

Q- Explain the concept of executive presented by Muslim philosophers: Al-Farabi, Al-Mawardi and Shah-Waliullah.

1- Introduction:

For the stability of state, famous Muslim philosophers i.e. Farabi, Al-Mawardi and Shah Waliullah gave concept of executive. Sole purpose for providing concept of ruler of executive was to ensure peace, liberty and common good of all. There are slight differences among the executives of all. For instance, the executive of Farabi can get into power by force. Similarly, executive of Al-Mawardi should be a descendant of Quraish and Shah-Waliullah gave the right of executive only to males.

2- Need of Executive According to Philosophers:

i- Farabi's Executive:

For Farabi, the purpose of state is to ensure peace and liberty of all citizens in the state. Therefore, it is utmost duty of executive to ensure peace and happiness in the society.

ii- Al-Mawardi's Executive:

Al-Mawardi highlighted the need of assurance of justice in the society. His executive has different principles according to the teachings of Islam. He should have taken measures to expand Islamic teachings and be ready to wage Jihad.

iii. Shah Waliullah's Executive :

Shah Waliullah said that a person nominated as head of government will maintain law and order in the society.

3- Concept of Executive by Farabi :

Abu-Nasr Al Farabi or Averroes gave the concept of executive that head of government and state will be a person who possessed philosophical understandings and practical political skills to guide society towards the common good.

i- Rases-ul-Awal : As Executive :

Farabi proposed that a political and knowledgeable ruler often referred as "philosopher-king" or perfect ruler will be the executive of the state. As, he was influenced by Greek philosophers like Plato and this idea has resemblance with "philosopher king of Plato."

ii. Qualities of Rases-ul-Awal :

Farabi identified the different qualities for becoming head of state. It includes retentive memory, great understanding, ensuring justice, being wealthy, physically perfect, could identify root cause of the problems, able to do precise and meaningful conversations.

iii- Appointment of Rases-ul-Awal :

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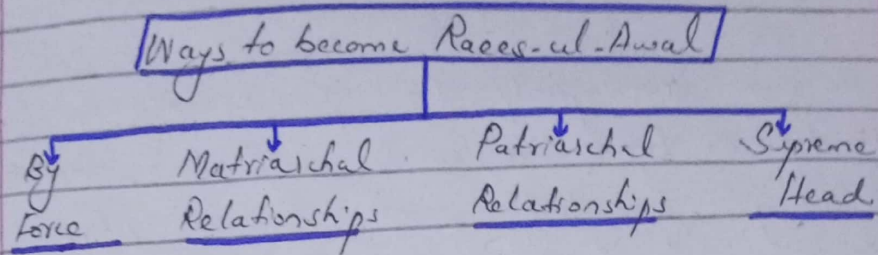
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Farabi identified four ways through which a person can achieve the position of ruler.



iv. Functions of Rases-ul-Awal :

Farabi discussed the following functions as significant and priority tasks for Rases-ul-Awal which are as follows

- Promote Justice
 - Educate Citizens
 - Maintain Social Harmony
 - Pursue Common Good
 - Strive for Wisdom
- Functions**

4- Concept of Executive by Mawardi :

Mawardi gave concept of executive when Abbasid's rule was in decline phase and was in danger due to threats posed by Fatmiyyads, Seljuks and Shrai tribes.

i. Imam or Khalifa as Head of State :

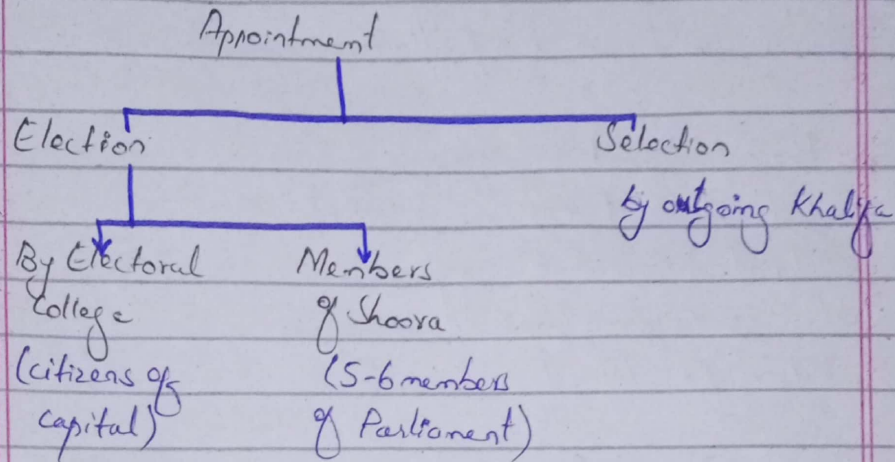
Mawardi remained an advisor to Khalifa on religious matters and he gave his theory of Imam to protect Imam or Khalifa. For him, Khalifa is the ruler of the state and

government.

