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**IMAGE OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION
IN PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS**

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Opposition consciousness exists as a form of political consciousness in every political system [1, c. 11]. It has an abstract, cognitive aspect and includes the subjective aspect of political life. It is a kind of perception of policy, interests and positions by policy actors. The level of openness and closedness of political consciousness depends on the political climate - the conditions created by the political regime. It can be a reflection of a healthy and moderate opposition, or it can be an irreconcilable and radical opposition. Opposition consciousness is formed as a result of the influence of political space and political environment on people's minds. A situation in which public dissatisfaction and non-realization of the interests of a section of society contributes to the formation of opposition consciousness. Opposition consciousness is a set of feelings, desires, imagination, ideas and a set of values that are specific to a particular group of people and have the potential to mobilize them. Opposition consciousness can be at the surface there are individual and group. At the grassroots level, the effectiveness of the existing government will cease to exist, and there will be a change of elite.

Opposition consciousness is formalized by the existence of opposition in society. This is a natural and positive human right, as such an ideological position is guaranteed by the democratic state to the citizen. This type of public consciousness can exist only in societies where freedom of speech, will, and pluralism are not persecuted by the state. Opposition consciousness is the opposition's perception, which is manifested by the masses at all levels and is always associated with political activity and participation.

In the context of Tajikistan's fledgling democracy, the opposition is an important pillar of political life. Without it, a democratic society is inconceivable. In this connection, its existence is required in the domestic society. The first step in the existence of the opposition must be the opposition consciousness, but without the opposition there can be no concept of opposition. It is necessary to create a fundamental basis for the formation of this phenomenon. However, we faced a number of obstacles in the process of democratization, which led to a negative image of the opposition in the public mind. First of all, this "opposition as a subject of controversy" has not yet been expelled from the public consciousness. This has led to a negative perception of the opposition in society. In order to disinfect it, it is necessary to form public opinion at a new level and quality that can reflect the positive image of the opposition. As a first step, it should be implemented among young people, as it is a key, mobile and future segment of society. In connection with this article, a survey was conducted to get acquainted with political moods, views and opinions, their attitudes to society, the

political process, their position in society, which in general is a reflection of the opposition consciousness and political culture. The purpose of the survey was to get acquainted with the level of political knowledge, opposition consciousness and political culture of young people, based on which a decision was made and a prediction was made [2, c. 343].

The first thing that has received the most attention is the public perception of the opposition. That is, how the phenomenon of opposition is reflected in the public consciousness, or whether they have formed an alternative model for the understanding of this phenomenon, or whether it is brought closer to another concept, identified and enlightened, or not.

Political life, with all its political events and phenomena, has contributed to the formation of public opinion about the opposition. Past and present political events have made a significant contribution to shaping public perceptions of the opposition. Concepts close to opposition - opposition, opponent, political friend and political enemy - have different status in the public mind. Each has its own set of factors in recognizing the opposition. However, this is not a simple matter, and it is the reason for the opposition's actions. Public perception of the opposition is the beginning of a political-opposition action.

