

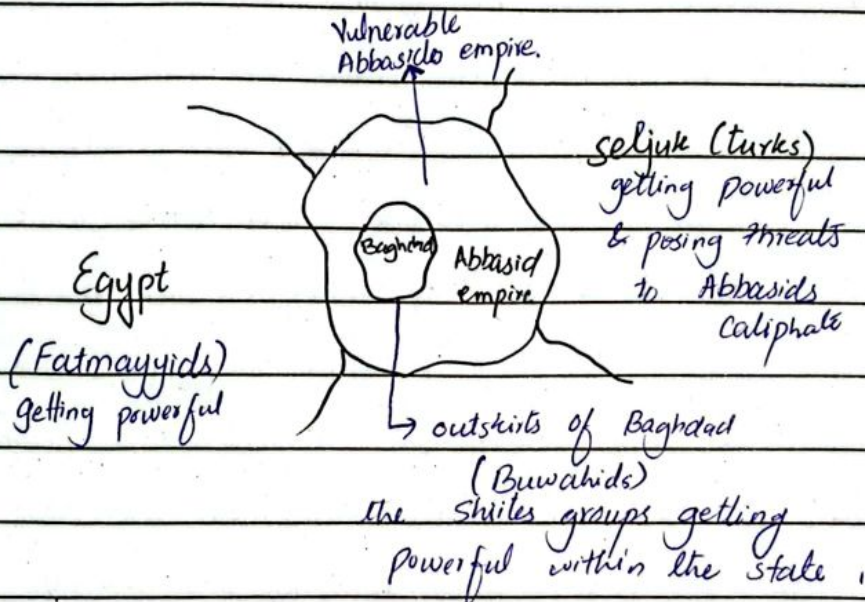
4) Describe the Theory of Imamate given by Al-Mawardi. (CSS-2016)

1. Introduction:

Al-Mawardi, born in 972 in a city of Iraq became the first Muslim to give a philosophy of politics based on practical implication of Islamic laws and traditions. He gave the definition to undefined. His famous work 'Al-Ahkam-ul-Sultaniyah' gave the detailed account on political and administrative machinery of state. His 'theory of Imamate' made him excel among his contemporaries on the basis of his knowledge and learning. His theory of Imamate was the practical system of politics and administration based on Shariah and Islamic Jurisprudence. Theory of Imamate is based on the selection of Imam having certain qualifications and the selection of Wazir to run the administration of the state. The Imam can delegate the administrative powers to Wazarat for effective administration.

2 Context :

Al-Mawardi for his knowledge in Islamic law and Jurisprudence was an adviser to the (Imam) Abbasid Caliph. It was the period of Abbasid's decline and the empire was facing multiple threats namely Fatimayyids, Seljuks and Buwahids.



Al-Mawardi gave this theory of power sharing between Imam and Wazarat to run the administration effectively and protect the state from these threats.

3. Salient Features of the Theory:

Theory of Imamate, as described by Al-Mawardi was the necessity to establish government based on Quranic Laws. According to

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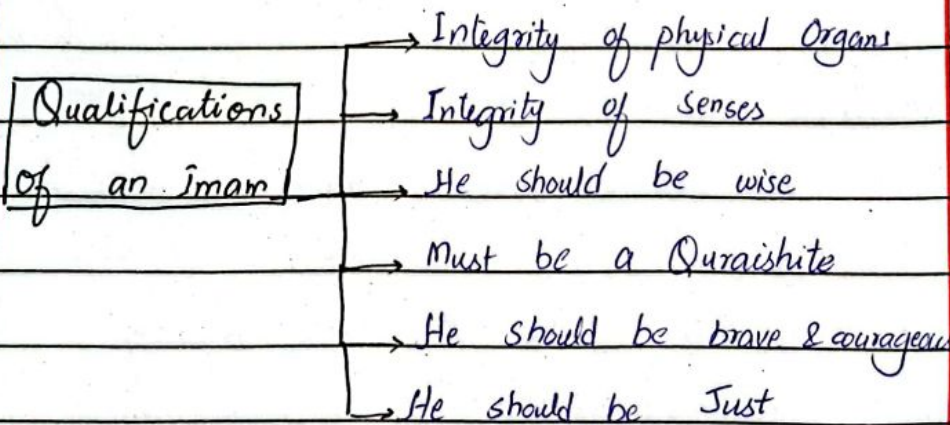
Al-Mawardi, the Imam is the vicegerent of Prophet (P.B.U.H) instead of Allah. Following are some salient features of the theory.

3.1. Necessary Requirement of Shariah:

Establishment of Imamate as a way of governance was the necessary requirement of Shariah. In order to implement Shariah laws, a system and machinery was needed.

3.2. Qualifications of Imam:

Al-Mawardi gave certain qualifications for the eligibility of a person to become an Imam.



