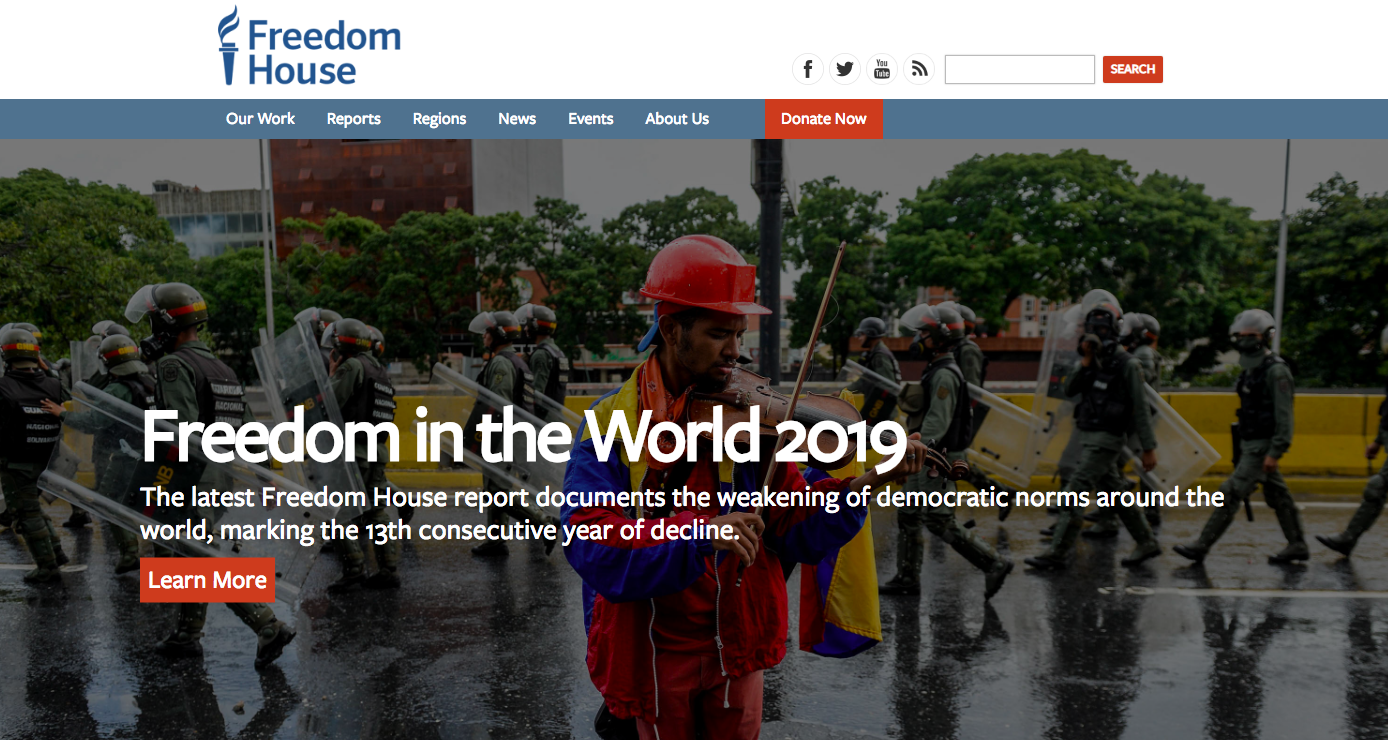
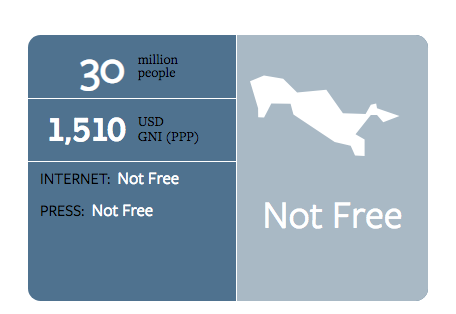
Politics of Eurasia

Religion in Central Asia Today

[](https://freedomhouse.org/)

Uzbekistan

[](https://freedomhouse.org/country/uzbekistan)

