

Question 1

Discuss how western civilization shall deep impacts on Islamic civilization?

1. Introduction:

Western civilization is characterized by individuality, democracy, materialism, rationality, scientific thinking and art. The Western civilization took its modern shape after Renaissance. Just like Islamic civilization influenced Renaissance and West, Western civilization has also influenced Islamic civilization deeply. According to "Samuel P. Huntington" in his book "Clash of Civilization",

"There can be no true friends without true enemies. Unless we hate what we are not, we cannot love what we are."

The Western civilization provided Islamic civilization with modern approach to political system, bureaucracy, language and western education, economy along with women empowerment. But at the same time, the influence led Islamic civilization towards moral degradation, mental distress, sense of alienation and losing connection with Islamic roots.

2. Characteristics of Western Civilization:

①. Individual Liberty:

Western civilization believes in the idea of free man. Everyone has fundamental rights and religion is one's personal matter. According to "Will Durant",

"Civilization begins with order,
grows with liberty and dies
with chaos."

②. Materialism:

Western culture is dominated by materialistic approach. In every aspect of life, the pursuit of material is their utmost priority and goal in life.

③. Democracy:

The rule of people, by people, for the people is the western approach to democracy. Majority has authority even if they're wrong.

④. Scientific Interventions:

Western civilization believes science to be the guiding principle in life. Every rational thought process must have scientific proof.

⑤. Secularism:

Despite Christianity being the leading religion, west believes in religion to be a private matter. However, the duality of thought is evident by the growing Islamophobia in the west.

3. Impact of Western civilisation on Islamic civilization:

A) Political Impacts:

① Political systems i.e Democracy based:

Islamic civilization adopted the idea of political systems from Western civilization which are based on democracy. For example "the Federal form of Government" used in Pakistan is originated from West. Similarly, the Majoritarian rule over others is western view.

② Colonialism:

Islamic civilization was also influenced by the colonial mindset of West. This contrasts from the Islamic values that believes in equality of all except for their level of faith. The superiority of few people over rest to rule and exploit came from Western civilization. The bureaucratic system is also part of British legacy.

③ Legal System and Judiciary:

Islamic civilization also adopted western legal system in which established codes and principles govern the rule of society rather than the practice of Ijma and Ijtihad. Everyone is equal in the eyes of law and justice is blind.

B): Economic Impacts:

① Economic system:

The western economic system is mostly based on "Interest". It believes in free markets, economic independence and neo-liberalism. The capitalistic aspect of Western civilization is visible in major Islamic countries i.e. adopted by Islamic civilization. Accumulation of wealth in the hands of few is evident in Islamic World today.

② Globalization and trade:

Islamic civilization has incorporated the idea of a Global world order and trade without borders as originated from West. Today, Muslim world dominates global oil market. Globalization has also brought Muslims around the world more in contact with each other. ~~The~~ ~~monoculture~~ ~~system~~

C): Science and technology:

① Industrialization:

The industrial revolution in the Europe also influenced the Islamic civilization. Though it is not a priority in Islamic civilization, it is still used as a mean for sustainable development in every sector.

② Education:

The focus of Western education is on the advancement of science and technology rather than religion or philosophy. The western civilization has imparted upon Islamic civilization the need to acquire western education to advance in society. This deviates from the Islamic principles of learning about deen (Quran etc) to live a better life.

D): Social and cultural Impact:

① Women Empowerment:

The different waves of feminism not only influenced Western society but also Islamic civilization. Despite Islam believing in equal rights for women, Western view of women liberty, advancement and equality to men influenced Islamic civilization. According to "Mary Wollstonecraft" in her book "A Vindication of the rights of women".

"I do not wish (women) to have power over men; but over themselves."

However the radical and neo-liberal feminist view contradict with Islamic thought and stir chaos in Islamic society regarding women's status.

4. Critical Assessment:

Rather than enlightening Islamic civilisation, Western civilisation has done more harm than good. The economic system based on "Riba" (interest) is a curse to society. The Capitalistic mindset removed the gift of charity and leads to unequal society. The democratic systems put few in charge of others who are not even qualified. The western education is leading to moral degradation and the cultural values contribute to lewdness and laziness. In the words of Iqbal

✓
ہاؤ پر ہاؤ دہرے منظر فرما ہو!
✓
ہاؤ آہاؤ تہاؤ بی مگر تم کیا ہو

Conclusion:

Western civilization has influenced Islamic civilization deeply in many ways. It has introduced new systems to rule and administer, scientific discoveries, language barrier removal etc but at the same time reshaped the Islamic civilization into a new mess. The Islamic civilization has lost touch with its roots and became a hybrid mix of uncertainty and ambiguity. This may also be a reason for its downfall.

