

QUES

Explain the concept of Muslim Ummah and give the detail of crisis faced by Muslim Ummah today?

EXPLAINING THE CONCEPT OF UMMAH AND DETAILING THE CRISIS FACED BY UMMAH:

INTRODUCTION:

Muslim Ummah refers to a unique identity of Muslims which was founded by Prophet (PBUH). Muslim Ummah represents a **socio-political and economic entity** with distinct beliefs and norms in the light of Islam. Muslim Ummah transcends the state boundaries and encompasses every faith-bearer of Islam, having pronounced the oneness of Allah Almighty. Despite the fact that the concept of Muslim Ummah is so strong, Muslims are facing

multifarious crisis in the form of terrorism, extremism, radicalisation, sectarianism, poverty, backwardness, cultural onslaught of western civilization, political chaos, disunity and economic depravity. Both external and internal factors are responsible for the downfall of Muslim Ummah. However, the adherence to the teachings of Prophet (PBUH) can root out the above-mentioned crisis.

1. EXPLAINING THE CONCEPT OF MUSLIM UMMAH:

1a. LEXICOLOGY:

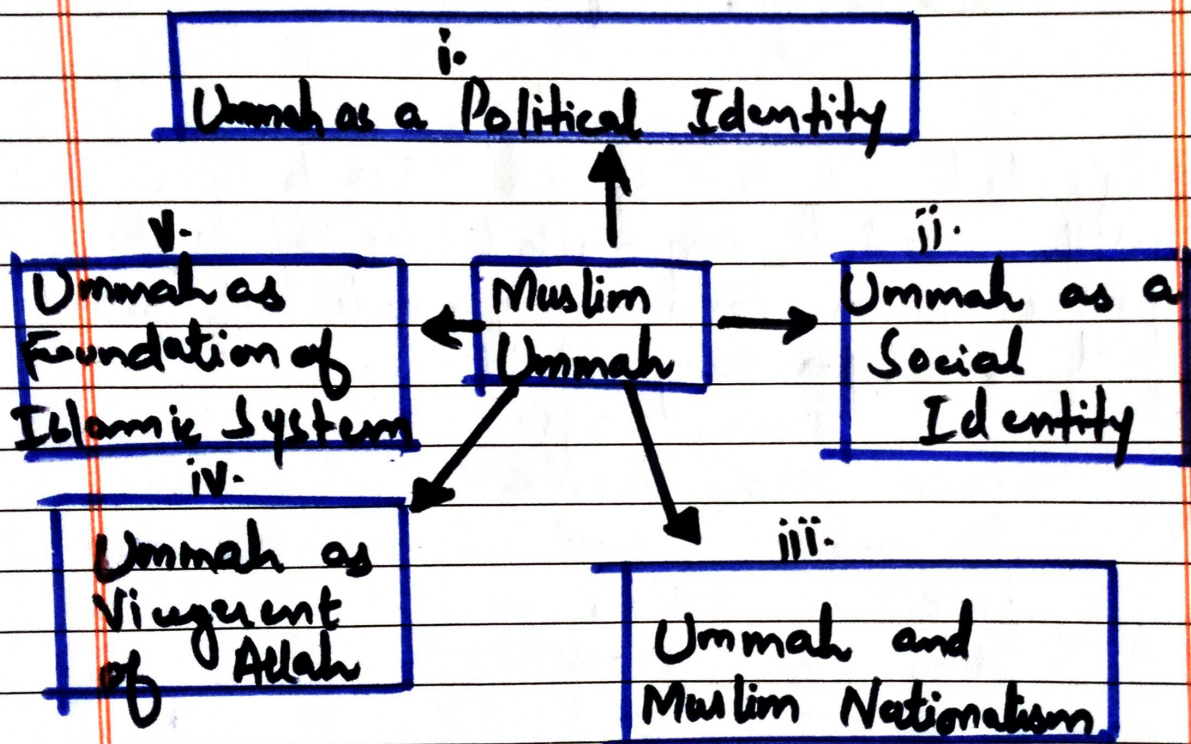
Umma is from "Umm" which means "root". In Arabic, it means "to give rise to something".

1a. MEANING OF MUSLIM UMMAH:

"The unique social, political and religious group following the ideological

principles of Islam, united by faith and possessing similar goals and objectives, constitute muslim Ummah'.

3a. EXPLANATION OF MUSLIM UMMAH:



i. Muslim Ummah as a Political Identity:

Muslim Ummah is a political identity, having the responsibility of establishing the political system of Islam. Muslims have been ordered by Allah

Almighty to materialise His
kingdom on earth.