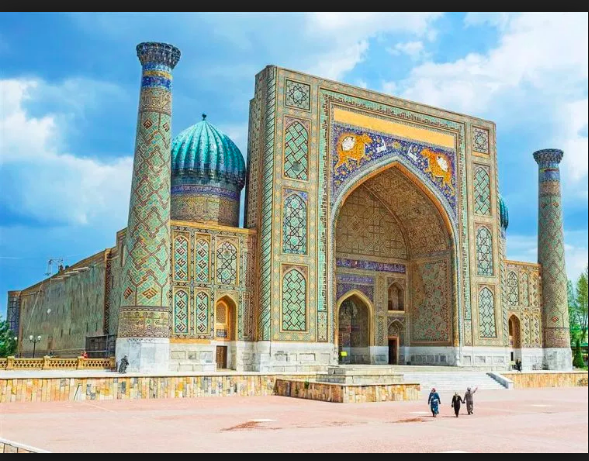
Islam [Karimov](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_Karimov)



Karimov with GW Bush, 2002

1st Secretary of Uzbek Communist Party 1989-1990

President of Uzbekistan 1991 – his death in 2016

[](https://mvslim.com/one-of-the-most-beautiful-mosques-is-located-in-uzbekistans-blue-city-samarkand/)

Mosque in Samarkand

“politicized Islam?”

Karimov stoked fears of “Islamist extremists”

Wahhabinism, Saudi influence

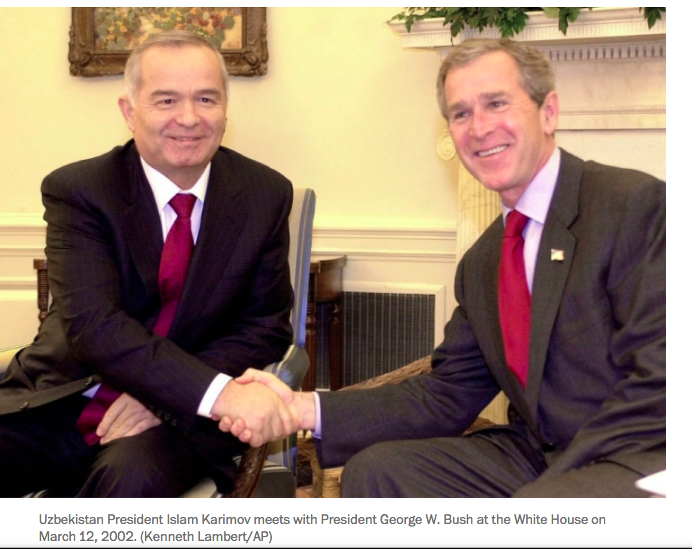
NOT the native form of Islam

Moderate\*\*

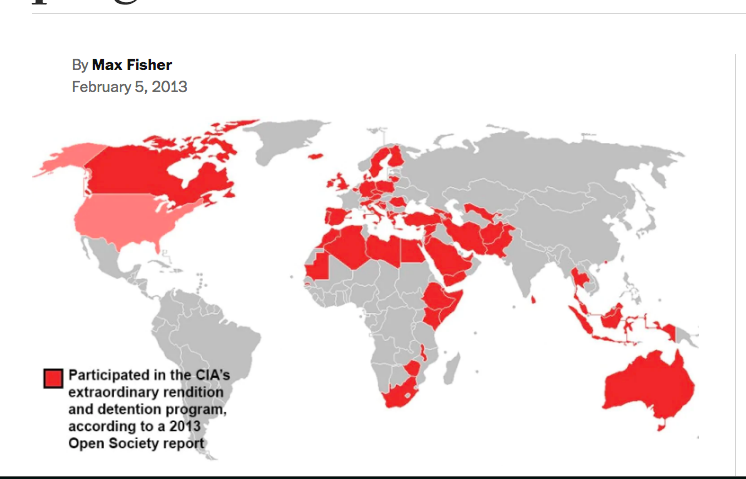
Exception: Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan

9/11-Bush II Years

Partners in the “War on Terror”



“[extraordinary rendition](https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/20-extraordinary-facts-about-cia-extraordinary-rendition-and-secret-detention)”

[](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2013/02/05/a-staggering-map-of-the-54-countries-that-reportedly-participated-in-the-cias-rendition-program/?utm_term=.f29a804386d7)

US moved away from Uzbekistan after 2005 [Massacre in Andijan](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/08/30/islam-karimov-and-the-massacre-in-uzbekistan-that-the-world-forgot/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.f5e1d3f7be6d)

Karimov’s successor

Mirayazov 2016 – present