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УЛУТТУК МАЙРАМДАРДЫН МАДАНИЙ ӨЗДҮКТҮ КАЛЫПТАНДЫРУУДАГЫ РОЛУ

Аннотация. Бул макала Англия жана Кыргызстандагы улуттук майрамдардын маданий иденттүүлүктү калыптандыруудагы ролун изилдейт. Майрамдар тарыхый эс тутумду сактап, баалуулуктарды муундан муунга өткөрүп, коомдук биримдикти бекемдейт. Англия майрамдары тарыхый улантууга жана институттук авторитетке басым жасаса, кыргыз майрамдары коомдук биримдикти жана табият менен гармонияны баалайт.

Ачкыч сөздөр: улуттук майрамдар, маданий иденттүүлүк, Англия, Кыргызстан, салттар, коомдук биримдик, глобализация

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РОЛЬ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ ПРАЗДНИКОВ В ФОРМИРОВАНИИ КУЛЬТУРНОЙ ИДЕНТИЧНОСТИ

Аннотация. Статья рассматривает роль национальных праздников в формировании культурной идентичности в Англии и Кыргызстане. Праздники сохраняют историческую память, передают ценности и укрепляют социальную сплоченность. Английские праздники подчеркивают историческую преемственность и институциональную власть, а кыргызские — общинное единство и гармонию с природой.

Ключевые слова: национальные праздники, культурная идентичность, Англия, Кыргызстан, традиции, социальная сплоченность, глобализация

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THE ROLE OF NATIONAL HOLIDAYS IN SHAPING CULTURAL IDENTITY

Annotation. This article explores the role of national holidays in shaping cultural identity in England and Kyrgyzstan. Holidays preserve historical memory, transmit values, and strengthen social cohesion. English holidays emphasize historical continuity and institutional authority, while Kyrgyz holidays focus on communal unity and harmony with nature. The study highlights the adaptability of cultural identity amid globalization.

Keywords: national holidays, cultural identity, England, Kyrgyzstan, traditions, social cohesion, globalization

The Role of National Holidays in Shaping Cultural Identity:

National holidays are among the most powerful cultural mechanisms through which societies preserve historical memory, reinforce shared values, and maintain cultural continuity. They serve not only as days of celebration and rest but also as symbolic representations of collective identity and social cohesion. This article examines the role of national holidays in shaping cultural identity in English and Kyrgyz societies. Rather than focusing solely on descriptive comparisons, the study adopts a cultural and sociological perspective, analyzing how holidays function as tools of identity construction, intergenerational transmission, and social integration. The research demonstrates that English holidays emphasize historical

consciousness, institutional stability, and national remembrance, while Kyrgyz holidays prioritize communal unity, harmony with nature, and the preservation of nomadic traditions. Despite differences in historical development, religion, and lifestyle, both cultures rely on holidays as essential means of sustaining cultural identity in the context of globalization and modernization.

Cultural identity is a complex and dynamic phenomenon shaped by shared history, language, traditions, values, and collective experiences. One of the most visible and influential ways in which cultural identity is expressed and reinforced is through national holidays. These special occasions provide societies with structured moments to reflect on their past, celebrate their present, and articulate their collective aspirations for the future. Through rituals, symbols, and shared practices, holidays create a sense of belonging and continuity among members of a community.

In the modern world, where globalization increasingly blurs cultural boundaries, the preservation of national identity has become an important issue. Holidays serve as cultural anchors that help societies maintain their distinctiveness while adapting to global influences. England and Kyrgyzstan offer particularly interesting cases for comparative analysis due to their contrasting historical trajectories, religious backgrounds, and cultural foundations.

England represents a culture shaped by centuries of settled life, Christian tradition, and strong political institutions, while Kyrgyz culture developed primarily within a nomadic context characterized by close interaction with nature, oral traditions, and communal social structures. This article explores how national holidays in these two cultures contribute to the formation and preservation of cultural identity, highlighting both shared functions and culturally specific expressions.

The relationship between holidays and cultural identity has been widely discussed in anthropology, sociology, and cultural studies. Scholars argue that

holidays function as “collective rituals” that reinforce social norms and shared meanings. Émile Durkheim emphasized that collective celebrations strengthen social solidarity by bringing individuals together in a shared emotional experience. Similarly, Victor Turner viewed rituals and festivals as moments of “*communitas*,” during which social bonds are renewed.

