

Throw light on Islamic Political system under the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and pious caliphs. Explain how it is different from western political system.

Introduction:

The Islamic political system under the Holy prophet (PBUH) and the pious caliphs represents a unique model of governance rooted in justice, equality and adherence to divine guidance. There are some features in the Islamic political system which are contradict to the western political system. Islamic Political system under the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and Pious Caliphs:

(1) Jurisprudence of Islamic Political system based on Divine Guidance:

The Islamic political system is based on divine revelation i.e. Quran and the sunnah.

The ruler or caliph governs by applying shariah law, which covers every aspect of life: social, political, economic and moral.

The first state under the Holy prophet was established on

the basis of principles of brotherhood, religious tolerance, and mutual respect, enshrined in the Constitution of Medina.

2- Role of the caliph:

The central feature of the Islamic political system is sovereignty belongs to Allah Almighty. Caliph is the vicegerent of Allah. In this context, Allah says in Quran, Man is an vicegerent on earth. He is responsible to the commandment of Allah on the earth. Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) said in this context, If I follow Quran and Sunnah, then follow, If I donot follow, then donot follow. This indicates that the role of caliphs is as vicegerent of Allah on earth.

3- Shura (Consultation):

The Holy prophet (PBUH) managed the affair of the state with the consultation of his companion as seen during the battle of Khandaq. When he asked to defend Medina, the first city state of Muslims - Hazrat Salman Farsi RA advise to dig trench and

He immediately took action on his suggestion. Similarly, the Pious Caliphs did the same. For instance, during the reign of Hazrat Umar (RA), the house was divided into two consultative councils, one for making policies regarding the state and other consultative body was responsible for managing the daily affairs of the state. This unique culture of consultation created participatory political culture.

4- Accountability and simplicity:

The Holy prophet (PBUH) and the Pious Caliphs held themselves accountable before Allah. If Fatima, the beloved daughter of the Holy prophet (PBUH) committed theft, Muhammad (PBUH) will cut off her hand. Similarly, Hazrat Umar RA was questioned about the source cloth he used to make his cloth during his Caliphate. Moreover, they lived very simple life and avoided extravagance, as seen with Abu Bakr RA and Umar RA, who lived like ordinary citizen despite holding the highest offices.

57) Justice and Welfare state.

The Islamic political system under the reign of the Holy prophet (PBUH) and Pious caliphs was based on principle of justice. The last sermon of the Holy Prophet is the practical manifestation of it. The state was responsible for ensuring justice, Hazrat Umar (RA) introduced judicial reforms and ensured speed justice deliver to individuals. The state was deeply concerned with the welfare of the people. Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) waged war against those who refused to pay zakat and in the reign of Hazrat Umar (RA), monthly stipend was fixed for elderly. These are the basic tenet of Islamic political system.

Difference Between Islamic Political System and Western Political system:

1. Sovereignty and Concept of State:

According to Islamic political system, sovereignty belongs to Allah almighty and man is Allah's vicegerent on earth. His responsibilities are to implement Allah's command which are available in the form of Quran and sunah. However, according to western democr

encies, sovereignty belong to state and its constitution.

2- Source of Jurisprudence.

The nature and sources of law in the Islamic and western political system are also different. The Islamic laws' sources are the Holy Quran, Hadith and Sunnah of the Holy prophet, Ijtihad, Istihad, Ijma and Qiyas etc. On the other hand, western laws are rule that are made, executed and adjudicated by the competent authorities. Islamic laws are divine law while western laws are man-made.

3- Role of Religion and Ruler:

In Islamic Political System, according to Al Muwardi and Shah Waliullah the ruler must be a Muslim, mature, sane, characterful, scholar of Quran and Sunnah and has foresightness, he is responsible for the imposition of Shariat, welfare of people without discrimination. Whereas, in western political system, religion is usually a private affair, governance is supposed to be neutral and

without the influence of religion. ensuring ^{that} laws apply equally regard- less of individual faiths.

4. Rights of Humanbeing:

The western state announce a man-made list of human rights while in Islam, human rights are explained by the Holy Quran and last address of the Holy prophet is a universal charter of human rights. Another difference is the nature of women's rights.

The western state gives equal status to male and women while in Islam, male dominate.

In Islam, women are given respect and honor, while in west concept of sexual difference has been abolished in the name of equal rights. which resulted in countless social problem.

5. Obedience in concept of state:

In Islamic polity, its entire people are bound to obey the ruler. If the ruler ignores Shariah, people are allowed to depose the ruler. A criterion for obedience is that the ruler must work according to the provisions of Shariah. While, in the

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western concept of state, the criteria for obeying the rulers vary from state to state.

Conclusion

The Islamic political system under the Holy prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the pious Caliphs was a unique blend of moral and spiritual leadership, rooted in justice, equality and consultation. It differs significantly from western political systems, especially in the integration of religion and governance, the concept of divine sovereignty and its approach to leadership and lawmaking.