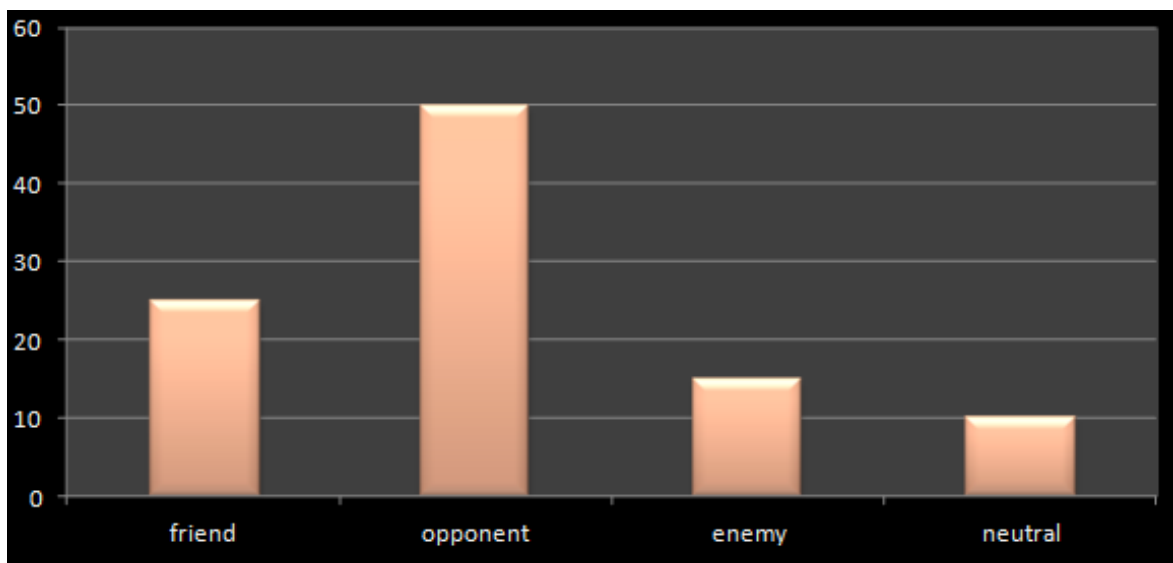


Diagram №1. Public understanding of the opposition

1. Opposition as a political friend, which existed in the form of a “political friend who makes up for shortcomings”, was agreed upon by 25% of respondents;
2. Opposition as a political opponent, expressed in the form of a “political opponent who is always critical”, was supported by 50% of respondents;
3. Opposition - "political enemy", 15% of respondents agreed;
4. The rest of the respondents were neutral in their definition of the opposition.

It turned out that the opposition was perceived among young people as a “political opponent”. There are other forms of understanding, but this is more important.

In the next section, we will examine which political party is the opposition from the people's point of view. The list of nominated political parties was as follows: Communist Party of Tajikistan (CPT), Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan (IRPT, forbidden in Tajikistan), Agrarian Party, Social Democratic Party (SDPT), Party of Economic Reforms, Socialist Party, Democratic Party (DPT), The People's Democratic Party (PDPT), the political party mentioned in the next picture, is, from the point of view of the opposition, an opposition party [2, c. 343].

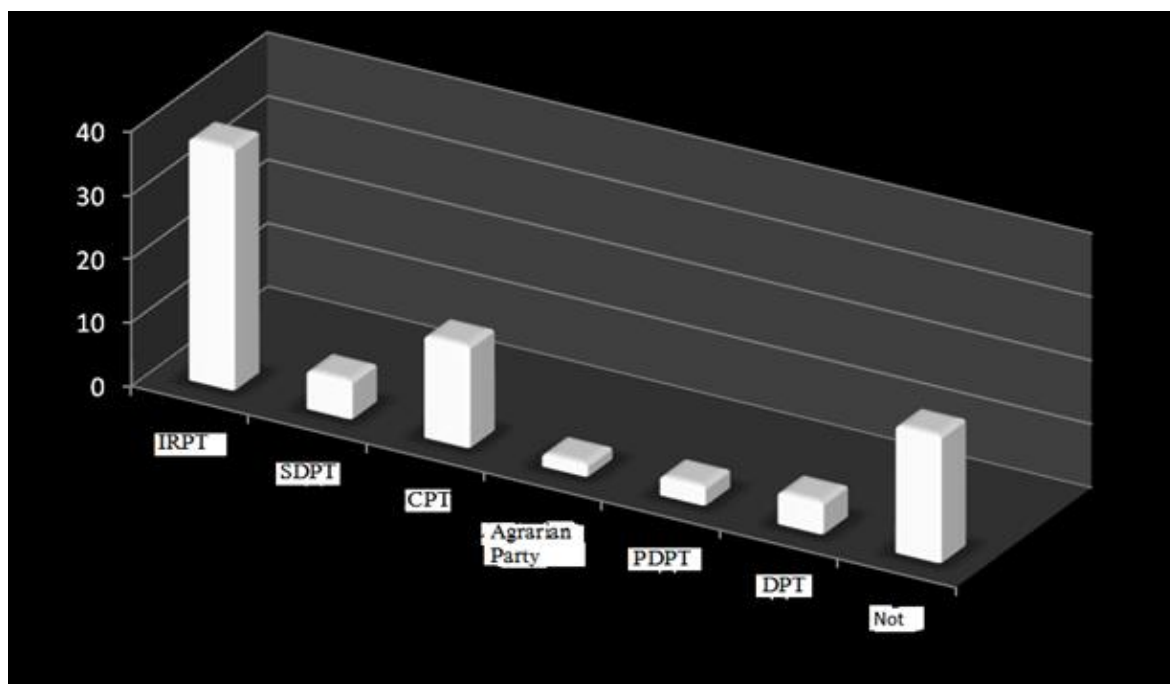


Diagram № 2. Which political parties are considered opposition?

