Монголд Ардчилал Эхэлсэн

ТҮҮХ

How Democracy was Born in Mongolia
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Photos courtesy of: S.Amarsanaa, S.Tsatsralt, Peter Charlesworth, T.Enkhbold, R.Davaajav, and Mongolian Democratic Union Archive

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INTRODUCTION

Twenty-five years ago, in July 1990, Mongolia held its first democratic, free and fair elections - one of the most significant milestones in the democracy movement that started on a freezing December day in 1989. For our country, it was strange and new experience after many elections where there was always a single candidate from a single party and mandatory participation. For the first time we were free to choose between several candidates from different political parties or to choose not to participate at all. There were four parties elected to the new Parliament, including three that were newly formed during the democracy movement. These new parties won 40% of seats in the Small Hural (lower chamber) – the first full-time legislature in Mongolia.

Power sharing between the new parties and the incumbent party was a real challenge but the transition was peaceful and governing a new democracy, while challenging, was a joint effort.

Free elections didn't come easily to Mongolia. From first rally of democracy fighters, and ultimately supported by tens of thousands of people from all corners of Mongolia, it took eight long months to make the demand for early, democratic elections to happen.

This book will show you how Mongolian democracy was born, who were its main actors and how they were able to lead political forces and people through peaceful but dramatic confrontation to a transition from authoritarian rule to competitive, multi-party democracy.

We, the Zorig Foundation and International Republican Institute, felt obliged that after 25 years, the Mongolian democracy movement should be remembered and celebrated by the people of Mongolia and other countries and made known to young Mongolians who will make this country even more free and democratic, happy and prosperous.
“Ардчилсан хувьсгал монголчуудад хүний эрх, эрх чөлөө, хувийн өмч, зах зээлээний хариуцлага, үг зээлээ хэрэглэн нийтлэх, зээлээн нэгдэх, сүүлэээ бишрэх, амдран сүүгаа газраа чөлөөгээ өгөх, гадаадад зорчих, хуссан мэргэжилтээ хуссан улс оронд оролцохын зэрэг хүний наад захым эрхийг олгосон юм.

Ардчилсан хувьсгалын хамгийн гол ололт, уна цэнэ нь сүүлийн 300 шахам жилийн гадаад улсын хараат байдлаас гарч Монгол улс төрүүн тусгаар тогтнолоо жинхэнэ утгаар нь олж, хувь зайгагаа монголчууд эверхдве шийдээ болсон явдал байллаа.”

Б.Батбаар (Баабар)

“The democratic revolution enabled Mongolians to have individual human rights and freedoms such as private property, a market economy, freedom of expression and freedom of the press, freedom of assembly and religion, the right to freely choose where to live and when to travel abroad and the right to choose study any subject.

But the biggest achievement of the democratic revolution was that Mongolia gained independence from almost 300 years of foreign control, became truly sovereign and enabled the right to self determination to define its destiny.”

В.Батбаяр (Baabar)
The first rally of the Mongolian Democratic Union (MDU) was held on International Human Rights Day - December 10, 1989 at the front entrance of Youth Cultural Center. Attended by 300 people, this event marked the beginning of the democratic revolution in Mongolia after almost 70 years of communist rule.
Once encouraged by Soviet perestroika but disappointed by Mongolian People’s Revolutionary Party’s (MPRP) slow pace of reforms, several dissident groups came together to form the first informal democratic movement. The first statement of the MDU demanded that the communist state introduce a multi-party system and full-time parliament as well as respect the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The MDU also called for free and fair elections, which to be held within a year, freedom of the press, and recognition of past political repressions.

Journalists S. Tsogtsaikhan and N. Enkhbayar performed their “Song of the Bell” that called people to wake up and have courage. The song emerged as a hymn of the democratic revolution.

Цуглаанд оролцогчд "Олон намын систем," "Эрх зүйт төрүүн төлөө," "Хүний эрхийг эрхэмлэн дээдэлвэй," "Хэвлэлэн эрх чөөв" зэрэг уриа лоозонгүүд барыж Мөөхий ны шаардлагуудыг уухайлан дэмжих бай.