From a cultural perspective, holidays act as symbolic systems that communicate values, beliefs, and historical narratives. National holidays, in particular, play a crucial role in constructing national identity by highlighting significant historical events, religious beliefs, and cultural ideals. They often involve carefully structured rituals that reinforce dominant cultural narratives and legitimize social institutions.

In both English and Kyrgyz societies, holidays function as symbolic spaces where identity is performed and reaffirmed. However, the content of these symbols and the forms of celebration vary significantly, reflecting each culture’s unique historical experience and worldview.

Holidays are deeply symbolic social practices that transform abstract ideas such as identity, history, and values into concrete experiences. Symbols associated with holidays—such as flags, traditional clothing, food, music, and rituals—play a central role in shaping collective consciousness. These symbols allow individuals to emotionally connect with their cultural heritage and feel part of a larger social whole.

In English culture, holiday symbols often emphasize historical continuity and institutional legitimacy. Ceremonial events, official speeches, and national symbols reinforce respect for tradition and authority. Public rituals are often formalized and regulated, reflecting broader cultural values such as order, discipline, and stability.

In Kyrgyz culture, holiday symbols are more closely connected to everyday life and natural surroundings. The yurt, traditional clothing, national cuisine, and folk

games serve as powerful representations of nomadic heritage. These symbols emphasize values such as hospitality, mutual support, and harmony with nature, which are central to Kyrgyz cultural identity.

English holidays play an important role in reinforcing national identity by emphasizing historical memory, institutional continuity, and shared moral values. Many English holidays are closely tied to Christianity, the monarchy, and key historical events, reflecting the nation's long political and religious history.

Religious holidays such as Christmas and Easter reinforce Christian moral values while emphasizing family unity and charity. At the same time, secular holidays such as Remembrance Day focus on national memory and collective responsibility. The act of remembering fallen soldiers reinforces values of sacrifice, loyalty, and national unity.

The structured and ceremonial nature of English holidays reflects a broader cultural emphasis on order and tradition. Public commemorations often involve official institutions such as the church, the monarchy, and the state, reinforcing their symbolic authority. Through participation in these holidays, individuals reaffirm their connection to national history and shared cultural values.

Kyrgyz holidays play a crucial role in preserving cultural identity by maintaining strong connections to nomadic traditions, seasonal cycles, and communal values. Unlike many English holidays, Kyrgyz celebrations are deeply rooted in the natural environment and reflect an ancient worldview in which human life is closely connected to nature.

Nooruz, celebrated on the spring equinox, is one of the most significant holidays in Kyrgyz culture. It symbolizes renewal, balance, and harmony between humans and nature. Traditional food preparation, folk games, and collective rituals during Nooruz reinforce social bonds and cultural continuity.

Kyrgyz holidays are typically communal in nature, emphasizing participation rather than observation. These celebrations strengthen interpersonal relationships and promote values such as hospitality, cooperation, and respect for elders. Through these practices, cultural knowledge is transmitted informally and naturally across generations.

Religion has played a significant role in shaping holidays in both English and Kyrgyz societies, though in different ways. In England, Christianity has historically influenced the calendar of holidays, moral values, and social rituals. Church services, religious symbolism, and biblical narratives remain central to major celebrations.

In Kyrgyz culture, Islam has influenced religious holidays such as Orozo Ait and Kurban Ait, which emphasize charity, forgiveness, and social responsibility. However, these Islamic holidays coexist with pre-Islamic traditions rooted in nomadic culture, creating a unique cultural synthesis.

This coexistence demonstrates the adaptability of cultural identity and highlights how holidays can integrate multiple layers of historical and religious influence.

One of the most important social functions of holidays is their role in transmitting cultural values from one generation to the next. Through active participation in holiday rituals, children learn about their cultural heritage, social norms, and collective history in an engaging and meaningful way.

In England, schools and public institutions often support this process through educational programs, ceremonies, and commemorative events. This formalized approach reflects the institutional nature of English society.

In Kyrgyz culture, intergenerational transmission occurs primarily within families and communities. Elders play a central role in explaining traditions, sharing

stories, and guiding younger participants. This oral and experiential method strengthens emotional connections to cultural heritage.

