

Islam & Good Governance

Chapter XI

Islamic Good Governance

- Islamic good governance is that which:
- strives to achieve justice in society;
- aspires to maintain the dignity of individuals (both male and female) and protects freedom, regardless of religious or national affiliation;
- steers individuals toward achieving a means of sustainable livelihood before aspiring for other luxuries;
- encourages virtue, limits vice, and rejects compulsion in matters of religion
- achieves its aims through consultation, participation, representation, accountability mechanisms, and through legal conventional regulations in all social formations, low or high.

Principles

1. Selection of officials only and only on merit.

The Prophet (PBUH) has warned; “When trusts are wasted, then wait thou for the Day of Judgment”. It was asked. ‘ and how will trusts be wasted?’ He (PBUH) said. ‘ when affairs are assigned to those who are not worthy’

2. Govt.’s powers are prudently disciplined, checked and rule of law are ensured through supremacy of Allah’s directives

“And who so ever does not govern by that which Allah has revealed, such are the wrongdoers” (5:45)

Principles

3. Islam promotes collective decision making, tolerance, civil and political liberty

“It is out of Allah’s mercy that you ‘O Prophet’ have been lenient with them. Had you been cruel or hard-hearted, they would have certainly abandoned you. So pardon them, ask Allah’s forgiveness for them, and consult with them in ‘conducting’ matters. Once you make a decision, put your trust in Allah. Surely Allah loves those who trust in Him”(3:159)

Principles

4. Islam categorically calls for transparency and abhors conflict of interest

“And don’t devour your wealth among yourself through falsehood, and offer it not as bribe to the authorities that you may knowingly devour a part of the wealth of other people with injustice” (2:188)

Principles

5. Contracts are binding and enforceable

“And if you ‘O Prophet’ see signs of betrayal by a people, respond by openly terminating your treaty with them. Surely Allah does not like those who betray”(8:58)

Principles

6. Islamic system urges integrity and honesty in the government

“He said, there is no governor who rules Muslim subjects and dies, having played foul with them, but Allah will forbid him paradise” (Bukhari)

Principles

7. Providing welfare, protection, and needs of every being under jurisdiction are a basic requisite of the Islamic good governance

“The Prophet (PBUH) said ,’ if he does not strive diligently to promote their welfare, he will not enter paradise with them’ (Bukhari)

Caliph Omar (RA) declared that if a mule falls on a rocky mountain as a result of unpaved road, at the bank of Tigris, he is answerable to Allah

Principles

8. Islam is uncompromising about independent justice

“Indeed, Allah commands you to return trusts to their rightful owners; and when you judge between people, judge with fairness. What a noble commandment from Allah to you! Surely Allah is All-Hearing, All-Seeing(4:58)

Principles

9. Islamic System ensures airtight accountability! One in this world and the other in the Hereafter, both are inter-related
“O believers! Be mindful of Allah and let every soul look to what ‘deeds’ it has sent forth for tomorrow.¹ And fear Allah, ‘for’ certainly Allah is All-Aware of what you do” (59:18)

Islamic State

- Tawhid – the unity of Allah & Human Life
- Islamic state is not nationalistic state, allegiance is owed to Allah and thereby to the community of all believers “Ummah”
- It is not an absolute or sovereign authority, it is subject to higher norms of Shariah that represents the Will of Allah
- Islamic State is not **primordial**. The primary institution in Islam is ummah. The phrase “Islamic State” is a misnomer

Characteristics of Islamic State

- Sovereignty of Allah
- Khalifa / Caliph
- He must be the true follower of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W).
- A wise, pious man who could be trusted for guarding the Islamic constitution (divine laws) and ensures its imposition.
- He is also the symbol of Muslim's unity and brotherhood.
- He can be held accountable by the judiciary, just like an ordinary person, if found guilty of error/crime.