Demonstrators holding slogans “Multi-party system,” “Rule of Law,” “Human Rights,” and “Free Press.”
MoAX-ны Е33-ийн гишүүн С.Зориг, Д.Нинж, “Хонжны дуу” хамтын ахлагч, сэтгүүлч С.Цогтсайхан нар анхны цуглаан дээр.

MDU Coordinating Council members S.Zorig, D.Ninj and journalist and singer of the revolutionary hymn song S.Tsogtsaikhan at the first MDU rally.

МоAX-ны Е33-ийн гишүүн Гандан хийдийн голч лам Д.Баасан лам хувцсантайгаа цуглаанд оролцож суусан бишээ рэх чөлөөг сэрээгээ, уламжлалт шашин, сөвл, ёс заншал, гүүхий үнэнч сэрээгээ шаардлага тавьсан билээ.

Buddhist monk D.Baasan, MDU Coordinating Council member, joined the rally in his monastic dress, demanded freedom of religion and the revival of celebrating Mongolian history and cultural traditions.
After December 10, 1989 rallies attracted an increasing number of people every weekend at central locations in Ulaanbaatar, moving closer to the main square (now Chinggis Khaan Square) where Government is headquartered. Rallies displayed slogans “New times have come, wake up!” “Mongolians get on your horses,” “Truth will not be revealed if truth is concealed” (this slogan was written using traditional Mongolian script that was replaced by Cyrillic in 1940s).
Leader of the Mongolian Democratic Union Sanjaasurengiin Zorig speaking at the big rally (January 21, 1990) held at the main square. In his speech Zorig repeated MDU’s demand that the Constitutional provision about the Mongolian People’s Revolutionary Party being a major force in the society be removed.
Famous Mongolian national wrestling champion J.Munkhbat cheering up the demonstrators.

Harsh winter cold did not stop 20,000 people from gathering for the fourth rally. Foreign correspondents accredited to Beijing started coming to Mongolia on tourist visas to cover the events.
Despite repeated refusal from the Ulaanbaatar city council to hold a peaceful demonstration, MDU members marched towards the main square from all four sides. Mr. D.Lamjav declared the formation of the second democratic force-Mongolian Democratic Socialist Movement.
MDU Coordinating Council member D.Sosorbaram speaking at the First Congress. 611 delegates from 16 provinces and three major cities of Mongolia participated in the MDU Congress. In addition, 200 guests and more than 30 foreign reporters attended the event.

The First Congress of the MDU with delegates from all provinces of Mongolia declared the emergence of Mongolian Democratic Party, marking the beginning of a multiparty system.
General Coordinator S.Zorig made statements on behalf of the MDU demanding resignation of the Cabinet of Ministers and dissolution of the People’s Great Hural (Parliament).

Under the pressure of fast growing demonstrations supported by an increasing number of people, the government eased its restrictions. When the demonstrators blocked traffic on main streets, the government allowed a live broadcast of the First Congress of the MDU, held on February 18, 1990.

Thousands of supporters gathered outside the Congress venue to congratulate the MDU.

MDU members helped prepare documents for the Congress. N.Jargalsaiikh secretely made badges for the delegates.
MDU branches set up across the country sent their delegates to the Congress. On this day the first issue of the first independent newspaper “The New Mirror” was published.
Pre-convention meetings were held in so-called "Round Hall."
MDU rallies were held every Sunday and the number of attendants steadily increased reaching thousands. State-controlled media were silent about those events, therefore MDU activists distributed leaflets, went to universities, factories and government offices to tell people about the democratic revolution. S.Zorig and E.Bat-Uul walking in the early morning to a factory on the outskirts of the city.
Many people were donating money to support the MDU. Activist R. Sambaraaazana walking a donation box during a rally.

Mongolian Students Union was one of the four pro-democracy unions, actively participating in protests.
Nearly 100,000 people participated in the March 4 rally (population of the capital city Ulaanbaatar at that time was 590,000). Demonstrators demanded amendments in the election law and separation of party and state.
Protesters rallying at the Victory Cinema (now Tengis Cinema) marched towards the Government House and handed over their petition to the People’s Great Hural (Parliament).
Joint rally of the "Four Forces."

Дервэн холбооны хамтарсан жагсаал териийн орднын тойрон явж байна.
Representatives of the "Four Forces" after submitting their petition to the government.