3.3. Selection of an Imam:

According to Al-Mawardi, an Imam can be appointed by two methods, which he

ways were used in selection of four rightly caliphs. Imam can nominate his successor.

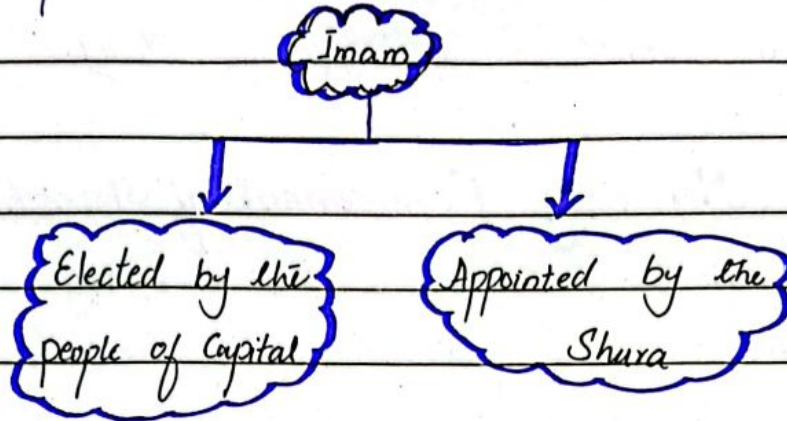


Fig: Selection of Imam.

The nominated candidate must fulfill the above given qualifications.

3.4. Removal of Imam:

Imam can be removed in case of following conditions.

- 1) If he loses physical organs or his senses.
- 2) If the Imam loses his morality and ethics e.g. if he becomes unjust & cruel.
- 3) If he falls to be a prisoner of his enemies, he should be removed from Imam.

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4. Duties of Imam:

Once appointed as Imam, he must fulfill his duties assigned to him by Allah SWT and Prophet Mohammad (P.B.U.H) as described in Quran and Sunnah.

4.1. Protector of Faith:

An Imam is responsible for the protection of deen from Bidah and Adulteration. And for this purpose he must consult the Ulama.

4.2. Enforcement of Quranic Code:

He must enforce the Hudoob according to the Quranic code. He must ensure the implementation Islamic law as derived from Quran and Shariah.

4.3. Ensuring Justice:

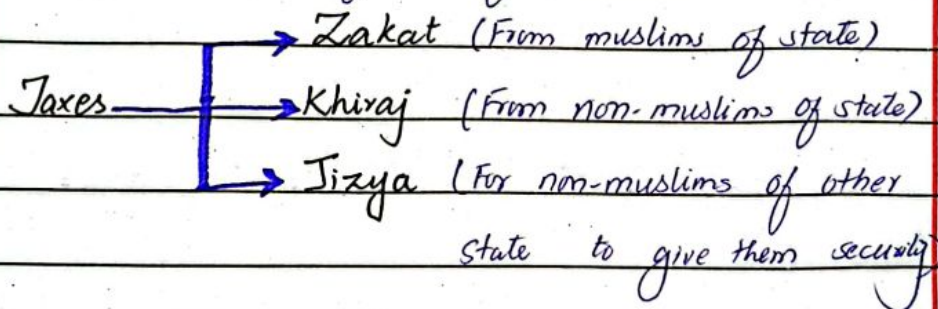
This one of the principle functions of Imam to ensure justice for all without the fear or favoritism. Rule of law in state without any discrimination is the duty of Imam.

4.4. Wage Jihad:

The Imam is obliged to wage Jihad against the anti-Islamic elements. The Imam must protect the Islam from all innovations. He must lead Jihad to eradicate the elements posing threat to Islam.

4.5. To collect Taxes:

Imam is responsible for the collection of revenue in the form of Taxes



4.6. Management of Bait-ul-Maal:

Imam is the custodian of Bait-ul-Maal is responsible for the management of finances. He must help poor & needy from Bait-ul-Maal.

4.7. Appointment of Honest and Just employees.

Imam can appoint the people in his administrative structure known as Wazarat.

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He must ensure the appointment of honest and just people as governors and blazirs etc.

4.8 Accountability of blazirs:

The Imam is not only responsible for the appointment of officials but also their accountability. Imam must be aware of activities of blazirs.

4.9. To look into affairs of state:

Imam needs to be aware of every happening in his state for this he must look into the affairs of the state personally and ensure the this people are satisfied with his policies and rule.

4.10. To defend Integrity of state:

A state is entrusted to its Imam, hence it is his responsible to protect the state from external threats (like seljucks and Fatimayids) and also internal threats like Buwahids.

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5. Conclusion:

Al-Mawardi's work in the form of "Theory of Imamate" holds a significant importance as he was the founder of science of politics in Islamic world. For more than 400 years, Muslims were focused on wars and conquests, they had empires but no system of governance. Theory of Imamate gave the foundation for the political and administrative structure of state based on the theoretical Shariah laws. This theory still holds its significance and can be seen in the present political system of Iran.