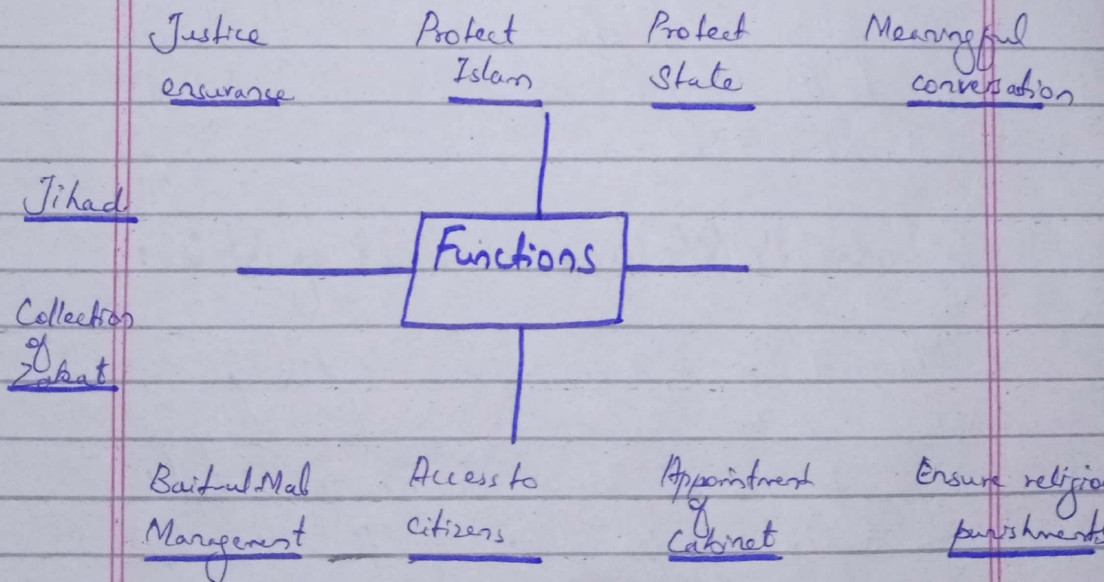
ii- Qualities of Khalifa :

He gave seven qualifications for becoming a Khalifa or Imam are as : Wisdom, courage, bravery, knowledge, integration of physical senses, integrity of organs and must belong to Quraish.

iii- Appointment of Khalifa / Imam :



iv- Functions of Imam :



5- Concept of Executive by Shah Waliullah:

Shah Waliullah explained four stages for formation of state and in the last stage he talked about need of head of state and government for stability.

i- Sultan as Head of State:

To maintain law and order in the society, and to manage the affairs of state a person is required which is known as Sultan. Then he identified various qualities for becoming a Sultan.

ii- Qualities of Sultan:

Like Farabi and Mawardi, Shah Waliullah also gave similar points of qualities for becoming a Sultan. However, the most important point of his qualities is that Sultan must be a male.

iii- Appointment of Sultan by Shah Waliullah:

Shah-Waliullah, an 18th century philosopher and Islamic reformer, did not propose a specific system for appointment of Sultan in his writings. However, he did advocate for the establishment of just and capable ruler in the context of Islamic governance.

iv- Functions of Sultan:

Promoting Islamic values

Holding justice

Welfare of society

Functions of Sultan

Protecting the state

Religious Tolerance

Consultation with Scholars

6- Specialization of Executive by Each Muslim

Philosopher :

i- Leader by Force in Executive of Farabi :

Farabi has devised four methods for becoming executive. He said out of four methods, one is to become executive by force or coercion. A person who possess following above given qualities of become Raees-ul-Auel can become executive by force, if the people refused to appoint him.

ii- Descendant of Quraysh: Executive of Mawardi :

A special quality highlighted by Mawardi was that person should be descendant of Quraysh or must belong to Syed-family. If he does not possess the quality, he is unable to qualify for the position of Mawardi. As, all of seven qualities must be fulfilled by the nominal candidate to become Imam.

iii. Concept of Imam
Just like Farabi
also developed
concept of Imam
right to become
philosophers
for Imam

7- Analysis of Imam
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iii- Concept of Male Executive Only: Shah Wali-ullah's Sultan:

Just like Farabi and Mawardi, Shah Waliullah also identified similar qualities for his executive. However, unique part of his concept of Sultan is that only males have right to become Sultan. Whereas, the other philosophers did not talk about gender for becoming the executive.

7- Analysis of Muslim Philosophers:

All three of the given Muslim philosophers gave concept of executive and have some commonalities as well. However, all of them have some unique qualities which distinguish them from one another. Also, the situational context in which they gave their concept of executive was different. For instance, Farabi gave his concept of executive when Islam was in its golden age of glory and he was influenced from Greek philosophers. Mawardi gave his concept when Abbasid rule was in danger. Similarly, Shah Waliullah gave his concept when Muslims in the subcontinent were facing different threats which were internal as well as external.

8- Conclusion:

In a nutshell, all three Muslim philosophers

gave their concept of executive with
unique distinctions. Moreover, the context
in which all of them gave their concepts
is different. However, the common motive
which all of them wanted was to achieve
peace, stability and to ensure justice
and morality.

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