It is known that the majority of respondents attribute opposition status to two parties: the Islamic Revival Party and the Communist Party. In fact, the role of these two political parties in the political process seems to be prominent. However, some respondents believe that there is no opposition party in Tajikistan. Some do not yet understand the position of forces in the political arena. For example, some respondents identified the PDPT as an opposition party. This indicates that the knowledge and political consciousness of young people is currently a concern. The Democratic and Agrarian Parties of Tajikistan are not the most opposition parties in this ranking.

In the previous section, if the public position on the level of opposition was defined by political parties, in the next section it will be clarified how these parties are reflected in the public consciousness and what alternative model of opposition to the opposition under the same opposition party.

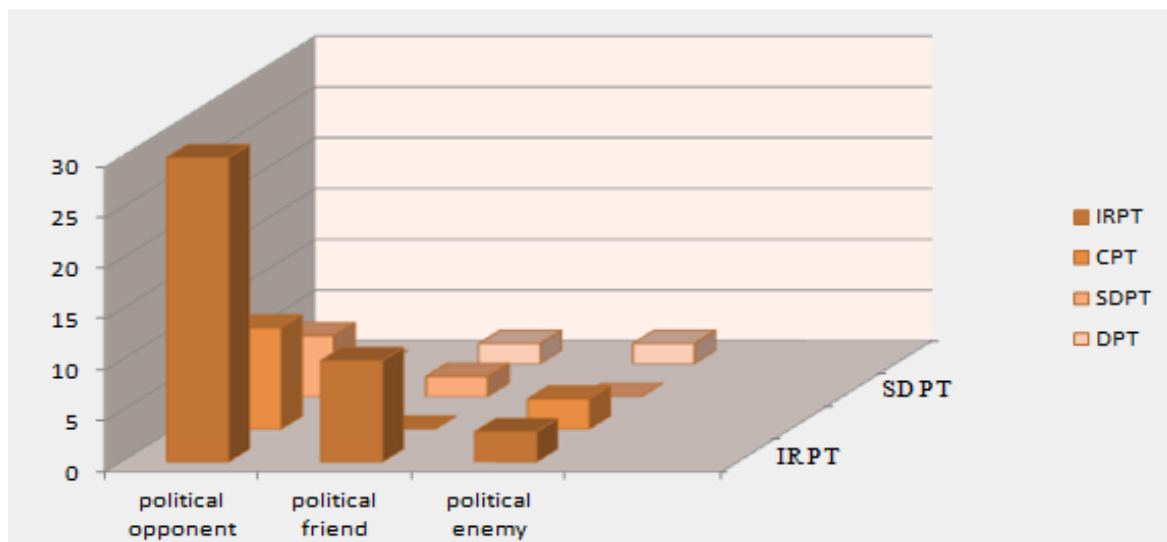


Diagram № 3. The level of opposition of political parties

In the chart above, the majority of respondents (50%) understood the political opposition as a political opposition. We will now determine which party is most likely to be a political opponent:

- The Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan, according to 30% of respondents, is known as a political opponent or (a political opponent that is always critical). A small percentage call it a political friend and another 3 percent a political enemy;

- The Communist Party of Tajikistan is a political opponent in the opinion of 10% of respondents and a political enemy in the opinion of another 3% of respondents;

- The Social Democratic Party of Tajikistan and the Democratic Party of Tajikistan received a small number of respondents, respectively.

Accordingly, from these sections, it can be concluded that the phenomenon of opposition in the public eye is more closely related to the concept of a political opponent. A political opponent is the equivalent of a political opposition, a reality that most people accept.

It is very important and practical – it is considered in the current section, and it is the importance and necessity of the opposition for the domestic society, which is discussed from a public point of view. The goal is whether the phenomenon of opposition is positive or negative for the nation and the state.