Nearly 100,000 people participated in the March 4 rally (population of the capital city Ulaanbaatar at that time was 590,000). Demonstrators demanded election law and separation of party and state.
The government did not respond to the “Four Forces” joint petition, and therefore in the early morning of March 7, 1990 ten members of the Coordinating Council of MDU went on a hunger strike right in front of the Government House.
Authorities continued to ignore demands of hunger strikers. E.Bat-Uul, a member of the Coordinating Council of MDU, announced that protesters would fast unto death if MPRP Politburo did not resign. The public support for this fight had spread nationwide.
MDU General Coordinator S.Zorig and MDU Presidium member Ts.Elbegdorj during the hunger strike.

Archil's unflagged origil was a student who studied in Mongolia. He was a stringer with Reuters and delivered to the world a full report about the dramatic events in the country.
For the first time since the beginning the pro-democracy movement, the government sent its representative, Deputy Prime Minister D.Byambasuren, to negotiate with MDU leaders E.Bat-Uul and Ts.Elbegdorj.

МоAX-ны Е33-ийн гишүүн Гандан хийдийн голч лам Д.Баасан лам наар бүрээлд ахуй үеийн үлс тэрийн ялгаж үйлдэл нь ханжад ном уншихуу, урам зориг той нь дэмжих байв.

MDU’s Coordinating Council member and Gandan temple’s monk D.Baasan and fellow monks offered prayers to hunger strikers.
By March 9, the number of hunger strikers reached 33.

Sh.Nina, the only female hunger striker, giving an interview to a state radio reporter.
During the hunger strike, capital city’s main square became the center of the democratic revolution with thousands of supporters present at the site round the clock. Artists painting rally posters.

 Hundreds of supporters were present day and night at the site of the hunger strike. At times their number reached tens of thousands, making it difficult for MDU activists to manage the crowd and ensure that it remained peaceful.
Women lending their support to hunger strikers on International Women’s Day.

Japan's NHK crew, who had to travel on tourist visas, reporting about the hunger strike.
Leader of the ruling MPRP and Chairman of the People’s Great Hural (Parliament) J. Batmunkh held a strong belief that no force should be used against the peaceful demonstration by the people. He played a crucial role for the democratic revolution to succeed without a single person being harmed during the protests.
Leader of the Mongolian democratic revolution, MDU General Coordinator S.Zorig was a well-educated and talented politician who preferred consensus building over confrontation both within the MDU and with the ruling MPRP. Leaders J.Batmunkh and S.Zorig played a critical role in ensuring Mongolia’s transition to democracy remained peaceful and helping democratic changes take place in a short time.
"May Buddhism eternally flourish" was the motto of supporters of Buddhist religion who held their rally on March 11, 1990 to revive the freedom of religion in Mongolia. Hundreds of men and women, old and young, rallied, giving speeches, offering prayers and shedding tears of joy.
MPRP's Politburo resigned during the party's Eighth Central Committee Conference held on March 12-14, 1990. The party decided to meet for its Extraordinary Congress on April 10.
Даражу́йлагч дэглээсэн бэлгэ тэмдэг болсон И.В. Сталины хөөрөг буулгах байна.

Removal of the statue of Josef Stalin at the National Library entrance.
On March 8, MDU General Coordinator S.Zorig and representatives from the hunger strike met with government officials, Prime Minister D.Sodnom and Deputy Prime Minister D.Byambasuren at the Central TV studio. The meeting was aired on TV and radio. After another day of negotiations the hunger strike ended when MPRP leader J.Batmunkh agreed to resign along with all members of his Politburo.
A hunger strike, though an extreme political action, was necessary to cause the ruling party to resign, and it also brought a new culture of political negotiation to the society where no discussions were ever possible in the past. On March 10, 1990, all political parties and movements issued a joint statement to respect unity and interests of the nation, not interfere with internal affairs and restrain from using force against each other while seeking consensus in political disputes.
1990 оны 3 дугаар сарын 21-23 на дахь хуралдсан БНМАУ-ын АИХ-ын элэгийн 8-р дугаар чүллэгийн Үндсэн хуульд: "БНМАУ-ын үндсэн зүйлүүд, эдгээр тогтоолыг тэмдэглэн өглөө..." ийнхүү "...ард түмнийхээ анх удаа ард түмнийхээ эрх ашиг, энэ нэгдүгээр хүндийн хөтөлбөрийг, дуураа бүхий улс төрийн хам, олон нийтийн байгууллагад зөвлөдөг нэхэм" эрхийн зүйл залгат нэмж баталжээ.

