

Critically examine Allama Muhammad Iqbal's concept of Spiritual Democracy. How does his political philosophy reconcile individual freedom (Khudi) with collective authority (Ummah), and in what ways it challenges western liberal democracy and modern civilizations?

## Answer

### 1. Introduction

Allama Muhammad Iqbal known as poet of east and spiritual father of modern philosophies. Allama Iqbal is famous for his works on human spiritual development, in the light of the concept (Khudi) Selfhood. Khudi (Selfhood) is famously realization of individuals than Self-Ego. He argues about western liberal democracies and modern civilizations in his famous book "The Reconstruction of religious thoughts in Islam", that these new modern system emphasizes more on materialism than spiritual development,

moral beauty and equal social society.

## 2. Concept of Spiritual Democracy

Iqbal famously expressed in "Ramuz-e-Khudi", that the real development behind the society is the moral perfectness, that shapes collective social sphere, unlike western democracy - will of all.

**Reforming Individualism: Core Subject of Spiritual Democracy Book**

### i. The Concept of Selfhood (Khudi)

"Reform the individuals and the Nation reforms itself,"

This quote is referred from Iqbal's philosophy on khudi (selfhood), where Iqbal emphasized about the spiritual development as the core process to elevate individuals at society level.

### ii. Equality: The Foundational pillar of Spiritual Democracy

Deny like western thoughts

of Capitalism where individuals gain unaccountable private assets to equal circulation of wealth. Iqbal famously noted in "The Reconstruction of Religious Thoughts in Islam", that when a society oppresses its vulnerable, it leads the society in collective moral decay.

### iii) Moral Justice: The Soul of Spiritual Democracy

The Concept of Moral Justice as stated by Allama Muhammad Iqbal in his famous philosophy, that moral integration is essential to build a society free from tyranny and inequality. Because morality transforms individual into just, kind and sincere.

### iv) Spiritual Democracy versus Western liberal Democracy.

IQBAL → Humans → (Vicegerent of Allah)

West → L → (Individuals of Society)

Iqbal notes that humans in spiritual democracy are independent within divine boundaries unlike total

liberalism, where absolute liberty without checks is operational.

## How IQBAL'S Concept of Khudi reconcile with collective authority (Ummah)

### 1. Concept of Weak Society

Iqbal notes that the society declines when its individuals lack in spiritual, moral and ethical standards, therefore a collective and spiritual powerful society strengthen the bond of collective society.

### 2. Individual Strength: As Society's Social Harmony

Human

↳ Self-Realization

Mard-e-Momin

↳ Powerful Society

Society's strength is measured

through the strength of its individuals in moral, social and practical destiny.

## Borderless State with Consolidated Unity of "Ummah"

Allama Muhammad Iqbal rejects the concept of border states, that shares interests through checks. The concept of "Ummah" unity without boundary, in the thought of Iqbal is real Muslim integrity.

## Concept of Khudi and Western Liberal Democracy

Iqbal mentioned that the real strength lies in self-realization and strongly opposes the concept of western liberal democracies. The western liberal democracies are fulfilled with the chaos of Materialism - which turn them into the marginalization of vulnerable and needy persons.

# Modern Civilizations and Allama Iqbal

## Modern Civilizations

- ↳ Absolute Secularism
- ↳ Capitalism
- ↳ Godless Socialism
- ↳ Tyranny
- ↳ Immorality

## Allama Iqbal's Philosophy

- ↳ Morality as core principle
- Spiritual development
- Ethics and law obedience
- Authority and Reconciliation
- Ijtihad "Intellect Interpretation"
- Ishq (love) and Aql (Intellect)
- Humanism over systemism
- Mard-e-Momin

## Conclusion

Allama Iqbal's philosophies and writings reflects spiritual development as core fundamental because it leads to collective strengthen, integration of society and moral implications. The concept build an anatomy of individual from human to Mard-e-momin, with transformation of love (Ishq) and Aql (Intellect), argues that intellect transforms actions and Ishq motivates those actions.

"Khudi ko kar buland itna  
ke kar mark pe khuda khud  
Banke de poche Bata ter  
Raza kya ha."