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ISLAMIC STUDIES

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INTRODUCTION

Islam is the first religion that introduced the concept of "Human Rights" in the world. The rights of people were reinforced in the message of all Prophets, especially within that of the Prophet P.B.U.H. ~~many~~ ^{many} believe human rights were introduced with the British Magna Carta of 1215 AD and then the UDHR declaration in 1948. However, Islam precedes all such declarations and brought rights to all human beings roughly 1400 years ago.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN QURAN AND SUNNAH

Islam delegates all rights through the Quran and Sunnah. It encompasses all individuals and

applicable throughout the globe.

1) Principle of Equality

"O mankind, We have created you from male and female and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may know one another"

(Al-Quran)

Islam propagates equal rights for all individuals regardless of creed and caste.

2) Right to Justice (Adl)

"Indeed, Allah commands justice and excellence"

(Al-Quran)

Allah commands rulers to be just and uphold an honest judicial system, free from discrimination.

3) Right to Worship (Ibadah)

"There is no compulsion in religion"

(Al-Quran)

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Islam allows all individuals to practice their religion. No one can be forced into Islam or any other religion for that matter.

4) Rights of Women

"And women have rights similar to those of men, according to what is fair"

(Al-Quran)

Islam was the first religion that gave rights to women, and promoted equal treatment, like human beings instead of a commodity.

5) Rights of Minorities

"Whoever harms a non-muslim under covenant will not smell the fragrance of Paradise"

(Al-Hadith)

The rights of all minorities are protected under an Islamic state. No one is allowed to break the laws or act in against such rights.

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6) Right to Life

"Your blood, property, and honor are sacred, like the sanctity of this day in this city"

(Al Buhari)

Everyone is granted the basic right to live a secure life under an Islamic state. It does not tolerate harm to another's life or property.

MODERN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN RIGHTS

Modern international humanitarian rights consist of those made as part of the present world order. It is comprised of documents like the United Nations declaration of Human Right and the Geneva Conventions. Similarly, each state has adopted its own set of rights as part of its constitution. The rights are more or less consistent across the countries.

1) Civil Rights

Every person living in a country has basic civil rights. It is comprised of right to free speech, right to travel, and own property. Basically, it comprises of the basic human rights.

2) Political Rights

These rights include the right to a free and fair election and being able to choose a representative according to the democratic principles. It promotes a just system.

3) Economic Rights

These rights include measures related to economic and financial affairs. It gives the people right to open businesses and perform trade. It enables a sound and open market for all.

4) Social Rights

These rights include articles related to functioning of a smooth and integrated society. It gives rights against discrimination and hate and protects all citizens of the society.

5) Cultural Rights

These rights form the basis of a secular and open state. It gives the freedom to follow one's own culture and religion without any fear or harm. It cultivates diversity and harmony in society.

COMPARISON OF ISLAM WITH MODERN RIGHTS

Islam already gave almost all the rights around 1400 years ago. The modern declarations form ~~part~~ ~~base~~ out of the tenets laid down by Islam. Regardless, Islam is still superior due to several reasons:

1) Comprehensive Nature

The last sermon delivered by the Prophet on 10AH comprehensively covered all the dimensions of rights. He gave ~~gave~~ an indepth ~~across~~ sermon for people of all future generations to follow.

2) Uncorruptible and ever lasting

Modern rights are changeable and can be distorted. The UN may choose or may not be able to hold up all laws. Islamic rights are enshrined in Quran and Sunnah and till the end of time.

3) Practical and Enforceable

Islamic rights are in line with each other and there is no contradiction between the principles. Modern rights, on the contrary are not always held up. The UN failed to respond to US atrocities and Israel's genocide.

4) Universal

Human rights in Islam are for all individuals across the globe

regardless of soundness while modern rights are limited by it.

CONCLUSION

In short, while modern rights may seem relevant and sufficient for the modern world, it does not carry the same depth and effect as that of rights in Islam. Modern rights are fraught with challenges. Ensuring Islamic rights in true nature important for a peaceful world.

