

QUESTION

What is the Islamic concept of polity? Explain it in the teaching of Muslim Political thoughts. What issues and challenges are being faced by Islamic state in the modern times?

INTRODUCTION :

In the Islamic concept of polity sovereignty belongs to Allah. Government is through ~~ent~~ consultation. The concept of Khilafat also prevails (a borderless state).

Islamic state should have equality.

No one is above law even the ruler is not exempted from the law. To preach good and to refrain from evil is also an Islamic concept of Polity.

Establishment of offices, for collection of Zakat and Ushr is also ⁱⁿ the duties of Islamic state. Muslim political thoughts like Al-Mawardi, Al-Farabi

Ibne Khaldun and Al-Ghazali also gave their concept about Islamic Political system. However, in this modern world, there are some challenges which are being faced by the Islamic political system; Rise of materialism and individualism, trust deficit in zakat and ushr institutions, western propaganda about Islam, and the levishness of the rulers constitute some of the challenges.

ISLAMIC CONCEPT OF POLITY

The Islamic concept of polity includes: sovereignty belongs to Allah, consultation, equality are some of the principles.

I. SOVEREIGNTY BELONGS TO ALLAH

In the Islamic concept of politics, sovereignty

belongs to Allah Almighty, No popular sovereignty or political sovereignty exists. Allah is the omnipotent and he is the only sovereign. He has power of complete absoluteness.

II. KHILAFAT

A concept of Khilafat also prevails in the Islamic concept about polity. Khilafat is a borderless state. Its roots goes back to the four pious caliphs. The Abbasid caliphate and Ummayyah caliphate were on this principle of Khilafat. Through this ideology, muslims ruled Spain, other parts of Europe and Asia.

III. GOVERNANCE THROUGH CONSULTATION

The governance is through consultation. Allah H is said in Quran,

"Consult them in consulting affairs."

IV. PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY

Islamic system is standing on the principles of equality. No one is above law. Even the ruler (caliph) is not exempted from law. There were incidents when the then caliphs Hazrat Umer and Hazrat Ali presented with themselves in the court.

V. ZAKAT AND USHR

The Islamic concept is to create a welfare state in which all the basic necessities and the fulfilment is the responsibility of state. For this purpose Zakat and ushr have been introduced. The reason is the upliftment of society through the zakat and ushr system. Zakat is collected from muslims on surplus amount.

VI. PREACH GOOD AND REFRAIN FROM EVIL

H

is also the responsibility of the political system to preach good and to refrain from evil.

TEACHINGS OF MUSLIM POLITICAL THOUGHT

Different Muslim political thoughts like Al Mawardi, Al-Ghazali, Al-Farabi and Ibn Khaldun also gave their teachings regarding Islamic concept of polity.

I. AL-MAWARDI'S CONCEPT OF ISLAMIC POLITY

Al-Mawardi

gave the concept of Imam and Wazir. He reconciled their duties and said that both there should be harmony between the both

the pillars of Islamic polity. He further divided wazir into two categories: wazir of Delegation and wazir of He conditioned that the imam should be a Quraysh. He also laid down the characteristics and qualities of Imam and Wazir.

II. IBN E KHALDUN'S ISLAMIC POLITY :

Ibn e Khaldun in his famous book ~~ALAM~~ Al Muqaddama wrote about the cycle of state and about the concept of Asabiya. He also laid down the principles which a state has to follow in order to rise in the world.

III. AL-GHAZALI'S CONCEPT

Al Ghazali also gave concept about the Imam = he laid forward the principles / criteria of selection of

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Imam, his duties, and also about his daily routine. His daily routine includes the the visit of his area, hearing the complaints of citizens etc.

IV. AL FARABI'S CONCEPT OF ISLAMIC POLITY

Al Farabi also gave the principles and guidelines about to Ra'is ul Awwal. He gave the criteria of a person to be Ra'is ul Awwal. His duties, responsibilities were also listed by ~~the~~ the second teacher of muslims, Al Farabi.