Examples:

- ↳ State of Medina established by Prophet (PBUH)
- ↳ Rashidun Caliphate

ii. Ummah as a Social Entity:

Ummah has been regarded as a social entity with social responsibilities of establishing justice, pious community, rule of law and unity among Muslims.

Quran says:

Those who invite to good and forbid evil, they are good people.

(Surah Aal-e-Imran)

iii. Ummah as Vicegerent of Allah:

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلٰئِكَةِ اِنِّيْ جَاعِلٌ فِى الْاَرْضِ

خٰلِفَةً •
When you Lord said to the angels "I am going to appoint my vicegerent on earth".
(Surah Baqarah)

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Above ayat of Surah Bayarah illustrates that Ummah has the responsibility of spreading the message of Allah and withholding his principles.

iv. Ummah and Muslim Nationalism:

The concept of Muslim Ummah transcends the bounds of nation-state system as Iqbal said:

ہے ایک بیوں مسلم حرم کی پاسانی ہے
تیل سے ساحل سے تانے خاک کا شفر

v. Muslim^{Ummah} Basis of Islamic System:

Ummah has been attributed as the foundation of Islamic social, economic and political system. As Prophet (PBUH) said:

"Muslim Ummah is like a building - whose blocks strengthen the other blocks".

انہا المؤمنون اخوة ہ
Verily, Muslims are one brethren. (Surah Hujrat)

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2. DETAIL OF THE CRISIS FACED BY MUSLIM

UMMAH:

i. Terrorism in the Muslim Countries;

The rampant terrorism is one of the greatest challenges faced by Muslim Ummah. The proliferation of extreme ideology, contrary to the Islamic values, has normalised the reign of terror, oppression and weaponisation.

Case in view → Death of 90,000 people in Pakistan as a result of terrorism.

ii. Extremism and Radicalisation:

The spread of extremism and radicalisation is another crisis faced by Muslim Ummah. Allah says:

لَا كَرْهَ فِي الدِّينِ
There is no compulsion in religion.
(Surah. Bqarah)

However, radicalisation and intolerance have been propagated by religious clerics against the concept of tolerance in Islam.

iii. Sectarianism and Disunity:

Muslim Ummah is divided on sectarian lines which has disunited the Ummah. The cold war between Shiaism and Sunnism and contest for dominion have left the Muslim Ummah burning in conflicts and violence.

→ The Cold War in the Muslim World explains the ideological and political chasm between Iran and Saudi Arabia which have divided and weakened Muslims.

iv. Backwardness and Illiteracy:

Almighty Allah has ordained Muslims to seek both worldly and religious knowledge. However, Muslim Ummah is lacking in skills, knowledge and modern education.

Quran says:

هل يستوي الذين يعلمون والذين لا

يعلمون
Those who know and those who do not know, can they be equal?

(Surah Zumar)

v. Globalisation and Onslaught of Western Culture:

Global Western culture and its values of liberalism and secularism has presented the image of Islam as a backward religion. It has not only impeded the spread of Islam but also inculcated skepticism in the hearts of Muslims. Moreover, media culture has deceived the Muslims.

vi. Islamophobia: A Challenge for Muslim Ummah:

Islamophobia is defined as:

"Unfounded hostility towards Islam and Muslims". - (Runnymede Trust)

Fear of Islam and Muslims is another challenge faced by Muslims after 7/7 and 9/11. It has hindered the progress of Muslim countries greatly.

vii. Western Media, IT and Technology vs Muslim's Regression:

Muslim countries face the lacuna in the field of technology and information technology.

