D. Easton, A. Kaplan, structural-functional analysis by T. Parsons, relativity method by G. Almond, D. Easton. Parsons, the method of relativity - G. Almond, D. Easton. The legitimacy of power is discussed in the works of E. Durkheim, V.G. Ledyayev. The sovereignty of power was considered by M. Foucault, K. Schmitt, F. Nietzsche, M. Heidegger considered power as an anthropological expression, and the works of R. Guénon belong to the existential direction. The works of P. Bourdieu and N. Luman consider political norms, values, images of power.

Among Kazakhstani scientists who studied the technologies of power we can highlight V.Y. Dunayev, I. Zekrist, A. Sagikyzy.

In Kazakh society, questions about power were addressed by Kazakh enlighteners: Shokan Ualikhanov and Abai Kunanbayev.

Also the following scientists, who in their works studied khan's power in traditional Kazakh society: A.I. Levshina, B.B. Karibaeva, B.G. Ayagan, K.A. Pischulin.

The thesis used the works of modern Kazakhstani philosophers, political scientists, legal scholars and historians - the works of S. Uzbekuly, N.V. Masanov, I.V. Erofeev, M.S. Orynbekov.

**Information base of the research.** Works of sociologists, political scientists, philosophers, foreign and domestic scientists in the field of political and philosophical education.

The relevance of the research topic and the level of its scientific study allow us to formulate the object, subject, purpose and objectives of the study.

**Object of study.** Axiological essence of power.

**Subject of the research work.** The essence of power, its value to society, features and factors that influenced the formation of institutions of power in Kazakhstan.

**Purpose of the dissertation research.** Philosophical analysis of the content of power as a value and identification of the peculiarities of power in Kazakh society.

**Objectives of the study:**

- theoretical and methodological conceptual and typological analysis of doctrines, ideas related to the phenomenon of power in the history of philosophy;
- differentiation of Eastern and Western political-philosophical doctrines that consider the phenomenon of power from a value point of view;
- socio-philosophical analysis of the spiritual and ontological foundations of the phenomenon of power;
- consideration of the political basis of power as a civilisational and socio-cultural value;
- differentiation of value bases of the phenomenon of power in traditional Kazakh society, evolution of development of concepts related to the phenomenon of power, expression in the history of Kazakh philosophy;
- analysing relations in the sphere of power in modern Kazakhstan from the point of view of traditionalism and novelty.

**Methodological and theoretical significance of the study.** Comprises the works, views, ideas and provisions of representatives of domestic and foreign philosophical, political, sociological and cultural thought on the issues of power, state, ethnos, culture.

The conceptual consideration of the topic in the thesis utilised the most general principles of scientific research: comprehensive approach, historical, universal connection of phenomena, etc. In addition, the study of the central problems of the thesis was carried out on the basis of general logical methods, namely: analysis and synthesis, abstraction, analogy, etc. systemic, comparative historical, civilisational and cultural views.

**Scientific novelty of the thesis:**

- differentiated and conceptualised the doctrines that describe specific features of power, its structure in the history of philosophy;
- The concept of power was analysed from the point of view of the value category depending on the modern conditions of development;
- when considering the concept of power "through the concept" of value, the meaning of life is expressed in terms of such mega-needs as justice, truth, beauty, virtue, freedom, etc;
- reflects the essence of the value of political power in the development of society; the content is considered in the context of state security, border protection, determination of development strategy, establishment of international relations;
- peculiarities of reflection of representations about the content and forms of power in traditional Kazakh society in the history of Kazakh philosophy are analysed, factors of formation and modernisation of the image of traditional power in Kazakh society are revealed;

- The role of modern Kazakhstan state power in the development of civilisational values of a person is shown.

**The main points put forward for defence.**

1. Power is the most important form that shapes social life, the order that preserves the integrity, culture, traditions of the state and ensures its existence. As a basic social phenomenon, a fruit of people's creativity, power forms the general system of relationships and interactions of people in society. Power is organically in contact with social relations, influences them, and in its turn is influenced by a variety of phenomena, processes and events. Without taking into account these features, power seems incomplete and one-sided.

2. Power is able to effectively perform its functions in any society only if it is based on axiological foundations, which contributes to positive results of power activity. The exercise of power of its will is possible only if, using effective management mechanisms, it is possible to use the optimal combination of historical traditions of a particular society and the best world models on the basis of dialectical methodology. It has been established that the problem of power is aggravated, especially in the conditions of socio-cultural paradigm shift, the reason for which is the devaluation of many basic axiological attitudes in transforming societies.

3. The phenomenon of power is a form of existence in any society and state, regardless of its cultural and other peculiarities, of relations of domination and subordination. The necessity and expediency of institutions of power depends on their general rationality, and, nevertheless, regardless of how it is realised, power fulfils its functions. In this case, power is necessary as a means of ensuring the organisation of society, its existence and development as a single unified system.

4. A truly active force that sets the vector of socio-political changes in society, even if the image of power is hidden. It is reproduced from generation to generation through the socio-cultural mechanism. The socio-cultural foundations of the revival of the image of power are historically defined cultural, religious, national and ethnic traditions that constitute the cultural-forming idea. Values and norms are reflected in socio-political practice,

5. The Kazakh people at present continue to retain many components of traditionalism, which are mainly conditioned by certain stereotypes of behaviour, value assessments, habits of behaviour, adherence to clan interests, and others. Traditional societies deny pluralism because of their cultural peculiarities, collective values and preferences and strive for authoritarianism, which, among other things, is determined by the existing stratification of society, characterised by an insignificant degree of social differentiation, as well as by the need to maintain the customary order of society and the need to suppress attempts of non-compliance with traditional norms or their change.

6. The direction of specific political processes determines the dominant model of the image of power in society. The traditional model of the image of power prevails and remains in Kazakhstan society. However, in some social groups of Kazakhstani society (intellectuals, youth) there are fast rates of formation of certain characteristics of the modern model of the image of power.

**Approbation of the results of the dissertation research.** Scientific results of the dissertation research: 3 articles were published in editions recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in the field of science and higher education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2 articles in journals included in the base of Scopus, and 4 articles in international scientific conferences.

**Discussion of the research work.** The dissertation research was considered at the Department of Political Science and Socio-Philosophical Disciplines of Abay Kazakh National University. Protocol #10 from 26 May 2024. And also, the dissertation research was discussed at the meeting of the Department of Philosophy of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. Protocol No. 4, dated 25 December 2024 and recommended for defence.

**Structure and scope of the dissertation work.** The thesis consists of an introduction, three chapter, two sub chapters each, a conclusion, and a list of references.