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INTRODUCTION

Extremism has been on the rise in muslim states , especially in countries like Pakistan. Islam is the religion of peace and tolerance. Its message has been consistent across centuries. Both the Quran and Sunnah encourage the principles of balance in relations and all affairs of life. However, the true teachings of Islam have vanished in the modern day, culminating in the rise of ideologies in contrast to Islam.

CAUSES OF EXTREMISM IN MUSLIM WORLD

The rise of extremism can be attributed to a number of factors.

The main responsibilities lie with muslims forgetting or foregoing the true message of Islam through the primary sources of Quran and Sunnah.

1) Lack of Awareness

Many people today are unaware of the true teachings of Islam. The religion teaches balance and moderation which is no longer practiced. Opposing opinions are not tolerated.

2) Politically Driven

Extremist groups operating in countries, like the Tehreek-e-Labbaik in Pakistan, have political ties. They are used against political opponents, to spread discontent and create political pressure.

3) Proxy Warfare

Many extremist groups serve as proxy groups by foreign countries to spread hate and incite violence.

It is used as a method of warfare against enemy countries. Religious discontent is fuelled and tensions sparked through such groups.

4) Poisonous Literature

Many people follow the wrong sources for guidance of an Islam. Majority of the literature and content, especially that through social media, serves as a propaganda tool. Such content gives a rise to extremist ideologies in future generations.

5) Misrepresentation of Jihad

Jihad bil saif is promoted vigorously by extremist groups and organizations. However, the conditions of Jihad, as specified clearly in Quran and Sunnah are not followed and ignored entirely.

6) Unregulated Madrasahs

Madrasahs operating in developing countries, especially those of Pakistan remain unregulated. The teachings and methods are not known, while children are left at the discretion of religious scholars. Such unregulated nature fuels further

rise in unflinching nature and hardcore beliefs, resulting in extremism.

7) Rising Sectarianism

Rise in sectarianism also fuels extremism. The divide between Shia-Sunni groups, for example, has historically resulted in clashes and violence. Such divisions further blur the true message of Islam, while inciting extreme natures and ideologies.

MEASURES TO CURB IN ACCORDANCE WITH ISLAM

The principles defined in the Quran and Sunnah clearly define how one should engage in religious discourse and avoid extreme rigidity in religion. It lays the framework for all generations to follow to provide the building of a just and peaceful society. Some of the teachings are as follows:

1) Principle of Tolerance

"There is no compulsion in religion"

(Al-Quran)

The Quran teaches us to be respectful and tolerant of other cultures and religions. No ideology can be enforced on a human being.

2) Making peace in conflicts

"The believers are but brothers, so make settlement between your brothers"

(Al-Quran)

The Quran promotes making peace and avoiding conflicts. Allah does not encourage fighting amongst the believers.

3) Restraining Anger

"Those who restrain anger and pardon people"

(Al-Quran)

The Quran encourages muslims to restrain negative feelings like anger and

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promotes the idea of forgiveness and just behaviour.

4) Principle of Moderation

"And thus We have made you a justly balanced nation"

(Al-Quran)

The Quran orders the practice of moderation and prevents extremist natures and ideas. The principle is imperative to build tolerance.

5) Limits Transgressions

"Do not transgress. Indeed, Allah does not like the transgressors"

(Al-Quran)

Allah specifically mentions and conveys not to ~~cross~~ cross the limits mentioned in Islam and to restrain one self from behaviours that transgresses the set limits. This naturally curbs extremist behavior promoting a balance in society.

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6) Clear Stand against Extremism

"Beware of extremism in religion,
for it destroyed those before
you"

(Al-Hadith)

The Prophet clearly set a precedent to follow the directions of Islam and not be extreme in any way. It gives a clear message to those who obstruct Islamic teachings, for their own benefit.

CONCLUSION

The muslim world today is plagued by the menace of extremism. This is due to political, geopolitical and personal interests, that create and promote extremist nature and organizations. The Quran and Sunnah, however, disclose the real picture and present direct instructions to avoid rigidity in religion and practice modernity, tolerance and peace, so a well established muslim society can be promoted.