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B. No. : 363

**Q.1:** Discuss the political thought of Al-Mawardi in the context of the Islamic Concept of State and governance?

**ANS:** **Introduction:**

Al-mawardi (972-1058 CE), a prominent Islamic Jurist and political theorist, is renowned for his Contributions to Islamic political thought, particularly through his work Al-Ahkam-al-Sultaniyyah (The ordinance of government). His writing offers a detailed framework for governance in the Islamic state, focusing on the caliphate, the role of the Ummah (Muslim Community). His Ideas became particularly important during the decline of the Abbasid Caliphate when the Central authority was weakened, and the role of governance had to be redefined.

**1- The Concept of the Caliphate:**

Al-Mawardi emphasized the

Centrality of Caliphate in Islamic governance. According to him, the caliph is both the political and religious leader, serving as the successor to the phrophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the temporal world. He argued that the Caliph must come from the Quraysh tribe, as establish by the early caliphs after the death of the phrophet. This lineage ensured continuity and legitimacy in leadership, in line with Islamic tradition.

He viewed the caliph's responsiabilities as dual:

· <u>Political leadership:</u>

The Caliph is responsible for mainting internal and exterial security, managing the state's dejence and ensuring justices.

· <u>Religious leadership:</u>

The caliph must ensure the implementation of Shariah

(Islamic law) and protect the religious integrity of the Muslim community.

Al-Mawardi also prescribe certain qualities for the caliph: The ruler should be just, knowledge of law, physically able to govern, and morally upright. The caliph's authority was derived from his role as the executor of God's will on earth, with shariah serving as the foundational legal system for governance.

2. <u>The role of & governance in Islami:</u>

AL Mawardi's Concept of governance is deeply rooted in the Islamic principle of justice. He believed that the primary foundtion of the state is to ensure the well-being of its people through the enforcement of peo justices. and the protection of rights. The caliph and his deputies must prioritize public welfare, ensure fair distribution of

of wealth, and protect citizens from justices and opperession.

3. <u>Delegation of Authority:</u>

Al Mawardi recognized the need for delegation in governance, especially in the vast Abbasid empire, where the Caliph could not manage all admistrative affairs personally. He proposed a system of delegation whereby the Caliph would appoint vizers (ministers) and governors. This delegation ensured that regional and administrative matters were handled efficiently while maintainging the central authority of the Caliph.

- <u>Viziers of delegation (Wazir al-Tafwid):</u>

These minister were granted full executive powers to act on behalf of the Caliph, making decisions and administering state affairs autonomously.

- **Viziers of executation (Wazir al-Tanfidh):**
   These minister had limited powers and were tasked with executing the decisions of the caliph without independent authority.

4. **Public welfare and the Concept of Maslahah (public interest):**
   Al-Mawadi's governance model prioritizes public welfare (maslahah), which involves ensuring the material and spiritual well being of the citizens. He believed that ruler must act in a mannar that promotes the common goods, such as ensuring economic stability, protecting public order, and providing social justices. This focus on maslahah rooted in the prophetic tradition that emphasizes the ruler as a shepherd responsible for his flock (Hadith).

5. **Maintaining political stability:**
   One of the unique features of Al-Mawardi's political thought is

his progmatic approach to governance during a time of crisis. He argued that even if the rule is unjust or weak, it may be preferable to preserve the Caliphate to avoid anarchy and cheas. Al-Mawardi viewed stability and unity as paramount for the survival of the Islamic community especially in times of political fragmentation.

Example:

During the Abbasid period particularly as central authority waned and regional rulers (like the Buyids) exerted greater autonomy, Al-Mawardi's framework offered a way to preserve the nominal authority of the caliph. His allowance for delegation and the pragmatic acceptance of regional governance while maintaining allegiance to the caliph helped the Abbasid Caliphs retain legitimacy even when their power was limited.

## Conclusion:

Al-Mawadi's political though Is a cornerstone of Islamic political theory. His concept of the Caliphate, emphasis on justice, and framework for delegating authority provided a structured approach to governance that was deeply rooted in Islamic principles. His Ideas were Instramental in maintaining the theoritical framework of the Caliphate during the decline of the Abbasid empire and continue to influence Islamic political discource today.