CHALLENGES FACED BY ISLAMIC STATE

The concept of Islamic state is facing a lot of challenges like rise of individualism, propoganda of west, corrupt attitude of rulers and the trust deficit.

I. RISE OF INDIVIDUALISM

The rise of the individualism proposes a great challenge to the Islamic state. It promotes materialism and also is the reason of exploitation. Due to this reason, the real purpose of Islamic state cannot be fulfilled.

II. WESTERN PROPAGANDA

The western propaganda also propose a challenge ^{to} of the Islamic state. This propaganda has proved to be disastrous for the Islamic states. This is the reason of the tarnished image that muslims have around the world. So, this is another great challenge.

III. EXTREMISM AND RISE OF TERRORISM

Extremism in the society has a large influence

and can be the reason of a distorted image of Islamic state.

Extremism is mainly due to the misinterpretation of religion and due to it terrorism has increased. This rise in terrorism and extremism poses great threat and challenge for the Islamic state.

IV. LEVISHNESS OF LEADERS

The levishness of the leaders and rulers is also proving to be a great challenge for Islamic state. Due to this corrupt attitude, they do not focus on the true issues of the society and their mere purpose is the fulfillment of their desires. Due to this motive, they come into politics

V. TRUST DEFICIT IN STATE INSTITUTIONS :

Moreover,

There is a trust deficit between ~~there is~~ the public and the state's institutions. Due to this trust deficit, the institutions are not able to collect zakat and ushr. Due to this, the Islamic welfare state cannot work properly.

CONCLUSION :

Islamic concept of polity is different from the west. The sovereignty, caliphate, and consultation are the key features. Philosophers like Al Mawardi, Al Mazarzi, Al-Farabi and Ibn e Khaldun gave concepts about the Islamic polity. However, there are some issues and challenges which are faced by the Islamic state.

QUESTION

Compare and contrast the roles and necessities of political party, interest groups, pressure groups and lobbies in Political development and policy formation in state.

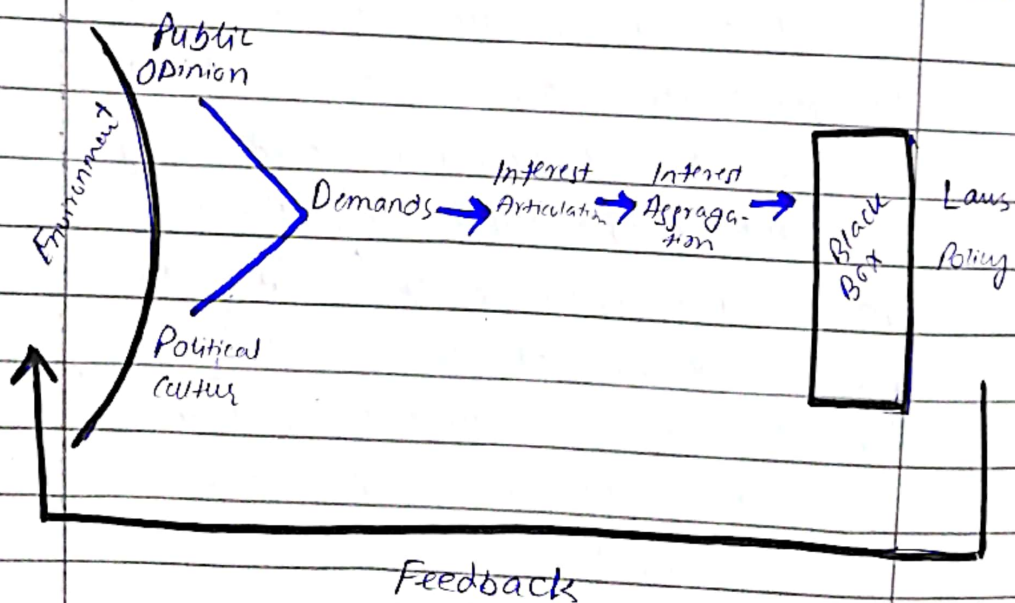
INTRODUCTION :

Political parties, interest groups, pressure groups and lobby lobbies play a very critical role in the development and policy formulation of the state. Political parties are responsible for shaping the public opinion, educating public politically. Due to this the demands put forward by the parties and public are responsible for the policy formulation.

