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Stratification Processes in Uzbek Society: General and Specific

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Abstract---The stratification processes taking place in the newly independent states of the post-Soviet space have both common starting principles and special tendencies. Under the conditions of market reforms, stratification processes are deepening. Based on a comparative analysis of various approaches, the author identified nine types of stratification systems and their general historical nature. A summary description of the specifics of each of them is provided. As a special feature, the article shows the division of Uzbek society into various social strata and strata according to their status indicators.

Keywords---classes, middle class, social strata, social stratification, status indicators, strata, stratification systems.

Introduction

As you know, the theories of social stratification, that is, social stratification of society within the framework of sociological science were formed in the twentieth century. Today this direction has become an important fundamental problem of sociology. In this regard, it requires a comprehensive study of not only the complex processes of social stratification but also the dynamics of the social structure of the population based on specific sociological materials. In general, the problems associated with the global state of factors of social stratification in modern conditions are studied in the world in various aspects: the role of various social estates (classes) in the process of stratification and their influence on the level of social mobility; the importance of sociocultural factors in the formation of the middle class; social problems of innovation and the creation of new jobs as a factor in improving the living standards of the population. At the same time, it seems to us, the specificity of the processes of stratification in the countries of the post-Soviet space, including Uzbekistan, has not yet been sufficiently studied.

First of all, it should be noted that a classic example of a stratification approach can be seen in the book by Beruni "Relics of ancient peoples" ([Beruniy, 1968](#)), in the work of Narshakhi "History of Bukhara" ([Dresden, 1996](#)), and many other sources. Abu Raikhan Beruni classifies the five thousand-year histories of the peoples of the world based on a dynastic approach. The essence of the social processes described in such invaluable works is an example of the oriental stratification approach. We can also observe the classification of communities, individuals, industries.

There is no particular need to note the role in the development and development of various concepts of social stratification of such foreign classics of sociology as M. Weber, P. Sorokin, T. Parsons, D. Bell, R. Bendix, S. Lipset, R. Merton, G. Simmel, A. Giddens and others. In the works of Russian scientists such as M. Rutkevich, T. Zaslavskaya, O. Radaev, O. Shkaratan, V. Yadov and others, complex problems of both the social structure of society in general and issues of social stratification, in particular, are analyzed. In connection with the latter, it should be noted that the study of the degree of modernization of social stratification in the process of transformation of society is observed primarily in empirical studies conducted under the leadership of Z. Golenkova, T. Zaslavskaya, A. Balabanov, K. Rimashevskaya and others ([Radaev, 1995](#); [Tikhonova, 1999](#); [Golenkova, 2003](#)). Also, within the framework of these studies, such issues as the labor market, employment, real estate stratification, consumer orientations, deepening differences in lifestyles, as well as ethnic and gender stratification, etc. were analyzed.

There are many theories and methodological foundations of stratification processes in modern societies. When analyzing the concept of "stratification", one can refer to its historical and modern concepts, which study the statics and dynamics of stratification systems, their reflection in the life of society. Also, there is an analysis of the most important concepts associated with social stratification - social inequality; social mobility, social status, etc. As you know, the processes of stratification in modern societies are characterized by the emergence of new social strata and their mobility. In general, the study of stratification processes is important for diagnosing the state of social processes, such as the formation of strata in society, internal and external mobility in these strata. At the same time, the study of aspects of stratification processes associated with social mobility, social movements in general, allows us to understand the state and structure of social strata ([Zakirov et al., 2021](#); [Dahiya & Chaudhary, 2016](#); [Chica et al., 2017](#)). In turn, the study of the dynamics of stratification processes provides an opportunity for a clear diagnosis of the structural content and scale of social changes in society.