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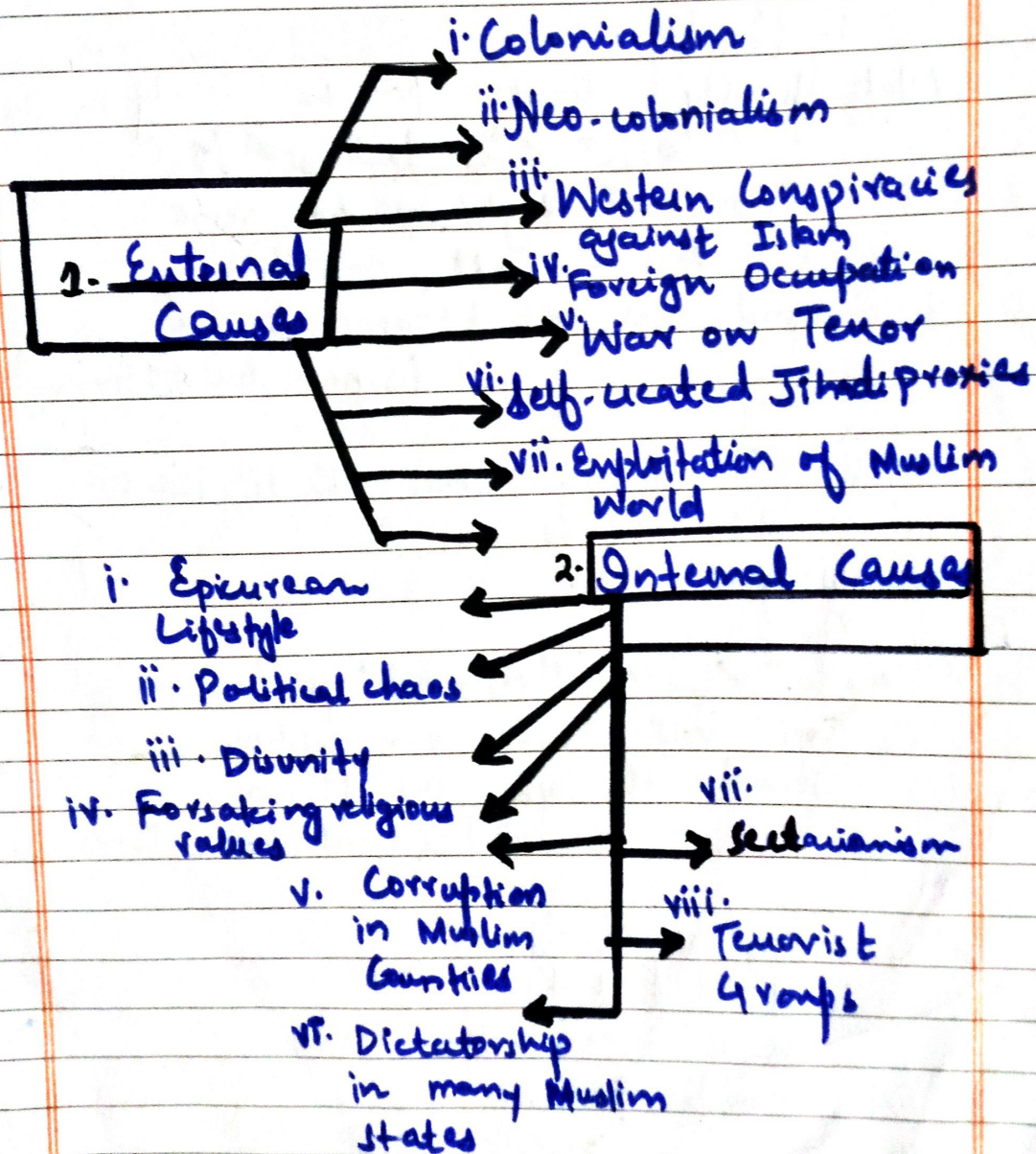
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As a result, they face challenges to propagate the message of Islam and acquire glory in the world.

2a. CAUSES OF THE CRISIS

FACED BY UMMAH



36. SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF MUSLIM

UMMAH:

i. Unity:

Allah Almighty stresses upon the unity in Quran.

وَأَقْبِلُوا عَلَى الْقَبْلِ أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا
And hold tight by the rope
of Allah all together
and do not become divided.

(Surah Al-e-Imran)

ii. Following the Religious Principles,

Quran says,

وَأَنْتُمْ أُولَئِكَ الْغَايِبُونَ
You will have an upper
hand if you are Muslim.

(Surah. Al-e-Imran)

iii. Knowledge:

Prophet (PBUH) said:

Seek knowledge from
cradle to grave.

(Hadith)

iv. Moderation:

Quran says:

"Your job is to warn them. You are not to force them."
(Surah Yousaf)

CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell, Muslim Ummah is embroiled in multitudinous crisis ranging from extremism to illiteracy and backwardness. Extremism and intolerance have taken deep roots in the Muslim countries, tarnishing the image of Islam. These problems can be eroded by adopting a holistic approach to reinvigorate the concept of Muslim Ummah in the light of Quran and Sunnah. As Ummah is a political and social entity, the glory of Islam in modern era rests with the ideology of Muslim Ummah. As **Badiuzzaman Na'isi** said:

"Our enemies are
disunity, ignorance
and hatred against
which we will make
Jihad with love, knowledge
and art."

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