Pressure groups and interests groups work for their personal interests and put a pressure on the Political parties to make policies which are

beneficial for only them. Moreover lobbying in the parliaments is also responsible for policy formulation. Gabriel Almond's political development model clearly shows the steps which are responsible for policy making.

GABRIEL ALMOND'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT MODEL



The model shows how the demands have to go through different steps and procedures to make themselves laws.

Political parties, pressure groups, lobbying and interest groups take part at different stages and mould the demands according to their interest

POLITICAL PARTY'S ROLE IN POLICY MAKING

Political parties are the direct representations of the general public and their purpose is to carry the demands of the public.

A) SHAPES PUBLIC OPINION

Political Parties are responsible for shaping the public opinion. These public opinions changes the demands of the public and when these demands have the intensity inside them they are made laws and policies by the legislature.

B) SERVES NATIONAL INTEREST ~ DEVELOPMENT

Political

Parties serve for the national interest of the public and when these national interests are served ~~and~~ only then the development of the state can take place. These national interests are made into policy and laws which are then responsible for the upliftment of a state.

C) EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATURE HARMONY ~ POLICY MAKING BECOMES EASY

In the political parties, executive and the legislature are on the same page due to the same party membership. Due to this, harmony occurs between the executive and parliament and Policy making becomes easy. So, by this way political parties make the policy.

PRESSURE GROUP'S ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY MAKING

Pressure groups also play a crucial role in the policy making and development of a state. Sometimes these pressure groups also pressurize to make policy in order to further their general interest.

A) PUBLIC AS PRESSURE GROUP

Public also serves as a pressure group in a state. Whosoever is in the party or power, he comes only because of the votes of public. And if the public turns against them, they cannot come into power. So this pressure serves as a motive for development of a state.

B) PRESSURE OF REVOLUTION FROM PUBLIC

The pressure of revolution or of the revolt against government also serves as a pressure group. History has shown that revolution from public always ~~can~~ creates development and policies are made according to will of the people.

C) PRESSURE GROUPS OTHER THAN PUBLIC

Some pressure groups other than the public also pressurizes the government to make laws and policies which serve their general interest. For example, in the USA, Rifle Association, is one of the pressure groups that ~~serve~~ moulds the policies in the way through which their general interest is served.

INTEREST GROUP'S ROLE IN POLICY MAKING

A) ARTICULATING DEMANDS

Demands

from the environment or public opinion have to go through the process of articulation before entering into the black box according to Gabriel Almond. The interest groups play their role in this stage. They articulate the demands according to their own needs and policy is made according to their interest. They mould the demands.

B) ROLE IN AGGREGATING DEMANDS

The step

after the articulation is aggregating the demands. The interest group's role further increases in this stage and they allow only those

demands in the public which all
accordingly to their interest.

ROLE OF LOBBYING IN POLICY MAKING

A) LOBBYING IN THE PARLIAMENT

The lobbying
in the parliament or the legislature
also serves as one of the major
strategies to make policy in their
own interest. The main purpose
of the lobbying is to ~~make~~ make
others think that the policy ~~to~~ ^{they are to}
make should serve their interest only
then the issue confronting the state
can be resolved.

B) ROLE OF LOBBYING IN BLACK BOX OF GABRIEL ALMOND

The black box
of the Gabriel Almond's model

Q7 the political development is unknown to the general public. In this stage lobbying is done to meet their own needs and to make policies which serves their self interest.

CONCLUSION :

Conclusively, one can say that Political parties, pressure groups, interest groups and lobbying play a very important role in the development and in the policy making of a state.

QUESTION

What is the difference between Rousseau's notion of 'State of Nature' and that of Hobbes and Locke?

