

## Islam and State

**State:** An organized political community living under a single system of government.

**Islamic state:** According to the Islamic state, it believes that Allah swt is the soul Lord of this whole universe and of supreme authority. And He swt chosen us His vicegerent and grant us some authority in this world to rule according to His teachings as vicegerent and to practice the laws of Islam. As mentioned in Quran:

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً (سورة البقرة - 30)

“And when your Lord said to the angels: Lo! I am about to place a viceroy in the earth.”

### ■ Ideology of religion and state

Ideology is a collection of doctrines or beliefs shared by members of a group or a society. It can be described as a set of conscious and unconscious ideas which make up one's beliefs, goals, expectations, and motivations. An ideology is a comprehensive normative vision that are followed by people, governments, or other groups that is considered the correct way by the majority of the population, as argued in several philosophical tendencies.

So Islamic ideology solemnly based on the Islamic doctrine which is believing on oneness of Allah as whole of the sovereignty belongs to him and His Prophets as a mentors of in this life and here after, Quran as the legislation and so on.

**Some other features:** Firstly, the Islamic concept of ideology does not restricted with geographic limitations, a person can move anywhere he wanted in this world because the whole land is of Allah's property. Secondly, Islamic ideology doesn't rely only on the Muslims, anyone from any religion can enjoy living in Islamic state without any limitations. Thirdly, Islamic state ideology is based on the practical implementation of laws in a specific piece of land.

### Perimeters of Islamic State:

The term Islamic state is composed of two words; “Islam” and “State”, but much confusion remains in defining parameters.

- 1) Does a majority Muslim population state called an Islamic state regardless of the laws, system and Islamic constitution imposed?
- 2) Does Partial implementation of some aspects of Islamic laws called Islamic state?
- 3) Naming the state as Islamic republic or having name of Allah on the state flag suffice to consider a state as Islamic state?
- 4) Does the existence of Islamic movements in positions of authorities constitute an Islamic state?

Even if a state possess all of the above elements, wouldn't be considered as an Islamic state. Islamic state is the name of a state where practice of Quran and Sunnah is done by

its followers. Because Islamic state revolves around the Quran and Sunnah nor around the Muslims.

## Political status of Arab before Islam:

In order to understand the Islamic state, we need to follow the time line of political statuses of pre Islamic time:

1. **Town dwellers:** They don't possess any proper land or homes to live, as their lives based on water resource, where ever they found it start living there and when that source vanished, they start looking for another place. This is why they were having no rules and regulations of life at all.
2. **Native tribes:** On the other hand, Pre-Islamic native Arabs had known by predominantly a tribal society which did not have any concept about a state and civil society. There was no written law more or less called as constitution, no governing authorities either hereditary or elected. Only a system called mala' was there. According to this system, if any decision had to be taken, it was taken in the conference in which tribal leaders was summoned and after the agreement it was enforced on every tribes weather in their favor or not; and those who disagree was not allowed to live in that area. There was no concept of defense system. Every tribe followed their own customs and traditions.

## Different ruling systems in the world:

1. **Feudalism:** It was a combination of legal and military customs in medieval Europe that flourished between the 9th and 15th centuries. Broadly defined, it was a way of structuring society around relationships derived from the holding of land in exchange for service or labor.

Some features of this system are as under:

- a) The land owner lends the land to the farmer and the farmer was totally free to grow any type of crops on it.
  - b) After the production, the farmer has to pay a specific portion of production to the land owner and the Pops.
  - c) After lending the land to the farmer, the land owner couldn't take it back. Moreover, the farmer couldn't leave the area for eternal.
  - d) If any expense needed by the land owner like wedding or anyother expence the farmer had the responsibility to provide it. On the other hand if the farmer need to be married, he cannot do it unless with the permission of the land lord.
2. **Capitalism:** A kind of economic system based on private ownership of the means of production and the creation of goods and services for profit. In another words, this is an economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state.

The main principle of this political system is "freedom of economy" i.e. no governance laws or religious laws can interfere in personal business. Everyone knows its own benefit and losses, no one need to tell him that. If someone deal with someone they are fully free to make their own terms. As a result, the

economics start scattering in the hands of some people and poor man start becoming poorer and compelled to become the slave of wealthier in their industries. There was no rules made for the labour.

Some key features of this political system are:

- a) No external interference in business.
  - b) Those who were strong in investment flourished and those of low level business would eventually ceased to grow.
  - c) As a result they compelled to work in their industry and become slaves. They were forced to work 12 hours at least a day and got very low wages.
3. **Socialism:** A way of organizing a society in which major industries are owned and controlled by the government rather than by individual people and companies. In other words a centrally planned economy in which the government controls all means of production—was the tragic failure of the twentieth century.

It is also known as communism. When the poor start revolting against the capitalist system and the wealthy people, German Karl Marks and his friend Fredrik Angles, introduced this system. Lenin first apply this system in 1917 in Russia after over taking the throne of Zar.

Main features of this system are:

- a) All the rights reserved to the government. No one has any individual right to have any kind of property.
  - b) It's a kind of a dictatorship that a one government rule over the people as it has not to answer in front of anyone. Whatever the policy the government make, the people has to accept it.
  - c) This system deprive the freedom of work. No one can change his or her own work. No one can start his or her own business. If a farmer had a piece of land, now it's the property of a government.
4. **Democracy:** A government by the people or rule of the majority or in another words a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections.
5. **Difference between democracy and shura system:** Islamic ruling system is based on shura system. As a concept and as a principle, Shura in Islam does not differ from democracy much.
- Both shura and democracy proceed from the core idea that all people are equal in rights and responsibilities.
  - Both thereby commit to the rule of the people through application of the law rather than the rule of individuals or a family through autocratic decree.
  - Both affirm that a more comprehensive fulfillment of the principles and values by which humanity prospers cannot be achieved in a non-democratic, non-Shura environment.