The term "stratum" is borrowed by sociology from geology, and the concept "stratification" comes from the Latin word "stratum" and is expressed by the concept of "stratum" (layer). For comparison, the following example can be cited: in natural conditions, the geological layers of the earth's crust overlap each other, the layer below is under the influence (pressure) of the upper layer, and the boundaries between the layers practically remain unchanged, that is, the transition from one layer to another does not observe, especially from below. In society, however, different social strata and groups are internally and mutually

mobile, and their position and place in the social hierarchy (status) of society, that is, their social status, often change. In a general sense, social stratification refers to the process of dividing society into different classes, strata and strata. In particular, the doctrine of functionalism, which originates from Durkheim, includes the phenomenon of social inequality, which is a consequence of the division of labor (Groce & Hoodkinson, 2019; Ponomarenko et al., 2021). According to this doctrine, mechanical and organic forms of the division of labor are distinguished, the first of which covers physical, gender, and age differences between people, the second - the differences that arise in the process of obtaining an education, acquiring a profession.

Accordingly, certain types of social inequality can occur in different periods and they can be restored. In this sense, the nature of social stratification and the way it is established is called the stratification system of society. An analysis of the literature on our topic provides a basis for the fact that the main systems of stratification about the history of mankind are as follows: a) the caste system; b) slavery; c) class system. Some of them remained in distant history, and some are still observed. Social space is always multidimensional and hierarchical. In a complex system of social relations, each social group, layer, and class occupies a certain place, enters into various relations with other social subjects. One social group is superior or inferior to another in terms of its wealth, income, prestige (often in accession to political power). In this sense, a certain social stratum (stratum) is a conditional group, the social status of which depends on another group (Buchmann & Park, 2009; Xiao & Tong, 2012; Nyandra et al., 2018). The current processes of stratification are manifested in the process of social inequality, in the fact that one group is located above or below another, and at the same time, there is a transition from one group to another in the processes of social mobility.

In democratic and legal states, all citizens, regardless of social status and origin, have equal legal rights. But in real life, not all social groups can be equal. Inequality leads to the superiority of one class over another, the domination of one class over another, and even the emergence of conflicts between different classes, but also creates competition that encourages attempts to move to a higher class in terms of social status. Naturally, society needs to stimulate the activity of its individuals, their desire for social growth. To increase the activity of individuals, various privileges are provided for different professions and types of activity. It seems that when analyzing the tendencies of social stratification, it is legitimate to ask the following questions: "What are the very dynamics of social strata in society?" "Is it possible to optimize such processes, that is, are there principles of rational impact on these processes?"

The sociological literature describes the general criteria for the types of stratification systems, their specific features, and characteristics. As a result of a comparative analysis of various approaches, we were able to identify 9 types of stratification systems: natural-genetic (physical-genetic) form of social stratification; slavery; caste system; system of strata of the population; etacritic; social and professional; cultural and symbolic; cultural and normative. Below is a general description of these systems.

- The stratification of natural-hereditary (natural-genetic) type is based on natural, socio-demographic characteristics. In this case, people differ in gender, age, physical characteristics - strength, appearance, dexterity. People with disabilities, the weak and the sick occupy a lower social status than those who are energetic and healthy. Classification based on natural qualities is strengthened by tradition and norms. Although this stratification system is typical of a primitive system, it still exists in various forms in the form of rudiments. In particular, in the farming and livestock communities, there was an urgent need for strong, indefatigable male adolescents who were considered the guarantors of family well-being. In ancient Sparta, physically mature warriors were valued. In medieval knights, along with moral qualities, physical strength was highly valued. In general, among many peoples who lived in different periods of historical time, persons with military combat and physical training held a high position.
- In societies based on slavery, stratification was based not on direct physical superiority with the use of force, but on military-legal coercion. Some social groups were deprived of all rights and property, which, in turn, became the private property of another class. This situation has been passed down from generation to generation. However, slavery took different historical forms. In the ancient world, slavery existed in the classical form in Greece, where the number of slaves sometimes exceeded the number of free citizens. In medieval China, those who could not raise a child were sold into slavery. In ancient Russia, injustice about the so-called "slaves" was similar to injustice about slaves. In the United States, slavery was abolished only during the Civil War of 1861-1865. So, of the first seven US presidents, only father Adams and son Adams did not keep slaves, and all the rest had black servants in their homes (1). The use of prisoners and deportees during the Second World War as slaves can also be attributed to this system of stratification.
- The caste form of the stratification system ("caste" means "family" in Portuguese) is a phenomenon that mainly refers to India, partly to Nepal and Sri Lanka. Hindus use the words varna and jati to describe the stratification in their societies, and the social stratification sanctified in Hinduism is distinguished by four varnas: brahmana, kshatriya, vaisi, and sudra (Bart, 2012). Also, the French researcher Levi Strauss found cases of caste stratification among the Mbaya-Guaikuru tribe, who lived in Brazil and Paraguay. The caste system served as the structural organization of social life.
- Social estates were legally separated from each other, certain obligations were imposed on them, but their dependence on these obligations also increased. Social estates went down in history as a system of stratification that flourished in medieval Europe. The feudal classes included several strata with different rights and responsibilities. Aristocrats and nobles made up one layer, priests another. The "third stratum" included free peasants, merchants, artisans, artists, etc. Unlike castes, mixed marriages between these strata were not prohibited, individual mobility (changing one's stratum) was allowed. While in Europe they were grouped by origin, in traditional societies such as China and Japan, this stratification was ethnic.

