

A world map with a light blue background. The regions of the Middle East, North Africa, and parts of Central and Southeast Asia are highlighted in a solid red color. The rest of the world's landmasses are shown in white with black outlines for countries and continents.

Western-Centred Civilization and Reawakening Parameters of Islamic Civilization for the New World Order

Presenter:

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The World Congress for Islamic History and Civilization 2011 (WOCIHAC), 10-11 October 2011,
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Western-Centred Civilization and Reawakening Parameters of Islamic Civilization for the New World Order

Saim Kayadibi*

Abstract

Muslim's contribution to the development of world civilization is a significant matter which deserves a further investigation. The Muslim Empires all the way through their leadership role of Islamic world took momentous responsibilities and steps in shaping the construction of the Islamic civilization according to the changing times. Researching and studying the magnificent intellectual contributions of Muslims to the world civilization is a necessary requirement for an Islamic renaissance and revival movements which aim at rebuilding the Islamic civilization. Western civilization was being posed as the sole civilization which had given progress to the world, the contribution of other civilizations was being denied and ignored and, therefore, it was being imposed as a model to non-western world. Against this prevailing and dominating trend, new intellectuals came with an alternative concept of Islamic civilization and remained the loyal defenders of it until the day. It is an erroneous perception to compare history of civilizations with the life cycle of human beings: they are not alike, human beings are born, they grow and die; however, civilizations are born, they grow and retreat for later reawakening time; it is a treasure which rears when the humanity needs it for reformation and change. This paper attempts to underline the significance of Islamic civilization through exploring Muslims' reawakening process and needs of humanity for a new world order which reflect the contribution of Islamic civilization in terms of ontological freedom, security and human rights.

Introduction

Intellectual, theoretical and methodological developments of Muslim society are based on the fundamental dynamic character of Islam which created vivacity in cultural, political, social and economic life for many centuries. Muslim World throughout the centuries was enlightened by Islamic civilization which fostered the development of world civilizations; because the Islamic civilization is the complete version of the whole messengers' eternal messages. The eternal messages' Lord created the diversity of human beings for the purpose of knowing each other's live styles, cultures and values which create different civilizations. "O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other."¹ Knowing each other needs relations and the relations should cause to positive progress interchangeably but not to destroy the others' values and cultures. In contrast to Islamic civilization, it will be seen throughout the paper, the western civilization, unfortunately, came to threat the other civilization, ontological parameters based on destroying already existent values, if not, tries to monopolize human values for the interest of western mentality. The human history witnesses that the western hegemonistic and monopolistic nature has already eradicated sixteen different civilizations.

The source of nature belongs to whole human beings and it is left as trust for all to use it appropriately without wasting it. Islamic civilization extremely emphasizes on not to misuse

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¹ Qur'an 49:13

virtues, human rights, freedom. If these values are corrupted and default the decadence and the fall come through natural punishments by the Eternal Lord. In history many prosper civilizations were destroyed and razed because of their injustice manner, being wickedly rebellious and sinful attitudes.

All the double standards towards other civilizations are because of their world perception. The world societies, especially Muslim masses realized now that such western civilization cannot bring democracy, freedom, equality and prosperity to the global world with this foxy attitudes and materialistic manners. This attitudes and behaviour fostered other nations and especially Muslim countries to collaborate with each other and thinking more strategically. Many World Muslim countries began to revitalize their geo-cultural paradigm from Albanian to Kazan, from Bosnia to Chechnya, from Crimean to Tajikistan, from Afghanistan to Pakistan, from Middle East to Far East countries. The umma concept connects the other Muslim states with each other which trigger civilizational vivacity within territorial paradigm. The tyrannical interests, negative attitudes, injustice attacks, illegal invasions, and arbitrary practices of anarchistic attitudes of the West caused the Islamic World to rethink the situation and their relationship with the existing international system and dominant power centres which helped them to find their Muslim identity through strengthening the notion of ummatic consciousness.

Establishing the most proper social atmosphere in the sense of institutionalization and keeping the theoretical ideals of Islamic belief system as a foundation for the social dynamism against the dominant power-system motivated the Muslim to re-gain the ontological consciousness which reinforce self-confidence as a consequence of a very strong self-perception. The psychological impetus fostered them to be a significant being rather than an artificial element or subject in the environment. This encouraged Islamic World to develop their economic, social, political institutions. Current agenda shows the re-awakening atmosphere in the Muslim societies and the inferiority complex has been transferred to the Western masses; because of this transformation, the paradigm of the western-centred civilization is experiencing a serious crisis. The fear of the West from the Islamic countries is because of re-gaining self-perception and ontological consciousness of the Muslim individuals, meaning that new era is approaching rather than the end of the history. In other words, the humanity is facing now a new paradigm shift which is not the end of the history but the end of the western-centred civilization. For that reason this century would be the century of Islamic civilization which would foster to reawaken the other oppressed world civilizations for the sake of all human beings.

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