The survey found that the majority of respondents were optimistic about the phenomenon of political opposition. That is, they understood the status and role of this political institution in political life.

1. Opposition as a positive phenomenon in the public mind is a good thing and it can have positive results. This level of attitude is necessary for the formation of a democratic society;

2. Opposition is a negative phenomenon in the minds of the people that undermines the position and role of the opposition in the domestic political process. The reason for this position is, first of all, the negative role of the opposition in the civil conflict, during which a negative label was affixed to the opposition;

3. It is a position of neutrality or a lack of understanding of the opposition.

Another very important part of the public opinion system is the issue of “opposition identity”. In other words, to what extent or to what extent do individuals consider themselves political opponents? Naturally, those who saw the opposition as a negative phenomenon did not consider themselves in any way opposed. A small part of the population has an oppositional position, which has its own factors and reasons. The same negative label affixed to the opposition does not allow the public to be open and pluralistic and to express the views of the opposition.

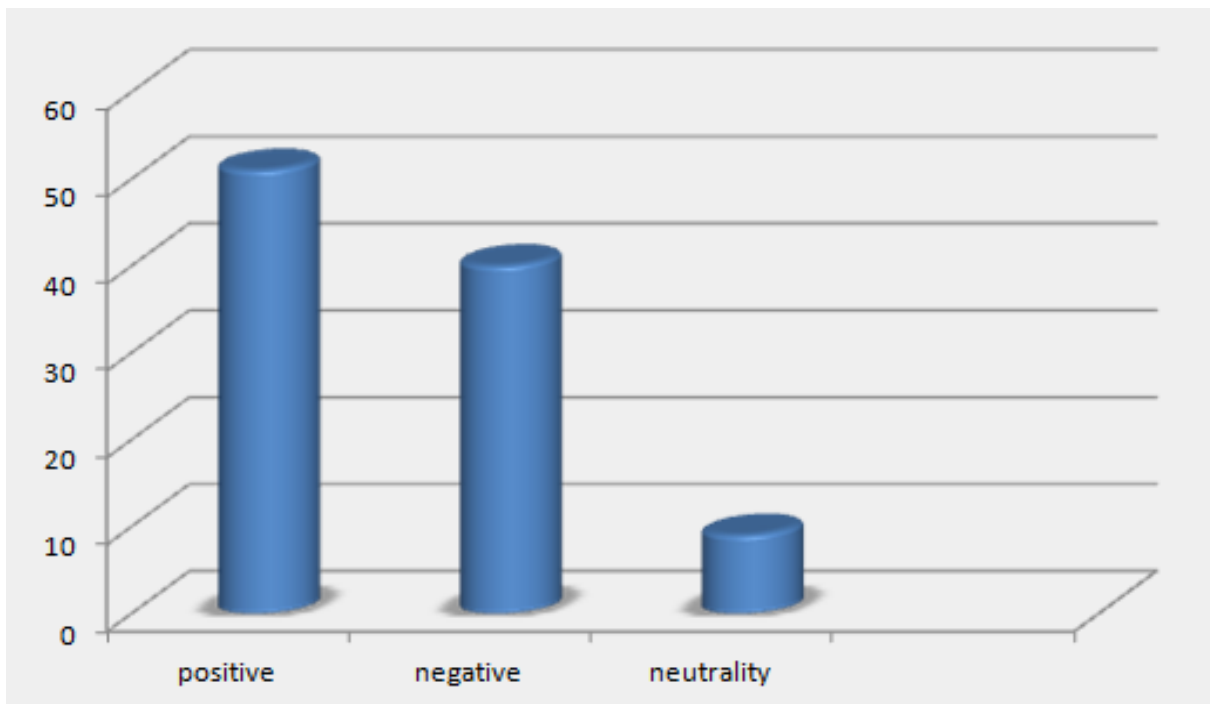


Diagram № 4. The importance and necessity of opposition for society

1. Individuals who do not consider themselves in opposition. They make up the majority of respondents. The lack of opposition affiliation has a number of reasons, the first of which is the negative labeling of the former opposition, and the other is their presence in the government pyramid, as well as their standard of living;

2. Oppositionists are people who see themselves as political opponents. They make up a small part of the respondents. These are people who do not agree with the current policy;

3. Inadvertently, there are people who are incapable of understanding, responding, or being overwhelmed by negative feelings.