- A special type of social stratification is the class system, which in the recent past was opposed by many sociologists to the system of stratification. The division of society into classes means a special form of social stratification. In its pure form, class stratification practically does not exist. Some experts point to the United States as an exception (Radaev & Shkaratan, 1996). In Western European countries, with the development of capitalism, class division is a priority, but from a historical point of view, earlier layers also existed to a certain extent, especially the white bone and the nobility.
- In the so-called system of cultural-normative stratification, stratification occurs due to the authority of special groups or individuals who acquire through their efforts. Social division occurs through many features, such as: the attitude of a given group or individual to physical and mental work, behavior, language culture, etc. Thus, in the West, a kind of gentleman's delicacy was formed. Priests, in turn, have such qualities as humility and modesty, and noble aristocrats - a penchant for fun, ideological leaders possessed strong eloquence. The listed qualities ensured a high social status, becoming the normative goal of these social groups.
- The system of cultural-symbolic stratification refers to the stratification of society, taking into account access to information of social significance, especially related to the interpretation of the scriptures. In all periods and in all nations, some people made a statement that they were establishing contact with supernatural forces and that they could speak the highest truth, in the interests of "the common good." Russian scientists who introduced the concept of a "cultural-symbolic system" argue that pre-industrial societies are characterized by theocratic manipulation, industrial ones - partocratic manipulation, and post-industrial societies - technocratic manipulation (Radaev & Shkaratan, 1996).
- In the system of social and professional stratification, social groups are located in the system of stratification by occupation, as well as by the content and working conditions. The key role in this is played by: high qualifications, work experience, skills and information, diplomas, and certificates confirming the level of qualifications and education.
- In the etocratic system of stratification (from the French "state power") stratification is carried out according to the degree of a certain group in proximity to the state structure. The level of material well-being, lifestyle, and prestige of a particular social group is assessed primarily based on various demographic, religious, or cultural differences (Radaev, 1995).

In this system, the scale and nature of the stratification are determined by the state bureaucracy. In a statocratic system, one who is close to the layer of officials becomes the owner of additional privileges and benefits. The more authoritarian the government, the stronger the statocratic system. In ancient times, statocratic systems were observed in China, India, Cambodia, and even in Egypt and Peru. In the 20th century, most societies in socialist countries had a pronounced statocratic system (Radaev & Shkaratan, 1992). Based on the classification of the above systems of stratification, as well as a comparison of their main parameters, it is possible to cite their norms regulating social differences (Table 1).

Table 1
Specificity of various stratification systems

Stratification type	main parameters	The norms of consolidating the differences
Naturally hereditary	Gender, age, physical characteristics	Physical coercion, customs
Slavery	Civil rights and property relations	Military coercion, the right to slavery
Caste system	Religious tradition, religious-ethnic view of the division of labor	Religious tradition, national identity
Social estates	Obligations to the state	Legal strengthening
Class	Amount of income and property	Market relations
Cultural-normative	Ethical standards, lifestyle	Spirituality, imitation
Cultural-symbolic	Religious knowledge	Religious, scientific, ideological superiority
Socio-professional	Type of education and qualifications	Certificate of education
Etakratic	Place in the hierarchy of power	Military-political domination