Globalization has had a profound and multifaceted impact on holiday practices in both English and Kyrgyz cultures, influencing not only how these occasions are celebrated but also how they are perceived and understood by the broader society. The increasing reach of global media, the rise of international tourism, and the pervasive forces of commercialization have introduced new elements and practices that were previously absent from traditional holiday celebrations. In England, for example, widely celebrated holidays such as Christmas have become highly commercialized, with an emphasis on consumerism, advertising, and gift-giving that, in some cases, can overshadow their original spiritual and religious significance. Similarly, other holidays, including Easter and Remembrance Day, have experienced shifts in public engagement due to changing social norms, economic pressures, and the influence of popular culture.

In Kyrgyzstan, globalization has also brought notable transformations to traditional holidays. Modern elements such as public concerts, large-scale digital media coverage, televised performances, and state-organized festivities are increasingly incorporated into celebrations like Nooruz and Orozo Ait. While these developments reflect the integration of contemporary technology and societal changes, they also illustrate the remarkable cultural flexibility and resilience of Kyrgyz traditions. Communities are able to adapt their rituals and ceremonies to accommodate new forms of participation, such as social media sharing, while still preserving the core symbolic meanings of renewal, communal unity, and respect for nature that define these holidays.

Importantly, rather than leading to the disappearance or dilution of traditional practices, globalization has prompted holidays to evolve, creating hybrid forms that blend modern innovations with time-honored customs. This dynamic

adaptation allows societies to maintain the relevance of their cultural traditions in a rapidly changing world, ensuring that holidays continue to fulfill their essential functions of reinforcing social cohesion, transmitting values across generations, and sustaining a sense of shared identity. In this way, both English and Kyrgyz societies demonstrate how cultural heritage can be preserved even amid global pressures, highlighting the enduring significance of holidays as both social and cultural institutions.

The comparative analysis reveals that, although English and Kyrgyz holidays differ significantly in their forms, symbolic meanings, and historical origins, they nonetheless share fundamental social and cultural functions that are central to the cohesion and continuity of their respective societies. In both cultures, holidays serve as vital mechanisms through which communities come together to celebrate shared values, commemorate important events, and collectively reaffirm their sense of identity. Beyond mere festive occasions, these celebrations act as instruments of social cohesion, providing opportunities for family members, neighbors, and communities to interact, cooperate, and reinforce bonds that strengthen the fabric of society. Moreover, holidays function as repositories of historical memory, allowing societies to remember and transmit key narratives, traditions, and lessons from the past to younger generations, ensuring that cultural knowledge and moral principles are not lost over time.

The differences between English and Kyrgyz holidays, however, reflect the broader cultural orientations and historical trajectories of each society. In England, holidays are often structured around formal ceremonies, institutional rituals, and national commemoration, emphasizing continuity with established political, religious, and social institutions. By contrast, Kyrgyz holidays tend to prioritize communal participation, collective celebration, and a close relationship with the natural environment, reflecting the nomadic roots and pastoral lifestyle of the Kyrgyz people. These distinctions underscore the diversity of cultural expression and the ways in which historical context shapes social practices, yet they

simultaneously highlight the universality of holidays as social institutions. Regardless of cultural and historical differences, holidays in both societies perform the critical function of uniting communities, fostering a sense of belonging, and providing frameworks for the preservation and transmission of cultural identity across generations.

In conclusion, national holidays function as essential cultural mechanisms through which both English and Kyrgyz societies construct, express, and preserve their cultural identities. Although these two cultures differ considerably in terms of historical development, religious traditions, social organization, and ways of life, their holidays fulfill remarkably similar social and cultural roles. In both contexts, holidays serve as moments of collective participation that strengthen social cohesion, reinforce a shared sense of belonging, and connect individuals to their national history and cultural heritage. Through rituals, symbols, and communal practices, holidays enable societies to transmit fundamental values, moral principles, and cultural norms from one generation to the next, thereby ensuring cultural continuity over time.

Furthermore, the comparative analysis demonstrates that holidays act as dynamic cultural institutions capable of adapting to changing social conditions while preserving their core meanings. In the context of globalization, where cultural homogenization poses challenges to national traditions, holidays provide a stable framework for maintaining cultural distinctiveness. Understanding the role of holidays in cultural identity formation therefore contributes to deeper intercultural awareness, tolerance, and mutual respect between different societies. Such understanding is particularly important in an increasingly interconnected world, as it promotes cultural dialogue, encourages appreciation of diversity, and supports the preservation of unique cultural traditions while fostering meaningful intercultural communication and cooperation.

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