The now irrelevant provision about the Mongolian People’s Revolutionary Party being a major force in the society was removed from the Constitution at the Extraordinary session of the People’s Great Hural (Parliament) held on March 21-23. Parliament amended the basic law with the new provision stating that citizens have a right to join political parties and civil organizations.

Чуулганд, шинэ ням холбогдох үйлдлэгийн үйлдэл ард түмний улс төрийн үйлдлэгийн салбаж. БНМАУ-ын АИХ-ын төгсгөлд төрөөдөрт үндсэн зүйлүүд, О.Очирбатын 5-р аяллын үе ажиллагааны дагуу, БНМАУ-ын Сайд нарын зөвлөлтөөнд дарга Д.Содном үндсэн зүйлүүд, албанд тухайлдаа зөвлөгөөдөрт үндсэн зүйлүүд, Сайд нарын зөвлөлтөөнд дарга буюу Ерөнхий сайдын дарга Ш.Гунгаадорж томилогддог.

One representative from each new party and movement was invited to attend the session. Parliament resolved that functions of political party should be separated from those of the state. P.Ochirbat was elected Chairman of the Parliament, and Sh.Gungaadorj as Prime Minister.
S.Zorig calling his MDU fellows to tell about the new amendments to the Constitution.

MPRP leadership was changed completely during its Extraordinary Congress.
The provision about the Mongolian People’s Revolutionary Party being a major force in the society was removed from the Constitution at the Extraordinary session of the People’s Great Hural (Parliament) held on March 21-23.
МАХИЙН ТӨВ ХОРООНЫ 8 ДУГААР БҮҮГ ХҮРЛААС 1960 — 1965 ОНД УЛС ТӨРИЙН ТАЛААР ХӨЛӨӨГДӨН ТӨР, ЗАСГИЙН ЗУГАГТГАН Д.ТӨМӨР-ОЧИР АСАН, Ц.ЛООХУУЗ, Б.НЯМБҮҮ, Б.СУРМААЖАВ НАРИГ БОЛОН ТӨДЧҮЙ БҮҮГӨН 1960-1965 ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛӨӨГ ДӨН ХӨЛО

The MPRP Conference held on March 12-13, 1990 rehabilitated victims of political repression of 1960s — statesmen D.Tumur-Ochir, Ts.Loohuuz, B.Nyambuu, B.Surmaajav and their followers. But the party remained silent about tens of thousands of killings during the Stalinist-style repressions during the 1930s in Mongolia.
Mongolian Democratic Party (MDP) held its first Congress on April 7-8, 1990. The party declared its platform aimed at building a democratic society for the sake of people. Participants of the meeting voiced their demand for calling general elections, drafting a new constitution with involvement of all political forces, and enabling freedom of the press.

The MDP Congress elected E.Bat-Uul as its first Chairman.
1990 оны 4 дугаар сарын 7-нд эрх баригч нам, төр засгийн өвчлөлтөөс чөлөөгээ анхны тогтол хэвлэл "Ардчилал" сонин 100 мянган хувирг хэвлэдэг гарснаар чөлөөгээ анхны үндсэн урвал тавигдад. Төр засгийн хараат бус "Шинэ толь," "Ардчилал" сонины араас удалгүй "Ыг," "Үндсэн дэвшил" сонинууд гарч эхэлсэн юм.

100,000 copies of "Ардчилал" ("Democracy"), the first independent newspaper, were printed and distributed on April 7, 1990. This newspaper along with "Shine Toli" ("The New Mirror") gave a start to freedom of the press in Mongolia. Free press flourished with newspapers "Ug," "Undesnii Devshil" and many others following.

"Ардчилал" сонины анхны дугаарыг худалдаан авсан хүмүүс МөАХ-ын 3З-ийн Төрөнхий зохицуулагч С.Зөригт баяр хүрээж байна.