INTRODUCTION:

Prior to the social contract, humans were in the state of Nature. However, there are different notions of different philosophers for 'state of Nature'. For Rousseau, in state of Nature, ~~the~~ man was truly free, there was no concept of inequalities like master and slave. The creation of social contract deprived man of his freedom. For Hobbes, in state of nature, every person was equal to every person. Fear was the most dominant emotion and there was war of all against all. However, John Locke has different point of

view about state of Nature, there was no utopia neither there was war against all. Rather there was natural rights of life, liberty and property. So, these three philosophers had different views regarding state of Nature.

ROUSSEAU'S NOTION OF STATE OF NATURE

1 MAN IS TIMID AND FEARFUL

In a state of Nature, man was timid and fearful. Man was not indulged in war of all against all, rather they avoided conflicts with each other. They were fearful and timid. There is no sign that proves that man was aggressive in the state of Nature nor there is any evidence that man engaged in conflicts.

II. MAN WAS A NOBLE SAVAGE

Rousseau

Further strengthens his view point by claiming that man was a noble savage. Before social contract was created, though man was not civilized but he also did not engage in wars or conflicts with each other.

III. RULE OF GOD PREVAILED

Rousseau

Further claims that there is no sign that man was lawless in state of nature. He claims that even before the establishment of state of nature, there were rules which men abide and these rules were the rules of God or rules of nature.

IV. NO SOCIAL INEQUALITY IN STATE OF NATURE

Moreover,
Rousseau also was of the view
that there was no social inequality
in state of nature. Although
there was men were not equal
in appearance or physically however
this inequality did not create relations
like master and slave. Hence, there
was no inequality in state of
nature (social inequality / classes).

THOMAS HOBBS' STATE OF NATURE

I. EQUALITY PREVAILED ~ HOWEVER IT WAS NO GOOD

According to
Thomas Hobbes, every man was
equal to every man. However, this
equality did not prove beneficial as

every man was capable of achieving the same tasks. This created conflict of man with each other.

II. WAR OF ALL AGAINST ALL

Due to this equality, there was war of every individual against every ~~int~~ individual. Due to this self preservation was desperately needed. Due to this reason, social contract was formed. There were no laws or no executive body which could control man.

III. NO CONCEPT OF NATURAL RIGHTS

Moreover, there were no concept of natural rights in state of Nature. Rights only emerged when a social contract (society) was formed and every individual was given his legal rights.

JOHN LOCKE AND STATE OF NATURE

I. NATURAL RIGHTS EXISTED IN STATE OF NATURE

According to John Locke, there existed natural rights in state of Nature, Life, Liberty and Property. These were inalienable rights and no one could deprive man from his natural rights.

II. THERE WAS NO STATE OF UTOPIA

State of Nature was not a utopia, neither it was a state of war. State of Nature men had equal rights (natural) and Men avoided conflicts with each other.

III. NO UNANIMOUS LAWS IN STATE OF NATURE

However,

there were rights (natural) in the state of Nature but there were no ~~the~~ laws on which every individual could rely. Moreover there was also no single judiciary which could ~~jurisdiction~~ in the case of conflict.

IV. NO CENTRAL POWER TO ENFORCE LAWS

Locke

also stated that there was no central (Executive) Power to enforce the natural legal laws passed by the legislature. For this reason there had to be a social contract created ⁱⁿ from which executive could enforce ~~not~~ legal laws and could protect the legal rights granted by the social contract.

Man was timid and feeble

Rights of individual over community's

ROUSSEAU

NO natural inequality

Rule of God prevailed

NO Rights in state of Nature

War of all against all

HOBBS' STATE OF NATURE

Equality between individuals

NO Unanimous laws

Natural laws existed

LOCKE'S STATE OF NATURE

NO executive to enforce laws

NO Utopia

CONCLUSION :

In a nutshell, Rousseau's notion of state of nature differed from that of Hobbes and Locke. Rousseau says man was free in state of nature, Locke says there were no legal laws and Hobbes says there was war of all against all. So every three of them had different views.

QUESTION

Ibn e Khaldun while acknowledging the external factors, emphasizes more on the internal systematic factors as decisive for the decline of states.