At the same time, the forms of stratification systems cannot be limited only to the listed types, since social strata can also be classified based on many other factors. In particular, P. Sorokin noted that social space is multidimensional, in which stratification can be based on various criteria, including citizenship, nationality, occupation, economic status, and religious affiliation (Sorokin, 1925). T. Parsons argued that in the social space, social strata are divided into upper, lower, and middle groups, respectively (Sorokin, 1994). Here it is necessary to briefly consider the issues of analyzing the patterns and criteria of social stratification of the countries of the post-Soviet space. Sociologists here distinguish four existing social strata (strata): a) upper b) middle; c) basic; d) lower. The fifth layer includes "social sediment", that is, the lowest category that has lost its social status.

The upper layer, according to them, is a very thin layer that covers the upper groups of the elite of society, with a high level of material status and economic potential. The founders of this group pursue different interests and goals, but they are united by their closeness to power. The middle stratum is a relatively wide stratum, which includes representatives of social groups well adapted to the new socio-economic conditions - medium and small entrepreneurs, managers, highly qualified specialists, heads of local authorities, as well as officers. The main (basic) stratum, which constitutes a large part of society, includes the intelligentsia (engineers, teachers, doctors, etc.), employees (semi-intelligentsia), trade and service workers (Needell & Barth, 1998; Muharam et al., 2014). Representatives of this stratum have sufficient professional qualities and labor potential and try not to change the current social situation, but, on the contrary, consider the best solution to adapt to it and maintain their social status.

The lower strata (strata) of society manifest themselves not as active participants in socio-economic innovations in the current transformation processes, but as

victims of social changes. They are distinguished by low average labor potential, lack of professional skills: among them, there are refugees, unemployed, forced migrants. Studies show that this stratum has a low level of education and does not have a permanent job, which leads to low personal and family incomes. "Social suck" is a layer of social inferiority, which includes those who are cut off from the "big society" and join various criminal and semi-criminal groups, in particular, criminals, drug addicts, drunkards, prostitutes, beggars, etc.

Only a quarter (25%) of the socially active population of the countries of the post-Soviet space (now the CIS) belongs to the upper and middle strata. For comparison: in countries with developed democracies, the majority of the population (70-75%) belongs to the middle and basic classes, has a high social status and is a stabilizing force in society. In this regard, the tendencies of the formation of the middle class are of interest. In general, the most important feature of the so-called "middle class" is the filling of the society among the rich and the poor, highly educated and uneducated, with power and without any power.

From the point of view of the theory of social stratification, the concept of the "middle class" is somewhat abstract and relative. It does not consist of a particular social stratum, class, or group, but as if sums them all up. The middle class consists of different social groups and strata with different worldviews, cultural levels, political inclinations, and aspirations ([Timpka et al., 2006](#); [Lorenzoni et al., 2004](#)). The more developed a society is, the more socially diverse the middle class becomes, which can be called a dynamic unit of social diversity. It is constantly changing and enriches its roster at the expense of newcomers. Some successful and talented middle-class people acquire the opportunity to rise to a higher position in society and move to the upper class. For example, people like Bill Gates or Elon Musk are turning into even the richest people in the world.

It is known that when social stratification is too strong when conflicts arise between groups and strata, this threatens the stability of any society, intensifies protest moods. In countries where democratic traditions are not deeply rooted and living standards are relatively low, the risk is high. This circumstance can be somewhat dangerous for democratically developed countries. Because the radical parties that support radical changes in the elections receive more votes, and chauvinism and nationalist tendencies in the public consciousness become the cause of the destabilization of society. But even in the case of increasing social stratification in postindustrial and postmodern societies, class antagonisms do not reach the level of uncompromising conflicts. The reason for this is primarily related to the middle class. In postindustrial society, the entire middle class is relatively dominant, accounting for 55 to 70% of the population. Most of the working class earns high enough wages to meet the needs of their families, and most people also earn extra income from stocks and other securities. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of skilled workers, managers, engineers, and technicians who will be in high-paying jobs ([Chan & Goldthorpe, 2007](#); [Xiang & Shen, 2009](#)). The numerical superiority of the middle class, the improvement of the living conditions of the post-industrial society provide general stability. Under such conditions, the natural social-class basis of the opposition ideology, which encourages people to the class struggle, becomes very narrow.

