

Q. The theory of kingship as propounded by Nizamul Mulk Tusi: comparison with the monarchy of modern time of UK

(b)

1. Introduction

Monarchy, a system once synonymous with absolute power, has undergone a fascinating transformation. This analysis delves into the concept of kingship as described by Nizamul Mulk Tusi in his 11th century treatise, "Siyasatnama," and compares it to the modern British Monarchy. By examining these contrasting models we gain insight into the evolution of monarchical power and its relationship with the people.

1.1 Nizamul-Mulk Tusi and Divinely Ordained King

Tusi, a powerful vizier (prime minister) under the Seljuk dynasty, sought to legitimize the rule of his monarchs during a period of political instability. His theory

, rooted in the concept of divine right, presented the king as a divinely chosen figure.

(2) God's chosen instrument

Tus believed God selected a ruler with the necessary qualities;

- Wisdom
- Justice
- Leadership

To maintain order and justice, these are mandatory traits. This king became a "shadow of God on Earth" ("Zill - i - illahi), wielding divinely sanctioned authority.

ii) Unquestioning obedience

Subjects owed absolute obedience to the king, regardless of his personal character or actions. Rebellion against the divinely appointed leader was unthinkable as it defied God's will. This

emphasis on unwavering loyalty ensured social stability but fostered an environment where the

king's power remained unchecked

(iii) **Focus on order and prosperity**
 The king's primary responsibility was to ensure a stable and prosperous realm. Justice, security and a flourishing economy were paramount. Tuzi's model viewed a strong, divinely ordained leader as essential for achieving these goals.

III. **The Evolving British Monarchy**

The British Monarchy offers a stark contrast to Tuzi's absolute model. While it retains the hereditary principle, its power has significantly diminished, adapting to the rise of democracy and evolving societal expectations. Here are some key features of the modern British Monarchy.

(i) **Parliamentary Sovereignty**
 The ultimate authority lies with parliament, the elected body that

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makes laws. The monarch acts as a symbolic head of state, wielding limited political power. This shift in power dynamics reflects the rise of democratic principles, where the people, through their elected representative

(ii) **Constitutional Monarchy**

The monarch's role and limitations are clearly defined in an unwritten constitution, a collection of laws, precedents and traditions. This framework ensures accountability and prevents monarchs from wielding absolute power, as envisioned by Turgot.

(iii) **Consent of the governed**

The legitimacy of the monarchy now rests on the public's acceptance. The monarch reigns with the consent of the governed, not through divine right. This shift in focus underscores the importance of public opinion in the modern political landscape.

IV. A Tale of Two Monarchies

Comparing these two models reveals a clear transformation in how monarchical authority is perceived and exercised:

(i) Source of power

Tusi emphasizes the divine selection of the king, a concept is largely absent in the modern monarchy. The British monarch derives power from parliament, and, ultimately, the public's acceptance.

(ii) Limits on power

Tusi's king enjoys absolute authority, while the British monarch's power is strictly limited by the constitution and parliament. This shift reflects the rise of checks and balances within the political system.

(iii) Role of people

Tusi's model demands unquestioning obedience, a stark contrast to the modern monarchy, which

hinges on public consent. The British people through their elected representatives and public opinion, hold significant sway over the monarchy's future.

V. Conclusion

To conclude, Nizamul Mulk Tusi's theory of kingship reflects a bygone era where absolute monarchy was the norm. The modern British monarchy, on the other hand, has adapted to changing times, evolving from an absolute ruler to a symbolic figurehead with a democratic framework. This comparison underscores the historical transformation of the concept of monarchy and its delicate dance with the will of the people. While the divine right of kings may have faded, the enduring appeal of tradition and continuity continues to shape the role of monarchy in the modern world.