- But in Shura system the thing what matters is the weightage not the majority e.g. if a person's opinion is better than others even if they are in majority, then one person opinion would be listened. In Democracy majority is mattered i.e. if majority of the parliament members agreed upon something that would become a law regardless of the matter that, that law is according to Islam or not.

## Characteristics of an Islamic state:

1. **Sovereignty of Allah:** It means that laws or constitution to be made according to the Quran and the Sunnah. Prophet PbuH said: "I am leaving behind two things, if you grab them firmly, you will never stray from right path, book of Allah (Quran) and Sunnah of Prophet (Hadith)." (Mishkat)
2. **Justice:** Prophet PbuH said: "Previous nations has been destroyed due to injustice as when a lower ranked person committed crime they punished him, and when a high ranked person committed crime they forgave him, and keep in mind if my daughter Fatima (r.a) would commit a sin, she would be punished." (Bukhari)
3. **Responsibility of Ruler and its accountability:** Prophet PbuH said: "any person if hold the duty of governess and didn't put his effort to fulfill his duty and not stayed sincere in his responsibility, then he will not enter into the paradise." (Muslim)
4. **Enjoying good and abstaining form bad:** Allah says in Quran: "And co-operate with one another in virtuous conduct and do not cooperate with one another in sin and hostility." (Al-Maidah, 2)  
Prophet PbuH said: you will see after me leaders when they do injustice, people will appreciate him and whoever help him then I have no relation with him.
5. **Chosen leadership:** i.e. the leader is chosen by the people not on the basis of inheritance. Prophet PbuH said Jabir bin samura r.a: "Do not ask for leadership, because if you ask for it then it will be burdened upon you and will not be helped by Allah swt. But if you have been given the leadership without your will, then Allah swt will help you in settling the matters." (Bukhari)
6. **Shura:** Shura system is not only meant for selecting the leader for Muslims but also one of the greatest principle in settling the affairs and matters of ummah. The core thing in the shura system is the consultation which is done by the leader in the present of the most wise and pious people. As Allah says in Quran: "And consult them in the conduct of affairs." (Al-Imran, 159). Umar r.a said: "There is no khilafa except with the consultation (shura).
7. **Truthfulness in treasury:** A khalifa always consider the treasury as fidelity and never utilize even a single penny for its personal means beside its rights. And this is one of the main difference between khalifa and the monarchist that the khalifa consider treasury as fidelity while monarchist consider it as his own property.:
8. **Equitably of law:** A khalifa is no more than a common man. The laws and regulation will apply on him the same way as it is apply on a common man. He has no exception or superiority in the sight of law.

9. **Free from prejudice:** There is no tribalism in Islamic khilafa. No tribesmen are better than other tribe members. All people are equal in the sight of government regardless of nobility of a tribe.

### **Factors of changing Khilafat to monarchism:**

1. **Giving posts on governance to the family members:**  
Prophet P.b.u.h, Abu Bakar r.a and Umer r.a didn't appointed anyone on the higher ranks from their family members. Later on Usman r.a hired them but on the merit basis which leads somehow to the said factor in the later times.
2. **Giving ranks for very long time:** Umar r.a appointed Muavia r.a as minister on damascus but Usman r.a gave the commandment of Damuscus, Palestine, Lebanon, Hims and many other provinces under his command. Moreover, He r.a ruled over these areas for more than 17 years. This thing caused difficulties later on in the rein of Ali r.a.
3. **Conspiracy against khalifa which leads to the martyr of Usman r.a:**  
Usman r.a appointed Saeed bin 'Aas on Basra, he misbehaved with them. People of Basra intended to raid against Usman r.a. The people of Basra and Kufa were all evil spirits, the same they did with Imam Hussain r.a. So they made the list of points against Usman r.a and intended to enforce on Medina, they also tried to alliance with Ali r.a which he rejected by saying what you are doing is evil and what you are thinking about Usman r.a is wrong. So the troop of 2000 men they captured Medina and martyred Usman r.a.
4. **Issues emerges in the time of Ali r.a khilafa:** Abdul rehman r.a asked the opinion of people about the 4 people left (Ali, saad, talha, zubair r.a), so they vote for Ali r.a. But three things happened which which leads in non-stabilized government of Ali r.a.
  1. Involvement in the government of those who martyred Usman r.a
  2. Neglecting Ali's r.a government by 20 Sahaba and by all their followers.
  3. Demand of Qisas of Usman's r.a blood.
5. **Battle of Jamal & Saffain:**  
Ali r.a descended Muavia r.a from his governancy and elected Sahl bin Hunaif in place of him which was somehow a wrong step taken that leads to a very dreadful incident of the Battle of Saffain in (37 hijri – 657 AD) happened between Ali r.a and Muavia r.a.
6. **Division of leadership into two domains:** Most people they start thinking that these differences should come to an end but didn't succeeded. At this moment a new group called khwarij appeared which opposed the pact of peace between Ali r.a and Muavia r.a. Later on with their conspiracies the whole leadership somehow divided into two parts: Sham, Egypt, Africa under Muavia r.a comand and rest was under Ali r.a, but he didn't mess with the khilafa of Ali r.a and after the death of Ali r.a, He r.a over ruled the khilafa by force.
7. **Submission of government to the amateurs:**