

Q No: Compare and contrast the concepts of the executive presented by the Muslim thinkers Al-Farabi, Al-Mawardi, and Shah Waliullah.

## ① Introduction

The concepts of the executive presented by the Muslim thinkers, i.e., Al-Farabi, Al-Mawardi and Shah Waliullah, are unique in their core thought. As these thoughts were presented at a different time period and at a different situation. However, for comparing and contrasting the concepts of executive presented by above mentioned philosophers can not be understood by just looking at the surface ideas. For that purpose, one must understand the contextual situation, when the thinker proposed the philosophy.

② Reviewing the concepts of the executive presented by Al-Mawardi, Al-Farabi, and Shah Waliullah

### (i) The concept of Caliph by Al-Mawardi

#### (a) Contextual Situation

At the time of Al-Mawardi there was (in Muslim world) rule of Abbassid. However, at that time, there rule was

in decline phase, because of the rising threats by the Fatimiytes and Sufjoks. In order to strengthen the position of the Caliph, Al-Mawardi proposed this theory of Caliphate.

## (b) Theory of Caliphate

In his theory of Caliphate, he suggested certain attributes for caliph. If any candidate who acquires that certain attributes is eligible to be the caliph of the State, and some of them are given below.

### The Caliph Must have such attributes

- i Physicall fit
- ii Intelligent
- iii Brave and Courageous
- iv Having worldly and religious knowledge.
- v Must be descendants of the Qurish
- vi Serve Justice

Moreover, he also highlighted the (selection) appointment method of the caliphate, which is defined below.

(c) Election He wrote that, the caliph must be elected from the people of the capital or by the consultation by shura.

(d) Selection If the method of election is the applicable, then the caliph must be selected by the outgoing caliph.

Including this, he also added the responsibilities of the caliph towards his people and state and some of them are illustrated below.

- i) Serve Justice
- ii) Soft corner for the poor
- iii) Lead Army by himself
- iv) Ensure Islamic Rules and Regulation
- v) Take Zakat and Kharaj
- vi) Maintain Bait-ul-Mall
- vii) Install Jihad for the supremacy of Islam
- viii) Appoint the Wazir (Ministers) on the basis of Piousness
- ix)

## i) The Concept of Caliph by Al-Farabi

### (a) Contextual Situation

At the time of Al-Farabi, there was an increasing rivalry among the Muslim states and also the political instability was prevailing. In order to revive the stability in the Muslim world, he suggested this theory of Caliphate/Imamate.

## (b) Concept of Caliphate

Al-Farabi is known as the first Muslim political thinker, because of his contributions to different aspects of the politics. As he gave the theory of his ideal state, where he noted down the multiple requirements for the ideal state. Similarly, he also highlighted different conditions for the ruler of the ideal state. Some of the points are given below.

- i) The ruler of the ideal state should control the state completely. As the heart controls the other body organ.
- ii) The ruler must be brave and courageous and he can also be courageous by learning different military skills.
- iii) The ruler must be born intelligent or acquired intelligent.
- iv) Must serve the nation.
- v) Follow the laws and regulations of Islam.
- vi) Must attain the happiness by the service of God and people.
- vii) Ensure that the rules of God are implemented.

### iii) The concept of Caliph by Shah Waliullah

#### (a) Contextual Situation

At the time of Shah Waliullah in the subcontinent, the essence of Islamic teaching was eroding; ~~peace~~ because of threat by the bhaktis movement. Moreover, at that time, the power of Muslims in the subcontinent was also weakening, because the turning of the ruler in the pursuit of the worldly pleasure in accordance with the situation of time, he gave his concept of Executive

#### (b) Concept of Executive

He gave his concept of Executive by suggesting certain conditions of ruler of the Muslim state. Some of them are given below

(i) The ruler must have the knowledge of Quran and Sunnah

(ii) The ruler must act according to the Shari'ah

(iii) The ruler must serve the nation

(iv) The ruler must not delve in the worldly pleasure

③ Comparing the concepts of executive presented by the Muslim thinker Al-Farabi, Al-Mawardi and Shah Waliullah

Al Mawardi	Al-Farabi	Shah Waliullah
Same Contextual situation as Al-Farabi	Same contextual situation as Al Mawardi	Some different from Al Mawardi and Farabi
He ensured the Caliph must be the descendant of Quraysh	He did not mention such requirement	NO
Must Follow Quran and Sunna	Yes	Yes

④ Comparing the concepts of executive presented by the Muslim thinker Al-Farabi, Al Mawardi and Shah Waliullah

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Al Mawardi	Al Farabi	Sheh Waliullah
Mentioned the process of appointment	No	No
Focused on the Imamate or Caliphate	Focused on Monarchy	NO
Lead army by himself or the Chief of Army	Yes	Yes

### ⑤ Conclusion

The concepts of executive of the presented by the Muslim philosophers had proved to be fruitful in a context of strengthening the Muslim role of that time. However ~~in~~ the concepts of Caliphate by Al-Farabi, Al-Mawardi and Sheh Waliullah presents different time slot and different situations. Despite this while comparisons and contrasting there are similarities in the concept of executive' (1:5)