

Q: Explain how Islam guides in managing political power. (CSS-2021)

Islam and Politics

The principle, which contends that Islam provides complete code of life is central to Islamic political ideology. Islamic political ideology has certain democratic features. Islamic political system also advocates for government by consultation. This political system emphasizes on justice, equity, protection of human rights, and morality and ethics in leadership.

Guidelines Provided by Islam for Managing Political Power

Islam provides guidelines for managing political power by contending that sovereignty belongs to Allah Almighty; Shariah is supreme over everything in Islamic state; government must be made by consultation; leaders are vicegerents of Allah; law is above every color, creed or race; all citizens are equal in state; there must be transparency and meritocracy in every state institution; there should be strong system of accountability; and there must be ethical leadership in state.

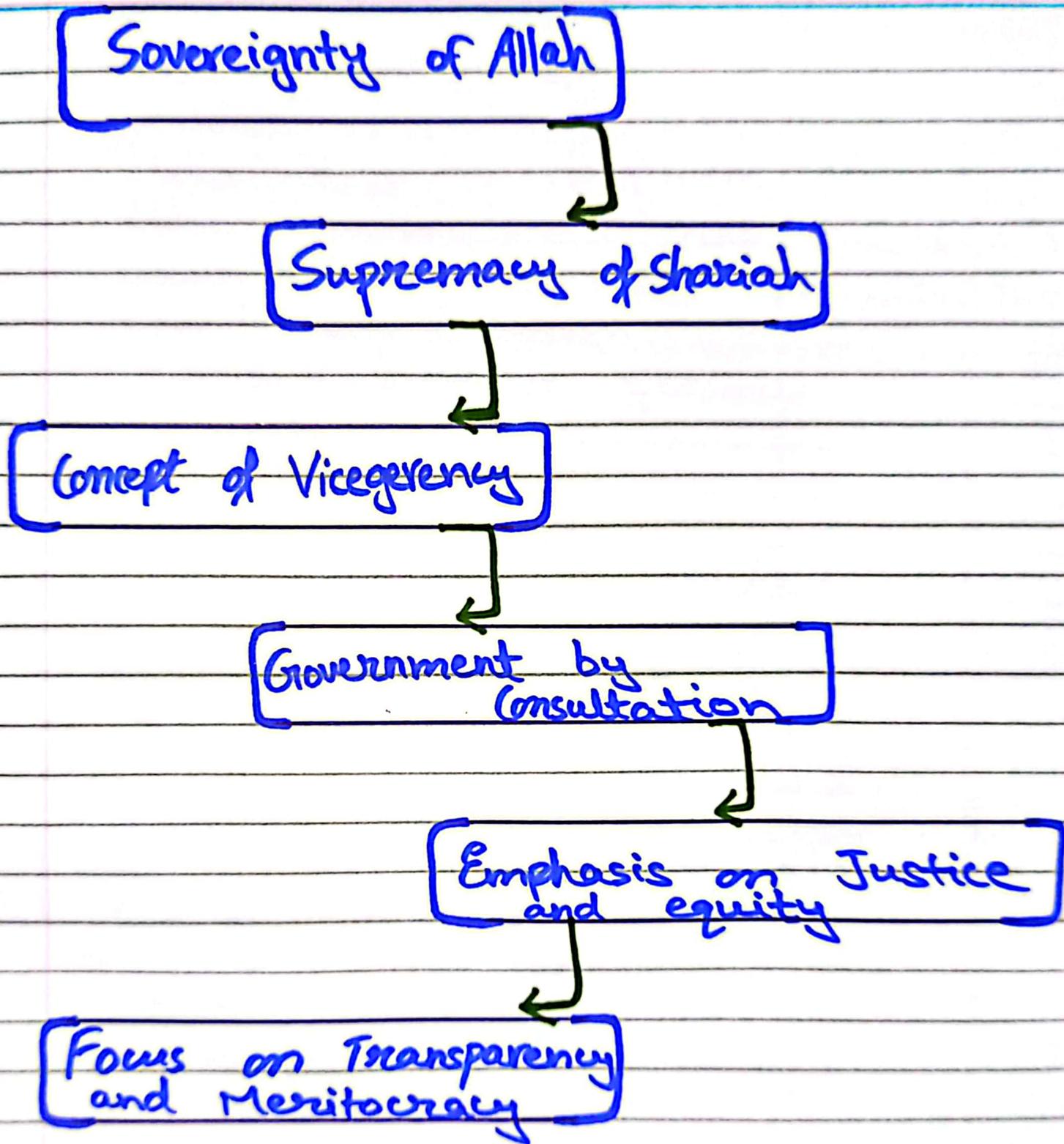


Fig:- Guidelines of Islam for Managing Political Power

i. Sovereignty of Allah

Islam contends that sovereignty belongs to Allah and authority is the blessing of Allah for the ruler and he has to exercise all powers and functions within the boundaries of Islam.

