

Question Attempt

CSS-2016

Question: Discuss the salient features of Islamic political system in the light of governance under pious Khilafat-i-Rashida

Introduction

The word "Politics" came from Greek word "Politika" which means the affairs of cities. It is widely accepted that it is the process of gaining power and exercising it.

As Aristotle defined politics that it is combination of two things

① Law making to govern the system

② Process of making citizen happy.

In contemporary world, there are two major political systems. One is democracy practised by west and second is Totalitarianism practised by mainly Communist state. But

Apart from aforementioned systems, there is flawless political system known as Islamic political system. It is system to enforce the words of Almighty Allah and to do the welfare of people. It is best among the best.

Salient features of Islamic Political System

i) Sovereignty of Allah

unlike other world political systems, sovereignty lies with Almighty Allah. He is sole supreme authority and only law giver. No people, class, group or populations can claim to be sovereign in Islamic political system. Allah is only real sovereign and all others are merely subjects. Islam rejects the concept of Majority is authority. The acknowledgement of Allah as alone sovereign power is a prime and fundamental feature of Islamic political system. As Allah said;

"The authority rests with Allah, He commands you to not surrender to anyone saves him. This is right way."
(12:40)

ii) Men as Caliph

only Allah is sovereign. So he chooses

men as vicegerent or caliph for the formation and administration of Islamic state. Allah given the responsibility to establish Islamic state and he has to make sure that only words of Allah alone prevails. As Allah said;

"Follow God, prophet and caliph"

First two are unconditional but second one is conditional. The subjects can only follow his caliph if he is practising Islam according to the Quran & sunnah. As First Caliph said;

"If I follow Quran & sunnah obey me and remove me if I doesn't."

iii) Shura & consultation

it is fact that environment and conditions doesn't remained same. The circumstances of today are different with circumstances of 1400 years ago. Therefore, Allah in Quran & prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) in sunnah given the concept

of Ijtihad to resolve the contemporary challenges. Allah encourages consultation. He encourages Muslims to resolve their disputes through meaningful dialogue. Allah said:

"Resolve issues through consultation."
(42:159)

Holy Prophet (S.A.W.W) ^ﷺ consults with companions mainly from Khulifa-e-Rashideen. Similarly, 2nd caliph, Hazrat Umar (R.A) said:

"There is no caliph without consultation."

iv) Islamic political system is based on Ideology

Islamic State formed through Islamic Political system is based on ideology and ideology of state is based upon Quran and Sunnah. It is also clear that it can only run by those who have command on Quran & Sunnah and also have capability to enforce it. There is no concept of Westphalian system or secularism in Islam. Similarly,

There are complete protection of life, property and expression to non-Muslims (Dhimmi) of Islamic state. Even, they can hold administration position if they are capable. Islam does not believe in forced conversion. As Quran says:

"There is no compulsion in Islam"

Minorities have complete protection unless the Fascist and communist state. People believe that communism is also based on ideology. But communism is based on forced implementation of social system like Lenin did in Russia after Bolshevik Revolution. There is no concept of detention centers in Islam.

v) Islamic political system is reflection of welfare state

The one of main purpose of Islamic state is to do the welfare of people. Islamic state is a welfare state. As Hazrat Usman (R.A) said;
"Caliph must be who which welfare the public"

similarly, Hazrat Ali (R.A) said;

