

Islamic Studies (CSS 2010)

Q) Differentiate between the Din and Religion, state the important points of Co-existence among Islam and world religions in the present scenario.

Difference between Din and Religion
While Din and Religion are used interchangeably, they convey different meanings.

Religion is derived from the Latin word "religio" or "religare" which means obligation/reverence and "to bind" respectively. It comprises of a set of beliefs, traditions and social customs. Contrarily, Deen means "way of life" or "judgment". Contextually, it refers to the way of life prescribed by Allah, which is Islam.

Concerns
Religion ~~deals~~ man's relations with God while Deen concerns man's relation with God and His creation. Furthermore, religion concerns private affairs of life, limited to sacred and spiritual matters. Conversely, ~~Deen involves~~ is a complete code of life, it Deen includes all aspects of life, individual and collective, encompassing both secular and

Sacred aspects. Thus, unlike religion, Deen is a complete code of life. In "Towards Understanding Islam", Mawdudi elaborates on how Deen provides a blueprint for a complete way of life.

Moreover, religion is only concerned with the Hereafter, whereas Deen encourages man to seek goodness in the world and Hereafter, as stated in the Quran (2:201), "Our Lord! Give us good in this world (that which is) good and in the Hereafter (that which is) good..." Furthermore, religion can be a man made concept ~~while Deen is a revealed scripture~~ subject to amendments from time to time while Deen is a revealed scripture protected by God as the Quran (15:9) states, "Indeed, it is We who sent down the Quran and indeed, We will be its guardian."

Additionally, the Quranic verse (5:3) which

outlines prohibitions and guidelines related to dietary laws, is proof that Deen concerns human life beyond mere ritual practice. Contrary to religion, Deen involves political, social and economic aspects. In Alama Iqbal was also of the opinion that deen and politics are not two distinct domains; if deen is excluded from politics, the result is tyranny. In "Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam", Allama Iqbal reflects his view of Deen as a comprehensive worldview.

Furthermore, Deen is practical and relevant in contemporary times whereas religion is practical only for a specific time period. ~~This also~~ The Quran (22:78) states, "He has chosen you and has not placed upon you in the religion any difficulty". This emphasizes that Deen is meant to be practical and manageable, implying its broad applicability to various aspects of life. The Holy Prophet (Pbuh) also practically performed the roles of these different aspects of life, e.g., as an individual, diplomat, peace maker, military strategist and educator. Thus, he

is a role model as the Quran (33:21) says, "Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example..." Michael Hart also revealed his reason for ranking the Prophet (pbuh) as the most influential person in history, which is because "he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels". This proves the holistic nature of Deen and unlike religion, how comprehensive Deen is about every aspect of life. Lastly, the points above ^{also} prove that Deen is universal where as religion is regional.

Co-existence among Islam and world religions