Characteristics of Islamic State

- State
- An Islamic state is not a dictatorial kind of government.
- It is a system where all state and public affairs are handled and accomplished by the mutual consultation of the wise and educated representatives of people.
- These representatives are elected on merit.
- The criteria for merit is also prescribed by Sharia'.
 - who respond to their Lord, establish prayer, conduct their affairs by mutual consultation, and donate from what We have provided for them (42:38)

Characteristics of Islamic State

- Obedience of the Caliph
- The citizens of an Islamic state must obey their ruler/khalifa in all the matters that are not contrary to Islamic Sharia'.
- They have a right to submit their doubts or complaints against khalifa or other officials in judicial courts.
- They will be punished if they disobey the ruler or break laws.

“O believers! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. Should you disagree on anything, then refer it to Allah and His Messenger, if you ‘truly’ believe in Allah and the Last Day. This is the best and fairest resolution” (4:59)

Characteristics of Islamic State

- Equality / Equal Opportunity
- Islam denounces discrimination on the basis of race, colour, cast, creed, language, faith, and nationality.
- Islam believes in human rights for each individual present there within the boundaries of an Islamic state.
- The authorities and majority are guardians of the rights of minorities and are not allowed to interfere in their religious and personal matters.
 - “O humanity! Indeed, We created you from a male and a female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may ‘get to’ know one another. Surely the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous among you. Allah is truly All-Knowing, All-Aware” (49:13)

Characteristics of Islamic State

- **Justice**
- Rule of law and safety of people's life and property regardless of any differences is one of the main objectives of a state of Muslim
- All are equal before the law and the court cannot make distinction between elite and poor, the less privileged Muslims and non-Muslims
- All citizens are assured of the freedom to move around and enjoy their rights. They can approach the judicial courts for fast and fair justice to solve their disputes.

“O believers! Stand firm for justice as witnesses for Allah even if it is against yourselves, your parents, or close relatives. Be they rich or poor, Allah is best to ensure their interests. So do not let your desires cause you to deviate from justice. If you distort the testimony or refuse to give it, then know that Allah is certainly All-Aware of what you do”. (4:135)

Characteristics of Islamic State

- **Welfare State/Social Welfare**
 - The state is responsible for the well-being of every citizen and for the proper provision of basic necessities to them.
 - The social welfare is maintained through collection of zakah. Zakah is the yearly tax imposed upon Muslims on their savings.
 - Khilafah is an institution where religion and politics are not considered separate and khalifa/caliph/ruler/head is an authority over both terms, thus the government is authorized to collect zakah and distribute it according to the rules of sharia'.

Characteristics of Islamic State

- **Welfare State/Social Welfare**

- It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces Towards east or West; but it is righteousness- to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity; to fulfil the contracts which ye have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the Allah-fearing” Surah Al-Baqarah 177
- “Alms are for the poor and the needy, and those employed to administer the (funds); for those whose hearts have been (recently) reconciled (to Truth); for those in bondage and in debt; in the cause of Allah. and for the wayfarer: (thus is it) ordained by Allah, and Allah is full of knowledge and wisdom”...Surah Tauba 60

Characteristics of Islamic State

- **“Amr bil ma’roof wa nahi anil munkar”**
- The head of the state is ordered to follow the rule of “amr bil ma’roof wa nahi anil munkar” meaning order people to do good and stop them from wrong and punish them if they don’t.
- It is to create an environment where people are persuaded to live in harmony, behave nicely, control their anger through sermons and/or public speeches.
- Children are trained to develop such a character from homes and educational institutions.
- The purpose is to reduce the rate of home-based or street crimes and stop people from harming each other

Characteristics of Islamic State

- **“Amr bil ma’roof wa nahi anil munkar”**
- “You are the best community ever raised for humanity—you encourage good, forbid evil, and believe in Allah. Had the People of the Book believed, it would have been better for them. Some of them are faithful, but most are rebellious” (3:110)
- “The believers, both men and women, are guardians of one another. They encourage good and forbid evil, establish prayer and pay alms-tax, and obey Allah and His Messenger. It is they who will be shown Allah’s mercy. Surely Allah is Almighty, All-Wise” (9:71)

Thank You