Allah Almighty says in glorious Quran:

Verily,
|| His is the creation and ||
|| the command. ||
(Surah Al Araf)

ii. Supremacy of Shariah (law)

Islam guides about management of political power by contending that Shariah (divine law) provides guidance about every aspect of life including politics. In an Islamic state, Shariah (divine law) is supreme over any decision of a ruler.

Allah Almighty says in Holy Quran

“ And when you judge between them (O Muhammad), judge by what Allah has revealed, and do not follow their desires.”
(Surah Maidah)

iii. Concept of Khilafat (Vicegerency)

Islam has given the concept of vicegerency. All human beings are vicegerents of Allah on Earth; and leaders must act as trustees, ruling for justice and accountability.

Allah Almighty says in Glorious Quran

“Indeed, I will make upon the Earth a successive authority (Khalifa).”

(Surah Bakarah)

iv. Government by Consultation (Shura)

Islamic governance is participatory; it involves mutual consultation. This is a democratic feature of Islamic political system as it emphasizes on inclusive decision-making.

Allah Almighty says in Holy Quran

“And consult them in the matters. Then, when you have taken a decision put your trust in Allah.”

(Surah Al-e-Imran)

v. Emphasis on Justice and equity

Another guideline provided by Islam for managing political power is that the primary focus of a ruler is to maintain justice and equity in state.

Allah Almighty says in Holy Quran

“O you who believe, Be maintainers of justice.”

(Surah Maidah)

vi. Focus on Transparency and Meritocracy

Islam contends that in order to maintain stability, equality, justice, and balance of power there must be transparency and meritocracy in state. Islam discourages nepotism and contends that appointments must be based on merit.

* The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) says

“When a matter is entrusted to those who are unfit, await the Hour.”

(Sahih Muslim)

vii. Emphasis on Rule of Law

Islam provides guidance for managing political power in state by emphasizing on rule of law. Law must be above every wealthy and influential individual of state.

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) says:

“By Allah, if Fatima, Daughter of Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) stole I would cut off her hand.”

(Ibn-e-Majah)

viii. Introduction to System of Accountability

Islam guides about managing political authority in state by introducing strong system of accountability for ensuring justice, fairness, equity, and meritocracy in state.

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) says:

“

Everyone of you is a shepherd, and everyone of you is accountable with regard of his flock.”

ix. Assurance of Protection of Human Rights

Islam contends that every human soul is equal before Allah's sight, and it is the religion that primarily focuses on protection of human rights. Thus, Islam guides about political power by arguing that a ruler must prioritize protection of human rights in state over the chase of power.

Allah Almighty says in Holy Quran

“Whoever kills a person (unjustly), it is as though he has killed all mankind.”

(Al-Quran)

x. Emphasis on rights and duties of citizens

Islam guides about the management of political power in state by emphasizing on the rights and duties of citizens.

Islam contends that rights and duties are the same side of a coin.

Article 40 of Madinah Accord clearly highlights how Islam emphasizes on rights of all citizens:

All tribes of Jews will have equal rights

as that of Muslims.

Following verse of Holy Quran clearly shows that Islam emphasizes on right responsibilities of citizens:

“Help one another in righteousness and piety.”

xi. Emphasis on Welfare of State and economic justice

Islam provides guidance about the management of political power in state by emphasizing that a ruler must focus on social justice. He must focus on public welfare instead of focusing on his own political interests. Leaders must ensure equal distribution of wealth and resources in state.

Allah Almighty says in Holy Quran

“And in their wealth there is a known share of the one who asks and the deprived.”

(Al-Quran)

xii. Emphasis on Equality of all Citizens

Another guidance provided by Islam for managing political framework is that a ruler must focus on equality of all citizens in state. There should be no preference on the basis of color, creed, or race in society for ensuring political stability.

Following last sermon of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) clearly validates this argument

“There is no superiority of an Arab over non-Arab, nor a non-Arab is superior to Arab; neither a White is superior to Black, nor a Black is superior to White, except for piety.”

xiii. Provision of foundation for morality and ethics in leadership

One of the most important guidelines provided by Islam for the management of political power is that it provides the foundation for morality and ethics in leadership. The

political leaders must ensure morality and ethics in their leadership which is ignored by contemporary populist leaders. In this way, Islam guides about the management of political power by promoting morality and ethics in leadership.

Allah Almighty says in glorious Quran

“Allah commands righteousness, justice, and giving to relatives; and forbids immorality, bad conduct, and oppression.”

(Al-Quran)

Conclusion

Islam provides guidance about every aspect of political dimension. Islam focuses on sovereignty of Allah, supremacy of shariah (divine law), government by consultation, rule of law, transparency, meritocracy, equality of all citizens in state, protection of rights of all citizens, morality and ethics in leadership. In this way, Islam guides about improving political frameworks of states.