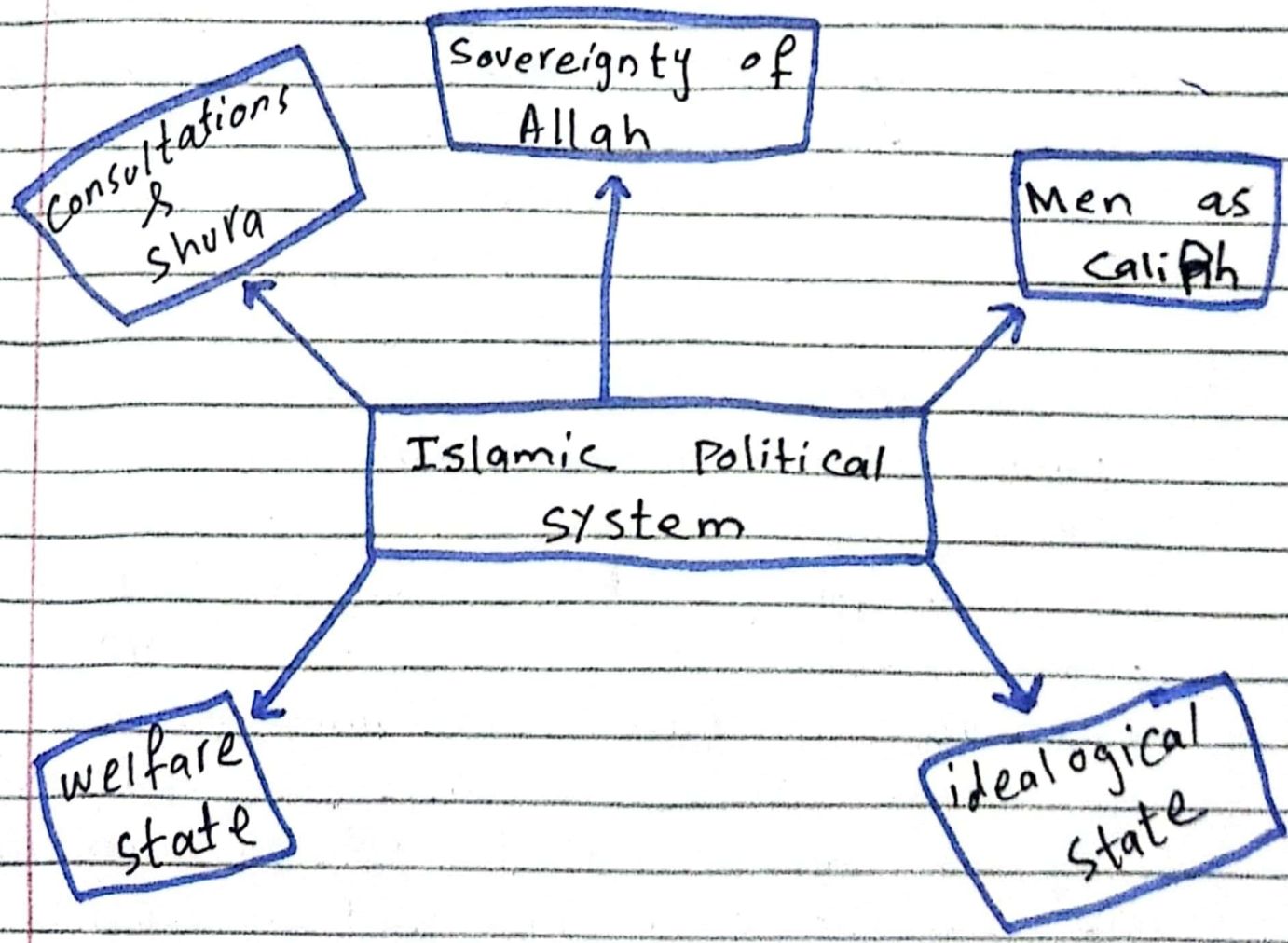
"first duty of caliph is to curb the corruption and then turn into welfare state"

Therefore, Divine laws done through the legislation by alone Allah is purposefull- Allah given the concept of Zakkat to eradicate poverty. There is concept of Bait-ul-Mal to provide basic necessities to underprivileged people. To maintain law and order, Hazrat omer (R.A) introduces the concept of police. Allah banded the regulators of Islamic state to do welfare Activities like like provision of food, shelter, Home and Health.

vi) Islamic Political system is based on Equilibrium of individualism and Collectivism

in Contemporary world, There are two biased and contradictory political systems: one is western so-called democracy which is based on giving over-exceeding freedom to Individuals with no checks and balance. other one is Dictatorship practised by Communist regimes. it exclude

fully individualism and believe in collectivism. on other hand, Islamic political system brings harmony and equilibrium b/w individualism and collectivism. Islam gives freedom to individual where person can enhance its personality for the purpose of acquisition of Allah's happiness. Similarly, Allah puts divine limits called as "Haddud-Allah's" so that person does not invite his own ruin.



Conclusion

Islam seeks a world Political System where people are equal, there is no favouritism of race, class or country. It seeks there is no compulsion where minorities have complete protection of life, property and liberty. People have desire to acquire Allah's happiness. Government has complete trust from people and providing welfare services to population. Both government are individuals making efforts to establish words of Allah alone on this planet.
