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Topic:

Contemporary challenges faced by Muslim Ummah and their solution according to the teaching of Islam.

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### Introduction:

The Ummah, the supra-national political community of Islam, established by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), about fourteen hundred years ago, today consists of fifty-seven sovereign states.

Muslim Ummah is currently facing a number of internal and external challenges.

The internal challenges are more devastating which are caused by own faults of Muslims.

Following are the challenges faced by Muslim Ummah.

### Internal Challenges

#### 1) Political disunity of the Muslim world:

Firstly the Muslim world is plagued with disunity. The mission of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was to bring peace and

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unity to feuding tribes of the pre-Islamic days. However after his demise the Arabs returned to their warring ways. Blindly tribal loyalties returned. Disputes among over which tribe had the right to succeed the leadership of the Muslims Ummah after the death of Prophet eventually led to the most serious and dangerous schism among Muslims; the most lethal is sectarian divide among Sunnis and Shias.

## 2) Rich in source but Poor in Management:

Though many Muslim countries are ~~rich~~ blessed with rich resources, yet they are unable to put such resources to the optimal use, to serve and defend Islam and Muslim against those who conspicuously conspire against the Muslims. And the rich Arab countries are plagued by unchecked ~~conspire against~~

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~~the~~ Muslims:

lavishness, extravagance and profligate expenditures ruining the invaluable resources.

Their spending in education, science and social sector development is negligible.

"And Allah sets forth a parable: (Consider) a town safe and secure to which its means of subsistence come in abundance from every quarter; but it became ungrateful to Allah's favours, therefore Allah made it to taste the utmost degree of hunger and fear because of what they wrought."

### 3) Fundamentalism and Rise of Extremism:

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Another internal challenge faced by Muslim Ummah in this contemporary world is fundamentalism. Realizing or not, fundamentalism is one of the most abused words. Most of the time, it is associated with extremism.

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Nowadays, the people who are usually described as fundamentals are far away from the following of Islamic teachings. Most of them have seemingly reverted to their pre-Islamic Jahiliyyah ways of extreme loyalty to their groups, to fanaticism. "But commit no excess; for Allah loveth not those given to excess."

(Surah Al-Maeda : 87). Muslims countries are increasingly coming under intense pressure from religious fundamentalist movements to impose epistemologies compatible with their version of Islamic doctrines that are generally hostile to critical rational thought

#### 4) Lacking in Education, Science and technology:

It is unfortunate that Muslims world is badly lacking in scientific and technological advancement. For technological, military and IT requirements the Muslims world is dependent

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on the US, China, Germany, Japan etc. The literacy in terms of quality and quantity is dismal. There are over 85000 universities in India and 5000 in America. The number of foreign books that are annually translated in Spanish are less than those translated in Arabic world combined.

Only few universities from Pakistan and Turkey could manage to come in top 500 of the world. The contribution in sciences and technology and the number of recipients of Noble prize is insignificant. However, Turkey is showing some sort of progress in this regard.

## External Challenges

### 1) Globalization: Modern colonization.

Globalization as the west defines it is the process through which the expansion of international economic activities, international trade, and international financial flow takes place. This

is done through the borders, alies borderless economy. This has resulted Muslim countries to become exploited by the western developed countries as those who extract the natural resources of their countries end up investing in developed states enriching them indirectly.

## 2) Media Wars:

Today the media of Muslim countries and non-Muslim countries are in a tirade of terse wars. They blame each other for the calamities and atrocities in their states and hence have increased more hatred for the West. This has resulted in making of the extremists who now hate the West and considers it to be an eternal enemy of Muslims.

## 3) Defaming Islam:

The few prominent leaders who are defaming and maligning the

image of Islam are spreading Islamophobia. Likewise, the mullahs and other fundamentalist extremists who are using the name of Islam to achieve their personal and political goals are degrading the name of Islam.

### Solutions:

To be a Muslim is to live in accordance with divine principles. In Islamic community, collective activity is organized in such a way that work, production, trade with other and intellectual and economic exchanges call for a profound spiritualization of all our acts. We must spiritualize work, education, politics, law, international relation and daily life.

As said in Quran;  
"And whoever submits himself wholly to Allah and he is the doer of good (to others), he indeed has taken hold of firmest thing upon which one can lay hold; and Allah's



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is the end of affairs".  
1) **Unified Response of Ummrah:**

The divide between Muslims and non-Muslims world was increasing due to the concept of clash of civilization. The Muslim world need to address the current challenges faced by Muslim world, particularly the sectarian division among Muslims, which is a major hurdle in evolving a united response to these challenges and to come up with some solution to the issues such as extremism, sectarianism, and terrorism. There is need to respond intellectually to these challenges instead of use of force.

2) **Retrospection, Self inspection and Rectification:**

It is crucial for Muslims to stop finding faults in others for their failure and start focusing on their inner selves. It is high time

the Muslims should engage in self-introspection and diagnose their problem and iron out their pragmatic solutions.

### 3) Focusing on Scientific Education and IT:

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Muslims lag far behind the other nations in almost every field of modern education and thus it must be an area of concern for all Muslims in the world. Muslims should develop a system of education that could cater their religious and spiritual needs as well as contemporary requirements.

### 4) Need of Ijtihad:

Muslim ummah can improve his status by strengthening its Islamic affiliation with Islam. There is growing need for Ijtihad and renewal of new new methods of progressing

according to Islam. Islam should be embodied in every field of life. Religious scholars play their role in promoting sectarian harmony in Muslim world.

### 5) Reinterpreting the whole Edifice of Islamic ~~tech-~~ theology:

What Muslims must do is to go back to the teaching of Holy Quran and genuine Hadeeths, study and interpret them in the context of the present day. It's Allah will that the world has changed. The faithful must look for guidance from Quran. If we Muslims understand this then all of misunderstandings are removed and world will be a better place. Therefore we should resolve our own quarrels to present a united ummah. Most importantly, we should never be our own enemy.

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## Conclusion:

In view of their economic, social backwardness, Muslims need to conclude a new commitment with God and pact nature. This new pact between humanity, nature and God is a way of giving logical expression to their faith in the modern world, bringing them into harmony with their present situation. It is only by boldly updating the potentials of the Quranic faith that we claim to represent God on earth. As said in Quran,  
"To each is a goal to which God turns him; that strives together (as in a race) towards all that is good. Wheresoever, you are, God will bring you together. For God has power over all things" (Surah al-Baqarah: 148).