

Seminar on Islam and Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities

(20th October 2012)

Islam and the Global Civilization

Abstract

People think that Islam is not relevant in the modern world, especially the globalized world. It can only lead to terrorism, hatred, etc. This is a misconception that has come about due to the actions of certain Muslims in the modern world. To find the true position and relevance of Islam in the globalized world we have to follow the principle of differentiating between Islam as an ideology and the actions of Muslims, who profess to be followers of Islam.

When we study Islam as an ideology and see its early history we will come to understand that, from the historical standpoint, all that would generally come under the heading of progress had not existed in the pre-Islamic era. All this had come to the world only after the emergence of Islam.

Some people continue to question how all progress was related to the historical event, which is called Islam, or the Islamic revolution. It is this historical question, which this paper endeavors to place in its proper perspective by making a thorough investigation of the connection between the Islamic revolution and modern developments. Even those aspects of the subject have been dealt with which have only an indirect bearing on the subject.

Islam has a positive role to play in the global world; it was Islam that brought in the revolution that led to the formation of the modern world, especially the

globalized world. Previously when polytheism was popular, nature was worshiped, not investigated. It was Islam that unseated nature from being an object of worship so that it was possible to investigate it. It was directly as a result of this that in time with Muslim contribution – in the medieval age – and the later European contribution of the industrial age that lead to the formation of the modern world. This contribution of Islam is not disputed.

Keywords: Al-Quran, Global civilization, Islamic Civilization, Islamic Revolution, Modern world, Modern Developments, Global World, globalized, Muslim Contribution, Medieval Age, European Contribution, Industrial Age.

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