INTRODUCTION :

Ibn e Khaldun while acknowledging the external factors responsible for the decline of

states emphasized more on the internal factors of which according to him were chief factors for declining of a state. Internal factors include the easy life style of the rulers, their extravagance, undue and high taxes are some of the internal factors responsible for the declining of state. Moreover, cutting the salaries and allowances of the military and erecting monuments weakens the asabiya (reason of sodality). Due to these internal factors a state declines. However external factors do play part but chiefly it is due to internal factors.

EXTERNAL FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR STATE'S DOWNFALL:

Some external factors are also responsible for the decline of a state which are

I. HOSTILE STATES

Some hostile states are also responsible for the decline of states. The continuous attacks from the states weakens the state being attacked. Not necessarily that the state may be demised but ~~to~~ it directly effects the status (economical and political) of states which may prove fatal in the future.

II. CONTINUOUS WARS

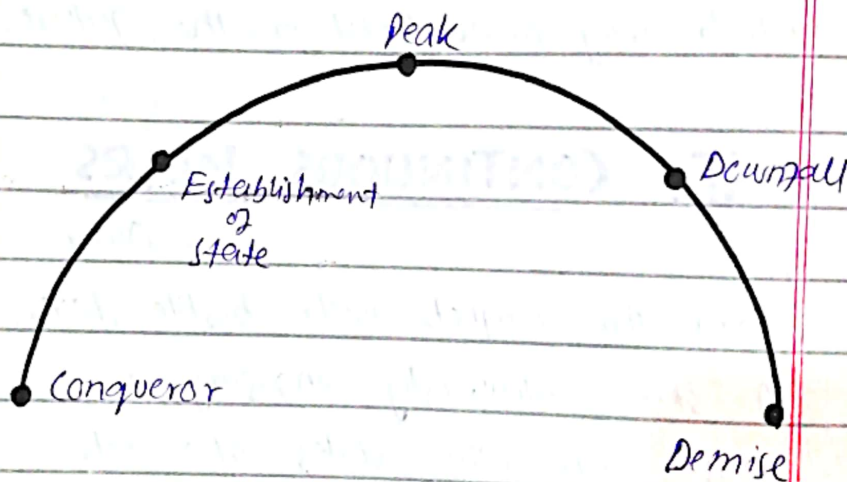
Other than the conflicts with hostile states. A state continuously engaging in wars with other states also sets the stage for the downfall of the state. It is not necessary that the state will always win a war. If it loses or war ended without any result, the economic losses are so huge that they lead to the downfall of state.

INTERNAL FACTORS CONTRIBUTE MORE IN STATES DECLINE

I. KHALDUN'S THEORY OF DOWNFALL OF CIVILIZATIONS

Ibn-e Khaldun

gave a theory comprised of five steps through which a state is established and is demised.



II. WEAKENING OF ASABIYA

Al Asabiya is the most important factor in the establishment of the new state. However this Asabiya weakens

as the state progress and reaches its peak. A time comes when this Asabiya (sense of sodality) is completely broken and then the downfall of the state starts which leads to the demise of the state.

III. COMFORT LIFESTYLE OF RULERS FULL OF EASINESS

As soon as the state progress and reaches its peak, the life of the state as well as of the ruler becomes easy. Due to this easy easiness, he (ruler) is engaged in activities to make his life much more comfortable, then the seeds of its demise are planted.

IV. EXTRAVAGANCE

When the life is full of ease and comfort, then it is only natural for a ruler who has not contributed in

development of state than that of his ancestors to be extravagance, this extravagance also proves fatal and destructive for the state.

V. HIGH TAXES

High taxes also contribute to the demise of the state. Asabiya became less and the state starts to decline.

VI. CUTTING SALARY AND ALLOWANCES OF MILITARY

The low and then cutting the expenditures and the allowances of the military also proves to be factor for the decline of state.

VII. WEAK MILITARY

Weak military is also one of the internal factors which make a state to decline.

CONCLUSION .

Conclusively one can say that Ibn e Khaldun emphasizes more on the internal factors which are responsible for the decline of state as compared to external factors,

when the nation has
become weaker and
the power of the
ruler is directed
towards the
internal and external