S.Zorig congratulated by first readers of "Democracy" newspaper.
The MDU and MDP were dissatisfied with the slow implementation of pro-democracy measures and petitioned the government for a response by April 27. Not receiving any reply, protesters circled the Government House. Here the peaceful process of democratic revolution faced a serious challenge when authorities decided to deploy military to protect the Government House.
It took significant effort for democracy activists to keep the crowd under control and prevent clashes between the army and citizens.
Despite the tension, the situation finally ended peacefully.
The confrontation eased and the government withdrew the police and military. MDU leaders S.Zorig, B.Galsandorj and Ts.Ebigedorj talking to the crowd.

Border and police academy cadets were mobilized for the security of the Government House.
A crowd of tens of thousands of people was forcing its way towards the Government House threatening to cause a stampede and crush those in the first rows. S.Zorig shouted his famous phrase "If you support us, please sit down!" and thus was able to cool down emotions of protesters.
While Ulaanbaatar was on alert, some members of the MDU Council who went to the remote province of Huvsgul to promote democratic ideas were arrested by local authorities. In response, local MDU members staged a political protest known as the “Huvsgul hunger strike.”

The MDU had become a nationwide phenomenon. Rallies and sit-ins were held almost in every province and city around the country.
Negotiations between political parties reached consensus and the 18 Huvsugul hunger strikers from MDU and MDP ended their strike on May 5, 1990 after nine days and eight nights. Pro-democracy forces withdrew Huvsugul's demand for the creation of People's Supreme Council in exchange for cancellation of the arrest and imposition of fines decreed by local government. Other agreements reached were the adoption of the Political Parties Law and lowering the minimum age for election candidates to 18.

Цуглаанд оролцож буй аав хоёр, терийн далбаагаа барьсан нь ээ звийн бэлгээд болж байлаа.

Father and son holding Mongolia flag symbolized peace and unity.
Chairman of the MSDP B.Batbayar (known as Baabar) receiving his party’s registration certificate. In accordance with the negotiations, all registered parties were made eligible to participate in the July elections, which would set up a full-time parliament, and the composition of the Elections Commission was agreed upon.

MDP representatives after registering their party with the Supreme Court of Mongolia.

According to the newly passed Political Parties Law, parties were registered in the following order: MPRP-May 16, MNPP-May 22, MFLP-May 23, MDP-May 24, MSDP-May 25, and MGP-May 26.
The main campaign tool for new parties was new independent newspapers—"Democracy," "New Mirror," "Nation's Progress," and "Word". Here, a young activist distributes the "New Mirror" weekly paper.
Campaign posters, shown here on a “Democracy” newspaper stand, were one of the first visible symbols of Mongolians exercising their democratic rights in the first free and fair elections.

MSDP candidate P.Ulaankhuu and a little boy in his campaign bus-symbols of present and future Mongolia.

Монголчууд ааны чөлөөг ардчилсан сонгуульдагаа урам зориг той сонгуулсэн биелэх. Энэ сонгууль нэг ёсндаа ардчиллын ааны хичээл болсон єм. Сурталчилгааны зурагт худсруулах нь нэгэн "Ардчилал" сонин уламлуулсан.
Election campaigns were a new thing for Mongolians. They were especially curious about what election platforms new parties would offer.
While the ruling party had existing resources and the state run media at its disposal, MDP and other new parties had only a single campaign bus bought with the donation money. But wherever it went it spread new ideas and new thoughts.

МоАХ-ны Е3Э-ний Ерөнхий захиргуулагч С.Зориг сонгуулийн сүртэлчилгээгээ нээр сонгох чадгийг тогтол үлээлт хийж байв.