The next question is the logical continuation of the above question, as it determines the affiliation of the opposition and the party. Opposition may not have a party affiliation, but a party affiliation always has an opposition affiliation.

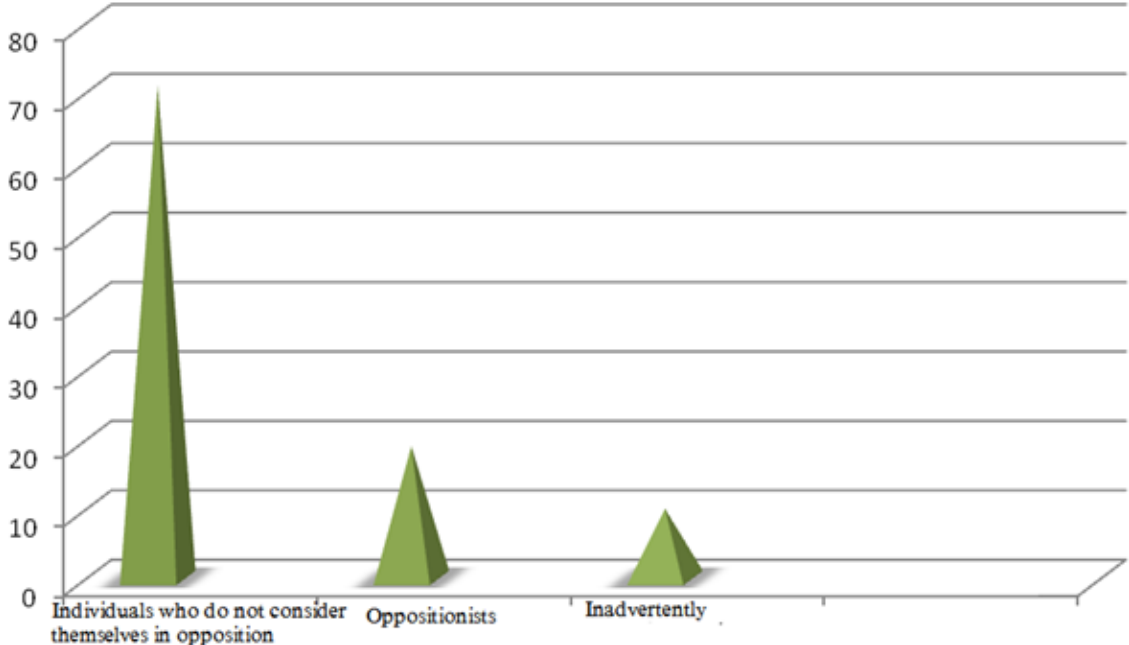


Diagram № 5. The oppositional affiliation of the population

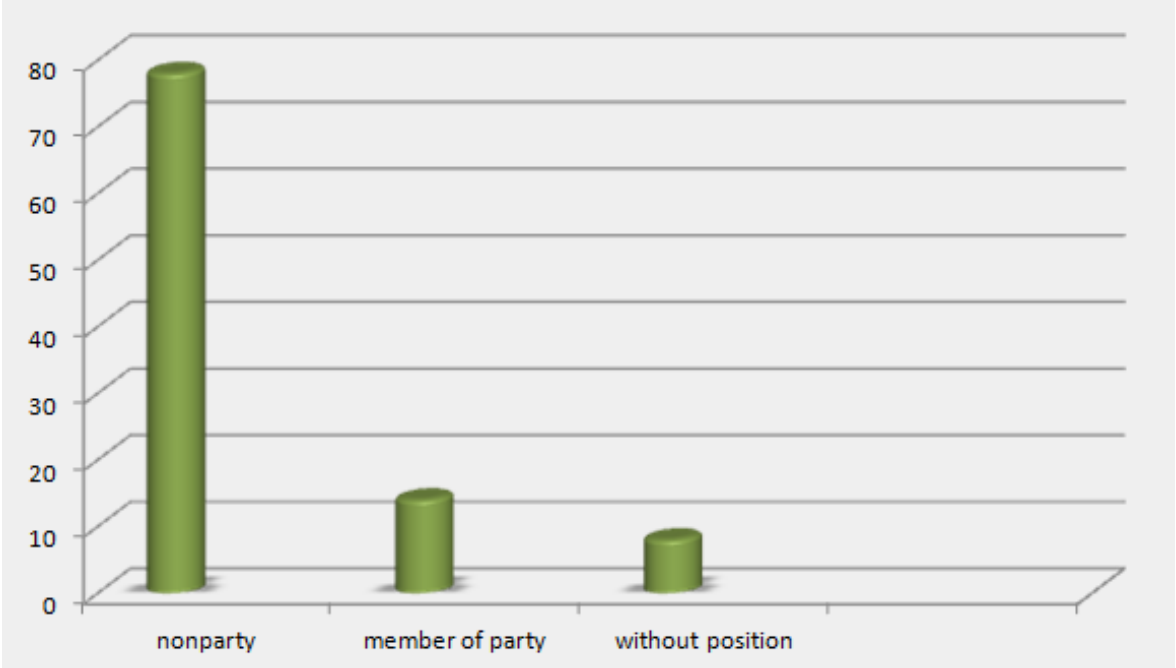


Diagram № 6. Party affiliation of the population

The first group of citizens does not belong to a party, which makes up the majority of respondents. The problem is that the party's status in society is weak and it has no influence among civil society. The party operates poorly in society, or there are restrictions on party activities;

The group of citizens who are members of the party is small (of course, from the list of respondents). However, party members do not mean that they are all oppositionists; The third group had difficulty answering.

One of the most important issues in determining the position of the opposition is the living conditions. It is a factor that is the cause of all consequences. The state always takes the lead in