

Islam vs Isms: Redefining Modern Ideologies from an Islamic Perspective Through an Islamic Lens with Focus on liberalism

Abstract

This paper explores the complex relationship between Islam and various modern ideological "isms" particularly liberalism that have shaped contemporary human thought and societal structures. It critically examines these ideologies through the lens of Islamic teachings, assessing where they align with or diverge from core Islamic principles. While many ideologies present themselves as universal frameworks for human liberation and progress, Islam offers its own comprehensive paradigm, rooted in divine guidance (Shari'ah), for justice, rights, and human development. For instance, liberalism emphasizes individual autonomy, whereas Islam defines true freedom as submission to God's moral and spiritual boundaries. Far from being incompatible with modernity, Islam presents a coherent and ethically grounded alternative to secular ideologies. This study aims to reclaim the narrative, demonstrating that Islam not only responds to modern ideologies but also proposes a distinct, spiritually anchored vision for human flourishing that remains socially and intellectually relevant in the contemporary age.

Conclusion

Islam engages with modern ideologies by critically evaluating them against its foundational sources the Qur'an and Sunnah. When these ideologies uphold values such as justice, equality, human dignity, and social welfare, Islam recognizes and affirms them. However, where they conflict with Islamic ethics or deviate from metaphysical truths, Islam offers a principled and coherent alternative. In doing so, Islam affirms its relevance not as a relic of the past, but as a living, dynamic worldview capable of addressing the moral, social, and existential challenges of the modern world.

keywords; islamic liberalism, divine guidance, islamic principles

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