

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

Introduction:

The salient features of Islamic political system provides a distinctive model of leadership rooted in the principles of justice, accountability, and moral conduct. The governance under pious Khilafat-i-Rashida is often considered golden age of Islamic governance, embodying the core values of Islam in both public administration and societal welfare. This Islamic political system is based upon that sovereignty belongs to Allah, and rulers are the custodians of His laws, upholding the teaching of the Quran and the prophet (SAWW).

Salient features of Islamic Political system:

The salient features of this system include:

1 Sovereignty of Allah:

The central feature of Islamic political system is that sovereignty belongs to Allah and the rulers are vicegerant

of Allah. The vicegerent rules on the subject according to the commandment of Allah i.e. the Quran and sunnah of the Holy prophet (PBUH). On the other side, sovereignty belongs to state and its constitution or people of the state. But, in Islam, Allah says in <sup>mention</sup> this context "Muw is an vicegerent on earth" This demonstrates that sovereignty belongs to Allah Almighty.

(2:30)

2- Shura (consultation):

The pious caliphs, were elected through the consultation of the companions and subjects made allegiance at the hands of the pious caliphs. Moreover, Caliphs regularly sought advice from the Majlis-e-Shura (consultative council). During the reign of Hazrat Umar (RA) the house was divided into consultative councils; one for making policies of the state and other was for fixed the affairs of daily. This consultative governance created participatory political culture.

### 3 Justice and Rule of Law:

A key feature of Islamic political system during the reign of pious califs was strict adherence to justice and the rule of law. The caliph, including Hazrat Umar (RA) and Ali (RA) were known for their impartiality and commitment to justice, even dealing with their own family member or high ranking officials. They ensured all people were equal before law. Furthermore Hazrat Umar (RA), implemented judicial reforms and ensured judiciary remained independent from political interference.

### 4. Accountability and transparency:

The caliph held accountable themselves before people. They lived very simple life and did not live luxurious life at the expense of the people. People had courage to ask question about the source of wealth. For instance, Hazrat Umar RA was questioned about source of cloth he used to make his cloth. This underscores that accountability and transparency is basic tenet of Islamic

political system.

### 5- Selection of leadership:

leadership during the reign of Khalifa-i-Rashidun was based on merit, piety, and the consent of the people rather than inheritance or force. Each of the four caliphs was chosen based on their qualifications, character and services to the Muslim community and their selection involved public consultation and endorsement. For instance, Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) was elected as the first Caliph through the consensus of the Ansar and Muhajirin after the death of the holy Prophet (PBUH).

### 6- Welfare state

The Islamic political system under the Rashidun Caliph was deeply concerned with the welfare of the people. The state was responsible for ensuring basic needs of all its citizens.

Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) waged war against those who refused to pay Zakat. In the reign of Hazrat Umar (RA), monthly stipends were fixed for elderly, free

- medical care, and a public distribution system to prevent hunger.
7. Religious Freedom and protection of Non-Muslims

The pious caliphs guaranteed religious freedom and protection to non-Muslim. They were allowed to practice their religion and maintain their places of worship. They had legal protections under Islamic law. Owing to their protection, they were bound to pay Jazya but were exempted from military service.

Emphasis on Education and knowledge.

The Islamic political system prioritized education and knowledge as essential to the development of individuals and society. The caliphs promoted learning, scholarly discourse and the spread of knowledge. They encouraged the study of Islamic jurisprudence (Fiqh), science and other intellectual pursuit. For example, Hazrat Ali (RA) had profound interest in enhancing his knowledge and took keen interest in imparting education to other Muslims.

His inspiring quotations are beacons of tremendous information for all segments of society. About the importance of education he said, knowledge is the legacy of prophets and wealth is legacy of Qarun and Pharaoh. This demonstrates, that the pious caliphs had highly concerns for education.

#### 9 Decentralization of Power:

While the caliphs retained overall authority, power was decentralized through the appointment of governors (Walis) and judges (Qazis) across the provinces. For instance, Hazrat Umar (RA) took initiative to establish administrative unit with local authorities who were accountable to central government, ensuring efficient governance throughout the expanding Islamic empire.

#### Conclusion:

The governance model under the Rashidun caliphs presents a system based on Islamic principles of justice, equality, consultation and accountability. It reflects a balance between moral leadership and effective statecraft, where the ruler was a servant of the

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people, ensuring that rights were protected and their welfare was prioritized. This system's emphasis on justice, transparency, and the rule of law, continue to serve as an ideal in Islamic political thought.