

The role of Imam Khomeini and the Islamic Revolution in the integration of Muslim World

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Introduction

In light of the development that has taken place in the media and telecommunications, information has easily penetrated borders and reached all over the world rapidly, making countries more vulnerable and influence one another for granted. And in light of globalization we see how the West is trying to be the only model in the world in politics and economy in order to keep the capitalist system as the master of humanity.

But the Islamic revolution in Iran led by Imam Khomeini had given a different global model of values and revived the Islamic religion and rejected the influence of Western colonial powers. It was the first step of the Islamic Awakening witnessed in the Islamic world which started interacting with the Muslims in the late eighties of the twentieth century with the appearance of Imam Khomeini, leader of the Iranian revolution, who came to prove that the theory of Islam is the safest in political, economic, cultural, and social applications. He came up with his famous slogan: "No East, No West, only Islamic Republic", "Oh you oppressed people be united".

The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran helped Muslims in the world to stand up and start their awakening and realize the difference in applying the universality of Islam and Globalization, and that Islam came upon human beings in an interactive process of an intellectual freedom in optional selection among the multiple civilizations: "No compulsion in religion" as Allah mentioned in the holly Quran.

The Islamic awakening did not surprise the Iranians who paved the way for current uprisings in the Islamic world. The supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei praised those who staged in streets to support change saying, "The great Islamic uprising taking place in the Islamic world is currently the start of the evolution of the great role of Islam, and the position of the followers of Prophet Mohammad's Household (PBUT) is in supporting these movements."

And what was obvious is that the Islamic revolution in Iran integrated in the Islamic world as one nation, and proved that in Islam there are no borders to separate Muslims thereby giving

the rights and values to all Human beings especially women; reaching the reality of the point of view of Islam towards women came into light after the Islamic revolution in Iran to show that women have a great role in the Islamic history and in the Islamic awakening. In Iran, women have a large effect in all fields, such as political, economic, social and scientific activities, and participate in decision making. The Islamic history has witnessed women being present in important political and social circles¹, and it is now clear that women in many Islamic countries are participating in flourishing the awakening, such as in Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain and Yemen. Also, we can witness as a result the participation of the Lebanese women in the Islamic resistance against the Israeli aggressions in Lebanon.

The Islamic awakening by Imam Khomeini

The Islamic awakening initiated by Imam Khomeini is not as described by some as provocation or as being improvised. It is a legitimate Islamic awakening, a civilized renaissance based on the reality of Islam in its duty towards the world. Islam is based on human nature as a pole position and was the first to face Globalization to make sure it doesn't result in human absence because it would be contrary to the human existence on earth. From here, Imam Khomeini came to prove that no school of thought is as continuous as Islam in addressing human nature in order to provide the survival of humanity, although the cultural differences among the humans are divine as Allah says in the holly Quran:

"If thy Lord had so willed, He could have made mankind one people; but they will not cease to dispute"²

"By God's will, they routed them; and David slew Goliath; and god gave him power an wisdom and taught him whatever (else) he willed, and did not God check one set of people by means of another, the earth would indeed be full of mischief: but God is full of bounty to all the world"³

¹ - Khazali, Ansia, "Iranian women after the Islamic revolution" paper for conflict forum, Beirut-London, July 2010.

² - Surah Hud, verse- 111

³ - Surah Baqarah, verse 201

“Let there be no compulsion in religion: truth stands out clear from error: whoever rejects Evil and believes in God hath grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold that never breaks. And God hearth and knoweth all things”^ξ

These verses show that Islam adopted the cultural specificity of each human society, and this is what Imam Khomeini believes in.

Imam Khomeini revived back the culture of understanding which Islam started with Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) and did not force non-Muslim minorities to abandon their cultural specificity. Christianity and Judaism retained their cultural identity independently. The Islamic government existing in Iran proved itself as an example of the freedom of religion no one had witnessed before except during the Prophet Mohammad’s era. While the Muslims in the West are now living under very high pressure to change their identity. The pressure has become open and clear as we see from the ban on women wearing the veil (Hijab) as an Islamic symbol. More of this pressure comes from countries that claim democracy, secularism, and revolve in the orbit of imperialist capitalism and Globalization in an attempt to eliminate the others and kill their culture and privacy. In France, for example, the veil has become a religious symbol for girls and is not allowed in public schools, and this was a law approved by a large majority of deputies in the parliament

Imam Khomeini had no fear for the Islamic cultures to be out of practice in the future, for many reasons as follows:

- The isolation of the West would be inevitable because of the future demography
- After decades of sustainability, the United States and Europe cannot stay at the same sustainability because it will decrease in population, and will show the demographic problem on the world map
- There will be a serious Global strategic change, which would be applied to all the details of politics, economics and sociology

The effect of Imam Khomeini’s revolution

Those eagers to track Islam properly and form a new nation respond to the call of Muhammadiyah Revolution lead by Imam Khomeini, especially when he began to repeat the journey with a lot of hope to achieve divine justice. Those eager pledged allegiance to Imam Khomeini in his revolution. Although Islam is not bounded by borders of the State, the

^ξ - **Surah Baqarah, verse 256**

international division of the limits of states forces people to use the terms of this division, and makes each person belong to a specific geographical location. We have Iranians, Afghans, Lebanese, Iraqis, Syrians and Palestinians etc. . . . There was educational influence on most Islamic countries on the long run.

The experience of the Islamic Revolution in Iran is serious in terms of the support of the masses, in the face of the power of Western imperialism with all its strength and push towards world domination. This allowed the revolution which maintains the people's right, to have its affect on the Arab and Islamic masses in general and raise their awareness in their ability to achieve whatever goals or security and military capabilities of authoritarian regimes.

Thus it seems absurd to deny the influence of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the teachings of Imam Khomeini on the revolutionary states in the Arab world including the nationalists and secularists, especially that these particulars did not constitute an obstacle to consensus among the Iranian people. The same issues have not prevented the Bahraini people a Shiite majority or the people of Kurdistan in northern Iraq from being influenced by the Egyptian people of Sunni doctrine and Arab nationalist terms, though certainly have some differences on some details of the mobilization of the masses.

The case of union in the economic and social suffering and authoritarian repression between people are the basis in the transmission of the spirit of the revolution among peoples and exceeds all of the elements of differences when it exploded, although the existence of some degree of agreement on the fact that there are differences allows the acceleration of the movement.

The whole world witnessed in the year ١٩٧٩ the victory of the revolution when a new blood was pumping in the Arab world against colonial domination and which was on the verge of full control of the situation in the Middle East after the signing of the Camp David agreement between the Zionist state and the Egyptian's president Anwar Sadat.

Many writers in the world recognized in their articles that the Islamic revolution in Iran gave the opposition in the Islamic world the opportunity to face their rulers[°]. For example, in Egypt we witnessed the beginning of the clash between Sadat and the opposition groups after the

[°] - <http://www.islamtimes.org/vdcbgbw.rhb°spukur.html>

success of the Iranian Islamic revolution, and after the fall of the Shah when he fled after the collapse of the throne of "Peacock".^٦

The Iranian Revolution revived Imam Khomeini's hope in the hearts of the new generation, this replicated in other countries the issue at hand. In fact, the Islamic revolution in Iran did not inspire Islamists only, it also has inspired the political currents: the leftists and nationalists impressed by the mass revolution and interested in Imam Khomeini's social teachings and views towards differences of class as well, an aspect that has been absent as always in religious discourse. As we saw, the Egyptians expressed their acceptance of the principles of Imam Khomeini in poems such as the well known public poet Ahmed Fouad Nejm in his poems "Creator speaking", "misleading", "sayings", "first speech" and "Tehran", which sought to clarify the true image of the revolution in the face of misinformation Media practiced by the state media in Egypt against the revolution.

The success of the Islamic revolution made the Egyptians and other countries to make a stop and study its mechanisms again after seeing clearly what can be achieved by the masses silent in the Eastern world and who was not accustomed to this kind of non-military revolution. The success of the revolution came at a time when the Islamists and political currents nationalist and leftist had received very harsh blows.

In fact, the whole Islamic world was integrated in the Iranian Islamic revolution and values. Egypt was most likely among the others to be affected by this revolution because of the similar conditions between the two countries in terms of the government's ability to fatal politics^٧. That was also a surprise for everyone after what happened in Tunisia, Yeman and Bahrain.