In the newly independent states of the post-Soviet space, the reforms carried out to democratize society have led to the removal of obsolete stratification barriers and created opportunities for social freedom. As a result, the level of social mobility of citizens began to increase. In particular, in recent years, the process of revitalization of stratification changes against the background of new realities of social life has been taking place in Uzbek society. The attitude towards private property has changed, positive changes are taking place in the political power and administration, and the judicial system.

In general, the presence in different people of such indicators as a profession, age, gender, educational level, economic status, prestige, power, etc., lead to stratification even within the same classes. In this context, the importance of education, professional excellence, and entrepreneurship is growing. The collapse of the administrative command system and the strengthening of market relations increased the social activity of members of society. It also gave a significant impetus to strengthening the link between urban and rural, mental and manual labor ([Shaimanova, 2010](#)). People at the community level got the opportunity to improve their position in the social structure of society. The composition of social groups, especially those employed in the national economy, has been optimized. The level of provision of the population with housing, types of home services, and wages have become the operating factors influencing the structure of social employment.

Uzbekistan also has meritocratic mobility based on individual merit or a person's ability. In particular, the appointment of young people aged 23-30 to high positions (deputy ministers, university rectors, etc.) at the initiative of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev is a sign that high-level groups of talented people are bringing new, modern elements into the life of society. and contribute to the formation of the elite of the Uzbek society. The main factor is the indicator of individual abilities, i.e. meritocracy. After all, high intelligence, abilities, talent are special conditions for the development of society. Along with significant changes in the industry, agriculture, capital construction, transport, and communication systems and services, it is planned to provide comprehensive assistance to farms. In particular, it provides for the allocation of state loans for individual construction, improves the social infrastructure of agriculture through the introduction of a preferential tax system.

One of the newly formed strata of society with high social status is the social stratum of farmers. Farms have established themselves in world practice as an effective form of ownership, appropriation and equity participation in the property. The development of farms has become one of the priority directions of state policy. Their number is growing steadily, and their share in GDP is increasing. Additional land is allocated to diversified farms that use land more efficiently and produce bountiful harvests. What are the new trends in the stratification of society in our society? Are the issues of optimizing relations between different strata (strata) relevant in terms of social stability? This is a matter of enormous social significance ([Gorshkov & Tikhonova, 2006](#); [Mare, 2014](#); [Heley, 2010](#)). The President of Uzbekistan himself noted: "It is not a secret for anyone that the majority of the local population, especially in the villages, does not have sufficient sources of income. As in any other country, we have low-

income segments of the population. According to various estimates, there is about 12-15 percent of them. These are big numbers. We are talking about considerable numbers, about 4-5 million people".

Thus, the forecast of the actual processes of stratification in the country, the composition of the stratification processes and their transformational tendencies is of great scientific and practical importance. The need to disclose the objective and subjective factors of changes occurring in the social life of representatives of various segments of the population in this way is beyond doubt. It is also important to define the spiritual and moral world of social strata and groups, their social mood in the context of public opinion. In this regard, it is advisable to single out two important areas of reform to optimize the ongoing processes of social stratification in the life of society in Uzbekistan: a) the policy of social protection of vulnerable groups of the population; b) measures to form a middle class.

Regarding the first direction, it should be noted that the measures taken prevented the division of the population into extremely poor and extremely wealthy strata. According to foreign experts, in 1991, 75% of the population of Uzbekistan lived below the poverty line, compared with 44.5% in 1994, 31.1% in 1996, 28.7% in 1998, 25 , 2% - in 2000, 21.3% - in 2002 and 20.5% -% in 2003 (Khasanov, 2009). What is the role of socio-economic factors (real incomes of the population, availability of quality education and health care, employment, availability of jobs, prestige of the profession) in optimizing the processes of social stratification by positively solving the social problems of the population by state structures? What is the influence of socio-cultural factors (way of thinking, the standard of living, intensification of urbanization processes, adaptation to urban life of Uzbeks, etc.) on the state of stratification processes in Uzbekistan?

