

Subjective Part

Q1:

Critically analyze the relationship between Islam and modernity. How do Quranic principles demonstrate compatibility, and in which area do tensions emerge between the two?

Introduction:

Islam isdeen which is complete code of life. It is compatible with each and every era. Islam gave concept of Ijtihad which implies that modern problem modern solution. Ijtihad is emphasized by Quranic teachings and traditions of Holy Prophet (PBUH). Islam emphasizes rational inquiry and knowledge. Quranic teaching invites the person for rational reasoning. It resonates emphasis of modernity and scientific advancements in Islamic teaching. In golden age of Islam various muslim scientists and philosophers made their contributions in the field of philosophy, medicine, astronomy, mathematics, chemistry and functions of Al. gor islam. However there are some areas of Islam where Islamic teachings do meet with modernity.

Concept of Ijtihad:

It is amongst the fundamental principles of Islam. It

through which Allah bestows his guidance upon his servant. He tries to find solution to modern problem by the help of Shariah in Islamic society. It shows that Islam is not an static religion. It keep its pace with changing time. There is a common misunderstanding that Shariah laws give message that was related to only that era.

Quranic verses emphasizing the Ijtihad (Modern problems need solution with rational reasoning)

ably Quran at various points has emphasized on its relationship with the modernity. In a verse Allah says

"As for those who strive in us, we surely guide them to our path".
(3: 105)

In another verse He says "Who can search out the knowledge of it would have known it"
(Surah Nisa)

These verses show that Quranic teachings

emphasize the believers to put effort in searching out solutions to problem either modern or conventional.

Traditions of Holy Prophet (PBUH) determining compatibility with modernity:

Holy Prophet (PBUH) on an occasion sent Hazrat Maaz bin Jabal (R.A) as governor of Yemen. He (PBUH) asked him "how would he decide a matter that come up before him. Hazrat Maaz replied "I will judge matters according to the book of Allah". He (PBUH) asked if you do not find solution in it. Hazrat Maaz replied "I will look into the teachings of Holy Prophet (PBUH)". Prophet (PBUH) asked if you don't find solution in them. He replied "I will find solution by rational reasoning". Prophet (PBUH) approved the answer.

Importance of Ijtihad:

Ijtihad allows muslims to adapt in the face of changing societal conditions and modernity. It is key to provide Islamic interpretation of modern development and circumstances. Ijtihad emphasizes and enable muslims to flexibility. It enables what to adopt from

from other cultures and civilizations
Muslim scholar Jamal-ud-din said
"It is not only a duty but to
implement the principle of Quran
on the problem of our time
continuously. It tells us what
Quran want us adopt and what to
abandon."

Areas of tension between Islam and Modernity:

However there are some areas of
tension where Islam is incompatible
with modernity.

1. Secularism vs Religion: Modernity
emphasizes on separation of religion
from politics. However Islam has
given its own political system
which emphasizes social welfare,
economic system.

2. Capitalism vs Islam: Islam emphas-
izes on an economic system that
teaches about regulation of wealth.
Which modern economic system
is usury which emphasizes on
hoarding of wealth among few
people.

Islamic views on Feminism: Islam does not reject the idea of gender equality. But modern feminist ideas demand more than that. Islam is against impudence and brazenness of women who call it freedom and gender equality.

Conclusion:

Islam is the religion where it is emphasized that modern problems should be solved with rational reasoning with the help of Shariah. Although there are some areas where modern teachings are not compatible with teachings of Islam. But Islam is not an stagnant religion just like others. It gave concept of Ijtihad through teachings of Quran and Hadith. Through Ijtihad scholars interpret modern problems. Islam is not against modernity, scientific advancements or technological developments. But it is impudence which many people name as modernity.

Q3
Ans:

Discuss the roots of the identity crisis in the muslim world. Assess the intellectual, educational and socio-political efforts of muslim scholars to restore and preserve Islamic Identity?

Introduction:

After 9/11 attacks and negative activities of some radical groups muslims have fall prey to the issue of identity crisis. Although roots of muslims identity are deeper than 9/11 attack historically. Muslims have been accused of being expansionists due to former activities of some rulers. But this is what many other rulers of Christianity were doing in the past. Many muslims scholar identified these issues and with their writings preserved the true identity of Islam. They emphasized on true teachings of Quran and Sunnah.

Roots of identity crisis in the Muslim world:

(1) Historical clashes between spaniards and moors:
Muslims conquest of areas like spain

and others generated the idea that they are expansionists.

(2) **Colonial disruptions:** Colonialism later disrupted pre-existing political orders. Islamic institutions fell to foreign rule. Resultantly symbolic dislocation took place.

(3) **9/11 attack and rebirth of Islamophobia:**

2001 attack on twin towers build a global narrative that muslims are terrorists. later war on terror resulted in formation of more and more radical groups.

Intellectual efforts of Muslim scholars to restore and preserve Islamic identity

(a) **Renewal of Islamic identity through ijtihad:**

Thinkers like Jamal al-Din Afghani interpreted the core text in light of Quran and Sunnah in the light of modern conditions. He rehabilitated Islam's intellectual dimension and removed false accusation that Islam is against modernity.

B Institutional renewal: Shah Waliullah and his disciples redelivered hadiths and interpret laws for practical governance

C. Revivalist and purifying movement:

Shah Waliullah emphasized textual emphasis with social reform. He addressed and ~~by~~ tried to resolve sectarian division.

Educational efforts done by muslim scholars

(A) Revitalization of madaras:

Establishment of Dar-ul-uloom deoband in 1866 after British dismantled many religious institutions in 1857.

This madrasa was establish the identity of muslims and Islam.

(B) Translation of Quranic teachings and hadith into persian and later urdu:

Shah Waliullah translated the Quran into persian because it was official language at that time. Later his sons translated Quran and hadith into urdu. This was ^{done} to preserve identity of Islam and muslims by rendering them

some teachings of Quran hadith.

Qadafiya university reforms: It introduced national sciences, modern ~~per~~ pedagogy etc.

Socio-political efforts and movements to preserve and restore Islamic identity:

(A) During Colonial era: Jamal al-din Afghani united muslims against colonialists. He resisted their movement across borders in order to preserve the identity of muslims.

(B) Resistance of Omar Mukhtar: Omar Mukhtar also known as lion of the desert. He fought against Italian in Libya in order to preserve the identity of muslims.

Conclusion:

Identity crisis among muslims has roots dating back to muslim rule in Spain and later colonial era. The activities of non-state

actors further strengthened these roots. Muslim scholars throughout the history have addressed these issues in different ways. Some thinkers made educational reforms to preserve the identity of Islam.

Some made intellectual developments. While there were those who resisted the negative narrative against Muslims with socio-political movements.