

Q2- Introduction

Islamic is a complete code of life covering every aspect of individual life such as political, social, economic and legal spheres. Unlike other religions, Islam is a deen providing guidance on every dimension of human life in accordance to Quran and Sunnah. Political system is a key concept that provide robust structure for decision making, maintenance of social order and protection of a country against external threat. The fundamental principles of Islam are, but not limited to, the following: Sovereignty belongs to Allah, Khalifah is Allah's representative on earth, rule of law prevails, presence of consultation system, prevalence of human rights, Ummah concept and the essence of international relations.

principles
Fundamental systems of The Islamic
political system and their significance

Sovereignty belongs to Allah:

In Islamic Political system, the ultimate sovereignty belongs to Allah. No one can declare themselves as supreme leaders because they must subordinate to the command and will of Allah. Quran clearly states this in the following verse:

"None has the command but Allah."

Hence, making important decisions, maintenance of social order and defense against external aggression must align with the will of Allah.

Khalifah is the vicegerent of Allah on earth.

Reinforcing the sovereignty of Allah, a Khalif must be the representative of Allah on the earth. He must pursue decisions that do not go against the teachings of

Quran and Sunnah. The social order must be maintained through the guidelines provided in the primary sources of Shariah law. During his speech as a newly appointed khalif, Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) reinforced this view by stating that he should be followed on the only condition of his obedience to Prophet (SAW) and the Quran.

Consultation through Shura:

Consultation is an important principle of Islamic political system. During Battle of Trench, Prophet (SAW) took consultation and dig a trench on the advice of Hazrat Salman Farsi. The appointment of Caliph Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) was on consultation. During the Caliphate of rightly guided companions, a body of Majlis-e-Shura was formed with inclusion of important-companions. ^{Prophet (SAW)} Quran states:

"My Ummah will never agree upon error."

Consultation is crucial to gather ideas in acts of war and peace to make decision on defense system, social structure, economic development and administrative issues.

Rule of law in light of Quran and Sunnah:

Political System in Islam is based on rule of Allah stipulated in the form of Quran and Hadith. It rules out ~~any~~ concept of authoritarianism, monarchy and dictatorship.

No one is above the law including the Khalifah. Hence any disobedience of Shariah law will result in strict accountability. The Quran states:

"And Obey Allah and obey the Messenger and be not among the divided."

Hence, social harmony and unity is maintained through Islamic system. A dictator or oppressor

cannot prevail, creating cohesion in the Ummah. If the decision of ruler was not in the spirits of Islam, he could be held accountable.

Safeguard of human rights in the political fabric of Islam:

Islamic political system provides security to human dignity, wealth and life. Political statesman cannot commit any atrocities or promote human right violation. Caliph Umar (R.A) said that even the well being of stray animals are his responsibility. Hence, political system in Islam will provide swift justice, economic development, employment, education, accountability and security to the subjects of the state. Even the law of wars will be implemented to fight in spirits of Islam and struggle to establish peace and treaty with other nations. Quran states:

"Whoever kills a person, it is as if he killed entire humanity."

Political system in Islam transcends geographical boundaries.

Political Islam promotes Islamic Unity that dominates the concept of nationalism, ethnicity, status and race. Historically, many reformers advocated for the idea of Pan-Islam that

brings together the divided Muslims. The reformers included Jamal-ud-din Afghani,

Allama Iqbal, Muhammad Asad and Gamal

Nasser. United Muslims, rich in resources and united in faith, can overcome any

external threat and strengthen the defense of Islamic civilization

"Muslims are brothers of each other."

Conclusion

Political System of Islam is based on supremacy of Allah, leader as Khalifa, decision by consultation, rule of Islamic law, Unity of Ummah and uprightness of human rights. In the world of Muslims,

divided by borders, sect, nationalism, race and ethnicity, true Islamic political system can act as a trigger for new era of renaissance for Muslims of 21st century.

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Islamic term for Muslim extremists is 'khararij' which dates back to the caliphate era of Hazrat Usman (R.A) and Hazrat Ali (R.A).