this issue and pays special attention to it. Because conditions that cannot satisfy a citizen always have negative consequences. It can contribute to the formation of illegal and radical activities. The importance of the issue is to pursue the unfulfilled interests of the opposition in a legal way. The role of the opposition is the same.

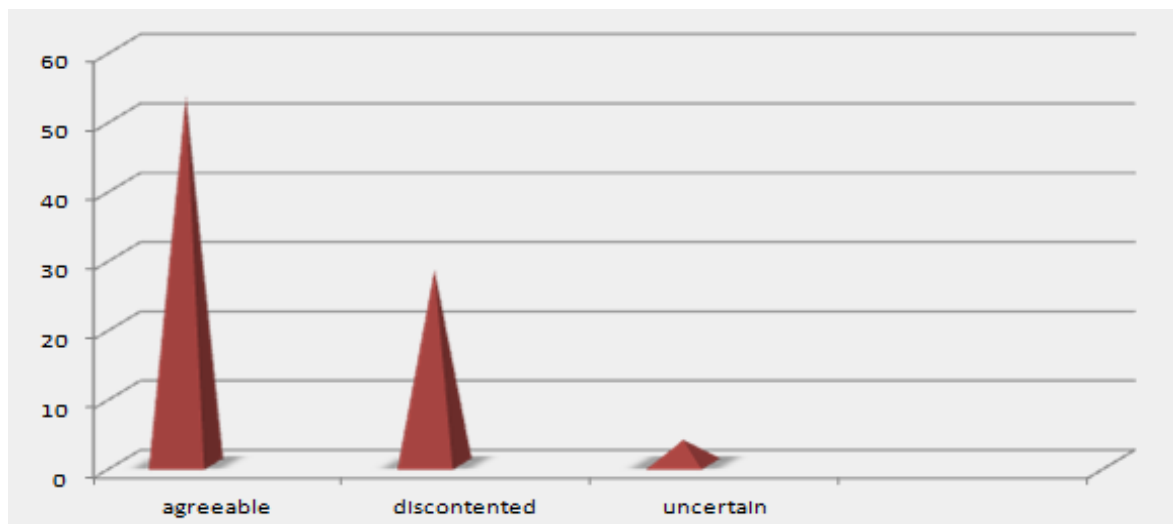


Diagram № 7. People's attitude to the current situation

As a result of these divisions, we have reached a point where the opposition consciousness is not civilized at all. There are undemocratic values in it, which can have negative consequences. However, the consciousness of the opposition in some individuals has reached a civilized level. They understood the status of the opposition and its importance for the country's society. Many are optimistic about the future of the country, as well as those who are in opposition. Others see the existence of the opposition as unnecessary in society, calling it a political enemy and acknowledging its negative role, but this is not the right approach.

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