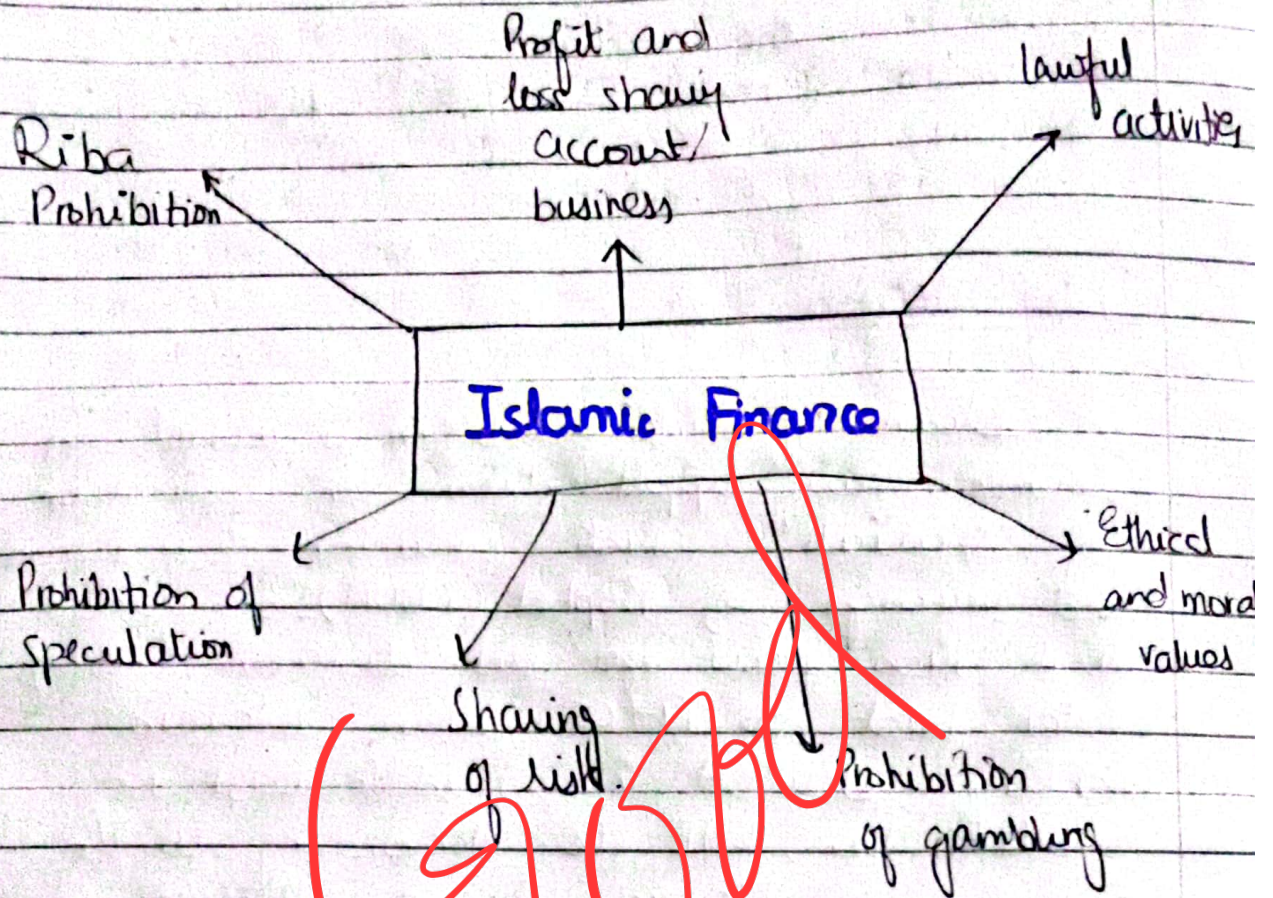
Question 2

Write down the principles of Islamic financial system. Is interest free financial system possible in 21st century?