Extremism fueled by Western propaganda has undermine the identity of Muslim in the modern era. Muslims are associated with terrorists and the fundamental concepts of Shariah law and Jihad are consistently undermined, associating these terms with extremism. There are various steps to counter the menace of extremism and promote the true spirit of Islam. They include the unity of Muslims, economic development, strong education system, reinterpretation of Islamic texts, countering

Western propaganda, and addressing Muslim identity crises.

Extremism : The Enemy of peace, security, human rights and social cohesion

Extremism has undermined the very teachings that Islam inculcates by promoting peace, security, human rights and social unity. In the contemporary Muslim world it has divided Muslims ~~by~~ through civil wars, sectarian conflicts and separatist movements. These have created deeply embedded hatred within the Islamic Civilization. West has taken an opportunity from this issue by spreading hate for Muslims in the West and terming them as 'religious fanatics'. Furthermore, Western world has initiated proxy war through these extremists to further their goals and weaken the Muslim nations further.

Measures to counter the curse of extremism

The urgency of Unity among the Muslim nations:

One of the primary reason for the presence of extremism is deep divisions in the Ummah.

Civil wars in Libya, Syria and Yemen, sectarian conflicts in Pakistan and Afghanistan, secessionist movement of Kurdish and Baloch ethnicities have deeply divided the Muslims. The national interest of a country is given preference over that of the whole Ummah. Hence, it is necessary to mend differences and unite against the very causes of extremism.

Although Nasserism and Baathism failed on the values of Pan Islamism, Muslims can still unite and form international alliances while respecting borders.

Economic development to eradicate an important driver of extremism: poverty :

Islamic nations must work on economic prosperity to eradicate extremism. The current Islamic countries' economic system face the challenges of inflation, debt crises, slow

growth and development. For instance, 45% of Pakistan's population lies under poverty line. Poverty breeds extremism as people resort to fundamental ways, wrongly interpreting Islamic guidance, when modern system does not offer any emancipation from poverty.

Strong education system to vitalize modernisation:

Education is important aspect of out-rooting extremism. It gives purpose, promotes civic sense and produce economic development. It broadens minds and promotes progressive ideas. Even the first word of first revelation was to 'Read.' Prophet (SAW) said,

"Seek education even if you have to go to China."

Reinterpretation of Islamic text:

Islam is a universal religion revealed for the entire world and all the eras. Conditions of the world changes, as human progress through times, New challenges emerge which require reinterpretation of Quranic texts to

look for answers. Imam Ghazali declares Quran as a sea of knowledge in which a person can dig even deeper to search for meaning. Hence, scholars should promptly address the issue of interpretation made by extremists to justify their aggression. For instance, Pakistan has taken various steps to introduce moderation in Madrasa system.

Addressing the issue of identity crises in Muslim population in the era of Western liberalism:

The new Muslim population has deeply submerged in identity crises. The era of globalization has fueled the propagation of Western modernism. Many at developing stages of their age takes on these traits.

According to Huntington's 'Clash of Civilizations', Muslim civilization and Western Civilization have different values and cannot be mixed. Adoption of modernism by Muslims and the era of extremism has resulted in a sense of identity crises among them. This fuels extremism if modernism do not suffice their values and needs.

Countering Western propaganda and proxy wars:

Western media ensured association of Shariah law and Jihad with extremism and terrorism. This creates a psychological anti-Western extremist identity among Muslims. According to Social Labelling Theory of sociology, Labelling becomes a part of individual's identity. Moreover, the extremists are used as proxies by the West to establish their influence in the region and weaken Muslim nations through constant state of war. Therefore, Muslims must counter Western media through education, media, mosques, etc by preaching true Islam based on unity, peace and spirituality and inculcate value of modernism that aligns with Islamic teaching.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Islamic civilization is going through a dark chapter due to presence of extremism. Hence, it must be promptly countered to establish the true image of Islam. This can be done by uniting Muslims

to peace, ensuring economic prosperity, establishing strong education system, countering Western propaganda, addressing youths identity crises and reinterpreting Islamic knowledge. These measures are the need of the time since extremism has severely weakened Islamic nations.