

QNO1

Explain in detail the characteristics of Islamic civilization.

Introduction Civilization is a social setting where people live in an organized form under laws, values, institutions, economy and political authority. It refers to the complex stage of human development. Islamic civilization is also a set of collective practices of Islamic belief, values and laws in all domains of life including spiritual, moral, ethical, social, political and economic with the distinct feature of God oriented approach derived from Quran, Sunnah and other sources of Islamic Shariah. As we discussed, Islamic civilization, unlike secular civilizations, is God (Tawhidi oriented) rather than man oriented. The Quranic foundation is aptly explained by Allah in Quran:

قُلِ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ (سورة الاخلاص)

"He is Allah, The One, The Self-sufficient"

The characteristics of Islamic civilization include: Tawhid (monotheism), Self-Purification, Dignity of man, Equality of mankind, Social Justice, Moral values, Tolerance and religious freedom, Rule of law and accountability.

Salient characteristics of Islamic civilization

Below discussed characteristics of Islamic civilization clearly make it distinct from others and

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formulates the Islamic world view.

1) Tawhid (Monotheism)

2) Self-Purification

3) Dignity of man

4) Equality of mankind

5) Social Justice

6) Moral and Ethical Values

7) Tolerance (Religious)

8) Rule of Law

What is meant by civilization?

The civilization is derived from the Latin word "Civitas" which means an organized community.

Civilization refers to the social setting or a complex level of human development under laws, moral, social, ethical values, distinct culture, economy and political authority.

Islamic civilization and its distinctive nature from others

Islamic civilization is the collective practice of Islamic laws, cultures, values, customs, political and economic principles particularly derived from Quran, Sunnah and other sources (Secondary) of Islamic law.

Detailed explanation of Islamic Civilizational characteristics

1) Tauhid (Monotheism)

Tauhid is the cornerstone of Islamic civilization which makes man independent from subjugation.

Tauhid is the most sensitive issue in the sight of Allah. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) worked hard to incorporate tauhid into muslim instinct. Quran says and explains many time about the sensitivity of tauhid:

قل هو الله احد (سورة الاخلاص)

"He is Allah, the one, the self-sufficient"
This belief is the most crucial characteristic of Islamic civilization and world view.

2) Self-Purification (Tazkiya)

Islam beliefs on self-purification after giving enough evidences to build the foundation. Islam does not belief on forced implementation of values, beliefs and doctrines. Quran explains it as:

ان الله يحب التوابين ويحب المتطهرين
(الفتح آية ١٧)

"Indeed, Allah loves those who purify themselves".

Story of Khalid ibn Waleed (RM) about Self purification

He remained pagan after Islam for 18 years but when his self was purified, he was among the first muslims who broke down the idols on the occasion of conquest of Makkah.

Makkahan period was also the manifestation of moral and spiritual purification of muslims at collective level.

Dignity of man (Honour for human)

Islamic civilization makes individual free from slavery and gives respect to humans (regardless of religion). Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was sent to free human beings from slavery and allow freedom of speech. Quran explains it as:

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ (القرآن)

("Indeed, We have honored the children of Adam (PBUH) ")

This shows that Islamic civilization belief in dignity of human beings regardless of religion.

Equality of mankind in Islamic Civilization

This feature of Islamic civilization, of equality of mankind, allows it to establish equality and eradicate the factionalism and divisions. All mankind is equal before law and other discussed characteristics.

Story from Ahadith on equality:

"Abu Bakr is our Sayyid who restore the dignity of our Sayyid Bilal" (Sahih Bukhari)

This shows how Islamic culture made Hazrat Umar (RA) believer of equality. He was elder of his tribe Banu Adi and honored a negro companion Hazrat Bilal (RA). He later became Mujaizim.

Social justice across the territory of practical Islamic civilization

Social justice is the most critical component of Islamic civilization. It makes all Muslims accountable before law regardless of their class, financial status and ethnicity. Quran has emphasized on it and the Seerah of prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the practical example of social justice.

ان الله يامر بالعدل احسان
(آل عمران)

("Indeed, Allah commands justice and excellence.")

Story of Hazrat Ali who lost case against a Jew

Hazrat Ali lost case against a Jew during his blessed tenure as a Khalifa. The case was criminal procedural.

(Al Bidaya wal Nihaya)

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Moral and Ethical values as a foundation of Islamic civilization.

Islamic civilization, under the divine guidance of Quran and sayings of prophet Muhammad (PBUH), emphasized on the moral and ethical nurture of man in Islamic social setting. Quran says:

انك لعلی خلق عظیم (القرآن)

("Indeed, you are of excellent character".)

This ayat was particular for prophet (Muhammad) (PBUH) but as he is the sole model, this fits on all Muslims.

This is the most salient character of Islamic culture.

Tolerance and religious freedom in Islamic Civilization

Islam is the religion of peace who guides Muslims in all sphere of life individual and collective. It ensure religious freedom and tolerance in Islamic polity. Islam gives freedom to all non-muslim. Quran ensures it as:

لا اكره في دين (سورة البقرة)

("There is no compulsion in Deen (Islam)")

This ayat revealed during Madani period where Islam was implemented at state level..

Charter of Madina also ensured the rights of minorities.

