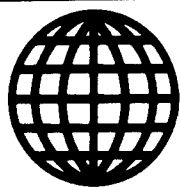


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ISLAMIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 8, 29 Nov and 5, 12, 19 Dec 86

[Article: "An Inquiry into the Intellectual Basis of the System of Government in Islam"]

[8 Nov 86 p 12]

[Text] With the victory of Islam and the establishment of its blessed state in Iran under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, the question of an Islamic system of government has been forcefully set forth recently. Although the question of an Islamic system of government is one that is important and delicate, from the point of view of Islamic doctrine, modern Muslims have not attached to it the same importance they used to attach to it in the past. In fact, after years of having no Islamic system of government, the idea of an Islamic government or a theory of one never crosses the minds of many Muslims.

Numerous and varied factors brought about that situation, but the two foremost factors are historical.

1. After the death of the great prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, the Islamic system of government became corrupt in practice. This blatant corruption started when the caliphate turned into a despotic and tyrannical system of government under the Umayyads and the ruling families that succeeded them. When this corruption, aided and abetted by other factors, grew and became worse, there was a state of general deterioration in the lives of Muslims on all political, intellectual and social levels.

2. The other factor is a historical factor that manifested itself in a plan by western colonialism to infiltrate and conquer the Islamic world. The aforementioned corruption helped bring about the success of this plan whose implementation began in a serious manner on a political plane early in the seventeenth century A.D. with the occupation of Indonesia in 1602. Then, significant progress was made during the second half of the 19th century, and the plan achieved its highest and greatest success at the end of World War I when the Islamic world in its entirety fell directly into the clutches of European colonialism.

The political and military campaigns were accompanied by a grave intellectual invasion whose most important tools were the Orientalist movement and the

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