In contrast, the impact of Imam Khomeini was mostly prominent in Iraq, the Levant and the Persian Gulf. These land areas are eligible to receive and grow the ideology of revolution in similar conditions. Although both Iraq and Lebanon had started somehow an Islamic movement even before the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, they certainly got a boost and a new spirit in facing the statusquo after the revolution. They were also certainly affected by Imam Khomeini, jurisprudentially and politically. In Iraq, the Iranian revolution supported the martyr Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr, who patronized the Islamic movement in Iraq as an

^٦ - Hamouda, Ahmad "immigration to terror" AviCenna publication, Cairo ١٩٨٧, P ٦٠- ٦٣

^٧ - Howaidy, Fahmi, "Iran from inside" Ahram publication, ٤th ed, Cairo ١٩٩١, P ٥٠

idea of clerical rule. It was advocated by Imam Khomeini since ۱۹۶۹, and supported by Muhammad Baqir Al-Sader until his martyrdom in ۱۹۸۰.^۸

Islamic unity

The target of Imam Khomeini was to achieve unity in the Islamic world. Ofcourse, this goal became the primary goal for all Muslims in order to refuse any foreign control on the Islamic world. Imam Khomeini achieved Islamic unity and invited more Islamic leaders to achieve such a unit, despite the different values in each society of the Islamic world.

In conclusion, some argue that the Union may lead to abolishing the uniqueness of some values and interests of different Islamic societies, and others interpret the meaning of this Union as intolerance and false image of Islamic unity.

This may lead to a lot of struggles in Islamic countries, yet will entirely end the foreign colonialism and assure the wonderful victory of the Islamic revolution led by real Muslims. Imam Khomeini's revolution is involved in all the cultural properties, political movement and social movement of the Islamic Awakening, which is based on exclusive religious values without neither being influenced by the East and West nor opposing them. It simultaneously expelled tyranny and colonization of the country and left the track resolute and comprehensive. Imam Khomeini assured that awakening movements in the Islamic world introduced Islam as a decisive force in the political equation of the world.

Revive the idea of Islamic government

After what Imam Khomeini achieved in his revolution, it became the biggest integration in the Islamic movement as seen by its leaders and Muslim masses, believing that it is necessary to form an Islamic government. They made serious and continuous efforts in the process of gaining this doctrine throughout the Muslim world.^۹ The features of Islamic awakening in the social side started to appear in Islamic societies, and we started witnessing many traditions in the type of individual and social behavior in holidays, celebrations and ceremonies such as type of clothing. Those are signs of the influence of Islam on their lives and souls. The most important celebration is the "Quds Day" which was initiated by Imam Khomeini and is celebrated in the last Friday of each month of Ramadan.

^۸ - Dsouka, Ibrahim, " the Iranian revolution-roots and ideology" watan publication, Beirut ۱۹۷۹, p ۷۲-۹۶

^۹ - http://www.taqrrib.info/arabic/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=۹۸۲:۱۳۹۰-۰۶-۲۲-۱۶-۴۴-۲۰&catid=۸۰:bidarie-e-eslami&Itemid=۲۰۴

Furthermore, after the Islamic revolution, we started witnessing:

- building mosques and worship places,
- attending Friday prayers,
- wearing the Islamic headscarf by women,
- establishing Islamic charities, funds and banks without interests (al-la-ribawi)
- reciting and memorizing the Quran.

In addition, the movement to consolidate the belief of Islam is in the depths of the hearts of the younger generation, and generated soldiers loyal to the global renaissance of Islam, because now, many of those believe in Islam, as a Mohammadi religion, among young university students and preparatory and scientific centers graduates, more than any other time.

This enthusiastic and active generation preaches all Muslim's willingness to sacrifice for the divine sacred goals and a bright future for the global Islamic revival.

Iranian women as Module

Imam Khomeini as a leader of The Islamic revolution gave the Iranian women the opportunity to experience a different model than previously, and proved that the problem was in the application and not in the teachings. Imam Khomeini gave the proof to the whole world that Islam recognizes women to be the half of the society and being responsible together with men in building the society and thus building the universe. Thus the Iranian women have participated with men in the revolution against injustice and won by their side and took part in the society as men also marched to the best case. Imam Khomeini gave women a push forward in words not said about women but by the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) about his daughter Sayyeda Fatima (AS). Imam Khomeinei said "The Woman is the half of the society, and she takes part with men in the second half", "Woman as Qur'aan, both are entrusted with the task of making men." And this experience was exported to the Islamic world when we witnessed women sharing men the the demonstration in Tunisia, Egypt and Yemen.

Conclusion

This article briefly represents the models of the Islamic awakening movement in the contemporary world of the cultural, political and social aspects. However, what we should know that the great personalities in the Muslim world were a result of Imam Khomeini and his revolution. The Iranian revolution paved the way for the Middle East and North Africa to carry the banner of the Islamic Renaissance Movement led by Imam Khomeini, in order to build its own Islamic awakening, overcome challenges and achieve victories.