Rule of law and Accountability

Islam emphasised on the rule of law and on the respect of law. Moreover, accountability, regardless of status, completes the package. Khalifat-ul-Rasool or Ameer-ul-Momineen is the supreme authority who ensures the rule of law in Islamic civilization.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَاطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ

وَأَطِيعُوا أَمْرًا مِّنْ بَيْنِهِمْ

"O believers, obey Allah (Quran), obey rasool (Sunnah) and the supreme authority (Khalifa);

These traits of Islamic civilization makes it distinct from all others due to divine framework.

Conclusion

In essence, Islamic civilization is the set of laws, customs, rituals and values under divine guidance of Quran, Sunnah in all sphere of life including, social, legal, cultural, political, economic and individual level. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and pious caliphate gave the practical manifestation of Islamic culture during the first 40 years of political Islam after Hijrah in 1 AH.

QNO 2

In the light of Islamic system of Public Administration, what measures would you suggest to improve the public Administration System of Pakistan?

Introduction The Islamic system of public administration emphasized on justice, accountability and Consultation. Transparency and Services to the people are also some of its traits. This system promotes ethical governance, social welfare and efficient harmony in social setting. Pakistan has the best system close the Islamic system of public administration. But the system of Pakistan is suffering from some ills in the form of inefficiency, corruption and lack of accountability. Public administration is trustee ship in the hands of leaders and public servants and is very serious matter if do not practiced well. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said,

"Every one of you is the shepherd and every one will be questioned about his flock. A male is responsible of his family, a female is responsible of children and money of husband and a leader is responsible of his public. Everyone will be questioned". (Sahih Bukhari)

Concept of Islamic System of Public Administration.

i) Justice

ii) Accountability

iii) Consultation

iv) Transparency

v) Services to the people.

i) Justice as a Cornerstone of Islamic public administration

All decisions and administration regarding actions must be implement on justice regardless of social, political and economic status. Hazrat Umar punished his own governor Hazrat Amr bin Aas (RA), reported in Sahih Bukhari, when his children died bad to a common man. This shows establishment of justice as serious issue in Islamic public administration.

ii) Consultation of all muslims in decision-making.

Islam believes in consultation of all muslims in decision making. During Islamic period an elected focal person gives his suggestion in decision making as today MDA, MMA do. Quran emphasized on this as.

وامرهم شورى بينهم (سورة الشورى)

("And all decisions of muslims finalizes after consultation")

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Accountability of public servants

Servants are all accountable to Allah and public.

Transparency is required to use resources of Islamic State. "Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said."

("The best among you is who, who is beneficial for others". (Sahih Bukhari / Sahih Muslim) ")

Welfare-oriented administration:

The main purpose of welfare in Islamic public administration is well-being of people. "Both Hazrat Abu-Baker and Umar (RM) ensure equal resource distribution, eradication of oppression and ensurance of justice!"

Merit Based appointments

Leaders and civil servants are chosen based on knowledge, competence, and integrity, not acquisition of wealth. "Hazrat ^{Umar} appointed knowledgeable companions regardless of their social status!"

Issues of Public administration in Pakistan and their improvement through Islamic public administration system.

The issues today, faced by public administration in Pakistan are weak accountability, close door decision making, Nepotism based recruitment, intraspresent use of public resources, delayed justice, self-oriented culture, centralization of power. By incorporating ~~merit~~ Islamic principles these issues can be tackled effectively."

^{Strong} i) ~~Weak~~ accountability of public office holders

Pakistan is lacking accountability and resulting in corruption. According to global corruption perception index Pakistan ranked 139/166. "Islamic principle of accountability can eradicate this issue."

ii) ^{Open} ~~Close~~ door decision making through public

Consultations: Normally the decision making in Pakistan is being done by small ruling elite. Decisions are made inside close door. "Islamic principle of consultation can make harmony in Pakistan's social structure." According to the Pildat Survey, 18th amendment, by public consultation, was the most transparent decision making in Pakistan ever done.

iii) Merit based recruitment of servants

Nepotism and false recruitment of civil servants is the most serious issue of public administration in Pakistan as it is directly dependant on them. "Islam emphasised on the justice and ensured merit for the better public administration. Recruitment panels should be consist of all sphere of segments of Pakistan to ensure the merit based recruitment of servants."

iv) Delayed justice due to structural flaws

Weak justice system is the most alarming issue faced by the country Pakistan today. Social insecurity is increasing and public trust on the governments is eroding. "Islam emphasised on implementation

of justice for smooth governance. Pakistan needs some serious reforms in judiciary to ensure the true spirit of justice. In Islam, the Administrator had the judicial powers annexed; Executive magistrates can ensure this effectively."

Self-oriented culture in Pakistan's Administration

All segments of society in Pakistan, corporate and business along with institutions, politics, military and bureaucracy is self-oriented. Public and the life of common people is heavily neglected. "Islam emphasizes on the betterment of the life of common people. Hazrat Umar (RA) carried Bagon his back just to reduce miseries of that hungry women and his children!"

Centralized power makes hurdles in smooth public

Service in Pakistan: Decentralization is not implemented in Pakistan in its true spirit. This resulted in the weak public Administration. "On the other hand Islam, during Pious Caliphate, decentralized power to governor level for smooth welfare oriented public Administration. Hazrat Umar appointed Abdul Rahman Bin Auf (RA) and Hazrat Amr bin Aas (RA) as governors of Persia and Egypt respectively."