MDP General Coordinator S. Zorig regularly met with voters during the election campaign.
The first free and fair elections to the People's Great Hural were held on July 22-29, 1990. For the first time voters had multiple-party candidates to choose from. Here, a rural polling center is visited by nomads.
Mongolians of all generations and from all areas of the country actively participated in the new electoral process.
When ballots were counted MPRP received 61.74% of votes, but new parties also joined the State Great Hural. Seats won in the State Great Hural were as follows: MPRP-343, MDP-23, MNPP-7, MSDP-4, MFLP-1 and 51 to non-party MPs.
Specific features of the People's Great Hural elections were that the upper house was elected using plurality system, but State Small Hural (lower house) was elected by upper house members using proportional representation of votes received by political parties. At the first session of the State Great Hural D.Byambasuren (MPRP) was appointed as Prime Minister of Mongolian People's Republic. First deputy Da.Ganbold (MNPP) and deputy D.Dorigjav (MDP) were also appointed.

The first session of the State Great Hural formed State Small Hural (full time legislature) consisting of 50 members (MPRP-31, MDP-13, MNPP-3, MSDP-3).
The People’s Great Hural elected R.Gonchigdorj as the Chairman of the State Small Hural, K.Zardykhhan as the Deputy Chairman and B.Chimid as the Secretary of this full-time legislature.

The first session of People’s Great Hural convened on September 3-9, 1990 and elected the first President of Mongolia — P.Ochirbat.
A law on privatization was passed on June 7, 1991. State owned property rights were given to people who received equal number of vouchers: blue colored for buying shares of factories and pink colored for trade and service entities. Herders cooperatives were privatized and livestock returned back to herders.

US Secretary of State James Baker visited Mongolia on August 2, 1990. The US Government expressed its continuous support for Mongolia's transition to political democracy and market economy. During the visit, it was agreed that the President of Mongolia would visit the United States. James Baker remarked that the US could become a third neighbour of Mongolia.

The Council of Ministers (cabinet) issued decree No.204 in May 1990 titled "Rules on traveling abroad for private matters" and adopted rules on national foreign passport. For the first time in 70 years, Mongolians enjoyed the freedom to travel abroad.

On January 22-24, 1991, in Washington, the first American-Mongolian summit was successfully held: President of Mongolia Punsalaagin Ochirbat and US President George Bush, reached basic agreements on the chief directions for future development of relations. Shortly after the first visit to US by Mongolian President both Houses of the US Congress, in a joint session made an unprecedented resolution in support of the US policy, "to provide maximum assistance to Mongolian reconstruction."

The People’s Great Hural held a full session (70 days) and adopted the new Constitution of Mongolia on January 13, 1992. The name of the country was changed from People’s Republic of Mongolia to Mongolia. The New Constitution guaranteed the people of Mongolia human rights, political and economic freedoms, and freedom of expression. The legal foundation for the transition of Mongolia to democracy and market economy was established.
Some Important Developments in 1991

- On February 14, 1991, with active support of US and developed countries, Mongolia became a member of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- 1991 оны 8 дугаар сарын 13-14. БНМАУ-ын Сайд нарны Зөвлөлдөн ирүүлэх Японы Ерөнхий сайд Тошику Кайфу өргөгчийн хэмт айлчлал. Т.Кайфу Монголын өргөлөлт шинэчлэлээг дэмжихээ илэрхийлж 2 тэрбум икени дуудалгүй туслахгүй зохицуулгях, Токийд Монголын дэмжих угсүүдий зөвлөлөгчийг хийх болсон мөн нь мөн нь.
- Prime Minister of Japan Toshiku Kaifu visited Mongolia on August 13-14, 1991. He reiterated support for Mongolia’s democratic reforms and announced that Japan would provide 2 billion yen to support Mongolia and organize a donor countries conference in Tokyo.
- 1991 оны 9 дугаар сарын 5-6. Хандивалгчдын анхны зөвлөлдөх уулзах Токий хотод болж Монголд туслах хандивалгчдын бүлэгтэй бүрдөх үндэс тавигдав. ЗХУ-ас зохицуулж байсан зохицуулгын нэг нь улсын хүнд төлөөгчөөр ерөнхий өөрчлөлт зохицуулгын бүрдөх үндэс зохицуулгын туслахгүй нь аялын байдлын тухайн бэрхшээлээ тавин гүйцэтгэсэн юм.
- The first conference of Mongolia donor countries was held in Tokyo on September 5-6, 1991. Their subsequent loans and aid played a vital role as timely support to overcome hardships of Mongolia’s economic transition as the country was beginning to suffer from withdrawal of subsidies from the Soviet Union.