Are social policy measures sufficient in the formation of the middle layer of entrepreneurs and businessmen in the country, enhancing their role in revitalizing small business and social initiatives through the implementation of socio-legal (variety of property, inviolability of private property), economic (creation of business incubators, coworking centers), financial (preferential taxes) and social (creation of many new jobs in the regions) programs? The revitalization and rapid development of small business and social initiatives presuppose modern components of social mobility of citizens, including youth in employment, urbanization, and education. This requires an increase in the role of private organizations in the field of employment, the organization of public works, and the intensification of external migration. In recent years, domestic scientists and specialists have been working on concepts that characterize the standard of living of the population, in particular, a method is being developed for determining the indicators of the "consumer basket", as well as the concept of "poverty line", which expresses the criteria for a living wage.

However, today is the time to create and improve the system of social guarantees, based not only on the provision of financial assistance by the state to vulnerable groups of the population but also on stimulating the initiative, aspiration, and responsibility of the majority of members of society. It is the formation of a class of owners that largely depends on the expansion of investment activity, support

for small and medium-sized businesses, stabilization of the economy, and efforts to solve employment problems. The market economy must first of all be supported by the state. At the same time, the state itself must support the market, primarily the market for new ideas, technologies, and material goods. The owner class is not just the owner of particular real estate property, land, small business, or manufacturer. This is, first of all, the owner of intellectual property, a developer of technologies and know-how based on their own ideas. Over the past five years, Uzbekistan has created wide opportunities for entrepreneurship, improved the legal framework for small and medium-sized businesses by developing the stock market and attracting investments, as well as accelerated privatization. We can say that thanks to these transformations, the process of the formation of the middle class, which forms the backbone of civil society, has also accelerated (Khasanov, 2009).

On this basis, social policies aimed at creating a strong middle class should not harm economic efficiency on the one hand and the other, and should not contribute to deepening the differences between high-income and low-income groups on the other. As shown by the results of a study by the authors on the study of stratification processes taking place in the regions of the country (September 2018 - January 2019 with the participation of 261 social experts), trends in this area of social life have some analogies in other developing countries. Thus, the main factors dividing society into stratification differences are material security (50%) and social status (44%). The third important factor is the level of education. This answer received 33% of the votes, which means that getting higher education among the population can be seen as an opportunity to improve social status, especially for the upper class. However, this fact must be considered as negative, since the division of society according to the level of education should not pose obstacles for representatives of low-income strata of society, which ultimately lead to the fact that the nation will not be fully literate. In this sense, the efforts of the government of Uzbekistan to increase the share of citizens with higher education to 40% of graduates of secondary schools in recent years should be taken as a timely measure.

It should also be noted that of the three outlined factors, the level of education is assessed by experts less (more than 10%) than the level of professional potential (24%), and the assessment of the division of labor as a factor of stratification is 22%. This indicates that, although the demand for highly educated personnel in the regions is quite high, their professional potential and skills have faded into the background. This fact, in turn, leads to the idea that a group of people with a corresponding higher education has a clear advantage over other groups in the regions. As a result, young people who are unable to respond to the above factors of social reality may eventually fall into the lower strata with corresponding social consequences (unemployment, increased migration, etc.).

The process of population stratification continues at a moderate pace. So, according to 63% of respondents, the speed of this process is moderate, according to 19% - slow, according to 15% - accelerated. Against the background of general trends, one can also note the peculiarity that has the force of inertia and the remnants of the old, "non-market" stratification left over from the old system, a new type of social stratification is emerging. Even though the layer of the rich

does not particularly show themselves. It can only be assumed that the probability of an increase in stratification will accelerate over time. The issue of conflict between different strata is also important. In particular, the dependence of the position of the poor on the activities of the rich (the relationship between hired workers and employers) comes to the fore, although in the opinion of about half of the respondents, this dependence is moderate. The fact that 18% of the respondents believe that this dependence was much higher means, apparently, the acceleration of the transformation processes themselves in the field of transformation processes. And only a quarter of the respondents (26%) said that the noted moment is weak, which testifies to a dependent mood, when part of the population is still wishful thinking, when it is understood that the situation of the poor is dependent on government agencies. Examples include responses such as “the rich are willing to provide financial assistance to the poor” or “the rich are stingy and closed off”.