Introduction:

Islamic financial system is based on "Islamic law" application or application of "Shariah" which includes Holy Quran and sayings of Prophet (PBUH). It started about 1400 years ago but its recent history dates back to 1970s when Islamic banking started in Middle East i.e. Saudi Arabia, UAE etc. According to the principles of Islamic finance, interest is completely forbidden, profit and loss sharing business are allowed, gambling, speculation and unlawful activities are also prohibited. Wealth must be generated through legitimate means and through moral, ethical values. The Islamic concept of Mudaraba and Musharaka are essential components of Islamic financial system. Although, Western financial system dominates, around \$2 trillion of assets are managed under the rules of Islamic finance - Considering the example of Malaysia leading the "Interest free Banking" scheme (IFBS), interest free financial system is still possible in 21st century.

Principles of Islamic Finance



① Riba Free

The interest charging and paying is strictly prohibited. It goes against Islamic values hence Riba (interest) is strictly not allowed.

② Prohibited Activities

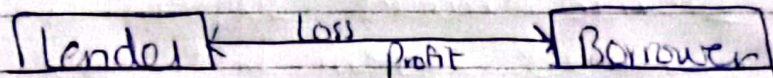
Any kind of prohibited activities such as gambling, speculation, pork trade, alcohol, pornography is strictly prohibited in Islamic financial system and considered unlawful (Islamic Shariah).

③ Speculation:
Considering uncertainty of future,
the speculation in any form of business
activities is strictly prohibited.

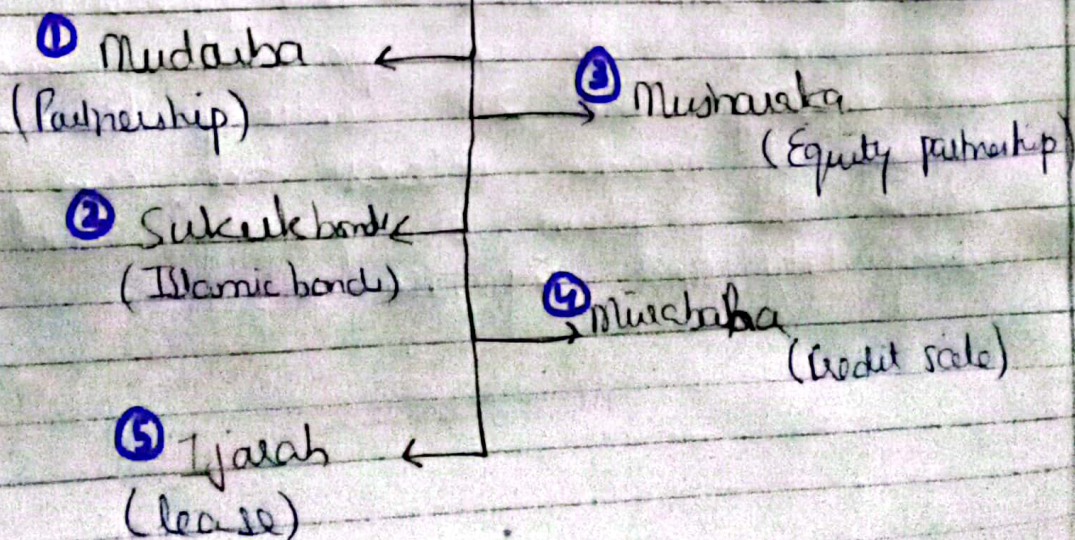
④ Uncertainty and Risk:

Islamic concept of justice enforces
that any kind of risk taken in business
activities should be equally shared
by business partners. Any contract
ie derivative contract or short selling
is also not allowed due to uncertainty.
The profit and loss must be shared
equally between parties.

No guarantees
on rate of return



Islamic forms of Contract :



Riba-free financial system in 21st century:

A dual financial system based on contemporary economic and financial system and a contemporary Islamic economic and financial system is the ultimate "Riba-free" financial system to be implemented in 21st century.

Example : Malaysia :

Since 1993, Malaysia has implemented an interest free banking system which includes both conventional and Islamic system.

Conclusion:

Islamic financial system is a "Riba free" financial system that provides solution to the capitalistic problems of 21st century. The Islamic finance promotes profit and loss sharing among parties thus promoting justice and prohibits uncertainty, speculation and uncertainty. The 21st century financial system, if made interest free, can solve the problem of poverty, social inequality and injustice.

Write principles in detail