In the sphere of interprofessional relations, difficult processes are also going on. Thus, an even greater increase is observed between high-paid and low-paid professions. According to the majority of respondents (34%), it is more than five times. 33% of respondents said that the difference is ten times, and 10% of respondents say that the difference in wages is 20 times. An analysis of the results of an expert survey on the social structure of society from the point of view of stratification into various strata of the population according to their status indicators revealed a multifactorial nature of the processes (Table 2).

It can be assumed that the millennial values of the Uzbek people are also being transformed, according to which the social status of a person was determined by moral criteria, regardless of which class or stratum he belongs to. Today it is becoming clear that people still find it difficult to understand that, in the context of market relations, the division of the population into rich, middle-class, or low-income classes is a natural state for any type of social stratification. This kind of separation is an objective process that stems from the diversity of human potential and the consumption of resources. At the same time, the comprehensive development of some members of society is reflected not in discrimination against others, but the difference in the level of assimilation of the benefits of life. Is all this in disclosing the essence of relationships between different social strata? Is it possible to diagnose the state of social mobility in society and predict the prospects for future social processes? Is the state still called upon to create the necessary opportunities for a dignified life for all citizens?

Table 2
Division of society into various strata and strata according to their status indicators (in%)

Status indicators	I	II	III	IV
Property	Rich 19 %	Middle layer 46 %	bottom layer 21 %	Low-income 14 %
Prestige (social)	Elite 16 %	Middle class 46 %	bottom layer 22 %	Marginals 16 %

Prestige (property)	"Masters of Life"	Managers	Salaried employees	Migrants
	18,5 %	26,6 %	32,5 %	22,8 %
Sphere employment	Government officials	Non-governmental sector employees	Official unemployed	Informal unemployed
	30 %	26 %	21 %	23 %
Profession sphere	Entrepreneurs	Farmers	Small business representatives	Employees of budgetary organizations
	25 %	19 %	24 %	32 %
faith	Believers, performers of religious acts	Believers	Atheists	Believers in non-traditional religions
	39 %	36 %	10 %	15 %
Labor type	"Humanities"	Engineers ("innovators")	Workers	Peasants
	24 %	17 %	35 %	24 %
Kind of activity	Representatives of intellectual labor	Representatives of manual labor	Representatives of creative work	Those who are not employed in public labor (pensioners, unemployed, etc.)
	21,3 %	39,3 %	17,5 %	22,2 %

There is no doubt that the formation of a decent wage system, an increase in real incomes of the population, an increase in the standard of living are important from the point of view of uniting society against the growing spiritual and ideological threats in the era of globalization, preventing possible social conflicts and disputes between different groups, strata, and communities. Such a perspective requires a consistent and systematic study of the processes of stratification.

The scientific substantiation of the prospects for ensuring a prosperous life of citizens is also relevant for researchers, as well as for the authorities to support vulnerable groups of the population. Poverty reduction is a challenge today. It is advisable to introduce the practice of declaring the sources of income of senior government officials, senior officials and their coverage in the media. It is also necessary to create in our country a non-governmental non-profit organization to monitor the living standards of representatives of various professions, the living standards of the population, the size of the consumer basket, the dynamics of the minimum wage, in particular, maintaining the social norm of stratification in society as a whole is becoming important. To increase in the population a sense of greater opportunities through their active actions in society. It is recommended that successful entrepreneurs and members of the business community who run successful businesses be identified and encouraged to highlight their activities in the media, especially television, radio, the press, and the Internet. We believe that to diagnose stratification processes, it is necessary to conduct a population

census in our country. This would contribute to the development of mechanisms for real assessment and forecasting of changes by monitoring these processes. Further, it becomes necessary to develop targeted state programs aimed at forming a middle class, strengthening its main parameters and increasing social activity.

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