

Imam Khomeini's Impact on Islamic World

The Muslim Ummah passed through a crucial period of one decade since the advent of the Islamic Revolution on February 11, 1979, under the leadership of Imam Khomeini to the time of his demise, June 3, 1989. The Ummah has been facing many problems and burning issues and the Muslim peoples of different countries continue to struggle in varying degrees for overcoming the problems. Imam Khomeini as a true leader of the Muslim Ummah had to devote a part of his multidimensional role to deal with the problems of the Muslim world and the Ummah. His concern over the problems and the miseries of the Ummah has special significance. Therefore, his ideas, approach and role in dealing with the problems and issues of the contemporary Muslim world deserve to be properly surveyed and analysed and to find out lessons for the whole Ummah.

Views of the Quran and Sunnah of Prophet (S) with regard to the muslim community and responsibility of cooperation among themselves

The Holy Quran and Sunnah categorically stressed the need for Muslim Brotherhood and cooperation among themselves. According to the Holy Quran "Muslims are but a single brotherhood"¹ "They are friends and

protectors of one another."² (AL-Quran). Therefore the holy Quran commands the Muslims that "If they seek your duty to help them .."³ (AL-Quran). If Muslim peoples do not help one another, according to the Holy Quran "there would be turmoil and oppression on earth and great mischief. ;"⁴ Al-Quran also emphatically exhorts the Muslims to fight "in the cause of Allah and of those who are being ill-treated "in the cause of Allah and of those who are being ill-treated and (oppressed) from men, women and children..."⁵ Particularly where some Muslims are oppressed other Muslims must come forward to help them. It is the normal behaviour and attitude of every Muslim to help other Muslim because "Muslim are (by nature) compassionate among each other "⁶

Holy Prophet (S) also explained the same idea of brotherhood and cooperation. He says, "Believers are like a wall - one part of it strengthens the other part"⁷ "They are like a (human) body in friendship, love and affection and kindness. If one part of it becomes ill, whole part responds in fever and sleeplessness."⁸ Prophet (S) also says; A Muslim is brother of another Muslim, he neither oppresses him nor let him to be destroyed.⁹ "The blood of Muslim is same. They are alike against other."¹⁰

Imam Khomeini's attitude towards Muslim Ummah

Imam Khomeini as a true leader of Islam and Ummah clearly followed the spirit of the Quran and the Sunnah of Prophet (S) - the Islam Brotherhood. He considered himself and his own country as a part of the Ummah and was always deeply concerned over the problems of the Muslim world. He categorically and unambiguously stated his ideas on the problems of the Muslim world in various speeches on different occasions. In one of his such speeches he said "...as Muslims we can not think ourselves as being separate from the community of world Muslims. And Islam is never confined within the boundaries of any single nation. It is Islam wherever it is found. Islam exists in Egypt as it does in Iraq or Hejaz or Syria and elsewhere in the world. We can not separate our accounts from the rest of the world Muslims. We lost so many of our people for the sake of Islam and we cannot look upon the fate of the Arab-world as being separate from our own. We are all Muslims and as such we are responsible to safeguard Islam wherever it exists."¹¹

The above quotation clearly manifests the attitude of Imam Khomeini towards the problems of the Muslim world. He identified himself and his own country with the whole Ummah. In his idea, his own country is an inseparable part of the future of the other Muslim nations. On one occasion, He stated; We regard the Muslim of the world as the Muslim of our country and consider ourselves as a part of their future. ¹² Imam Khomeini echoed the message of universal Islamic Brotherhood.

Imam Khomeini's views on the problems of the Muslim World

To find out any solution of the problem and devise the correct strategy for fighting the enemies one must know the real nature of the problems and the related issue. Imam Khomeini analysed the nature of the problems of the Muslim world correctly and reached their depth. His views in this regards can be outlined as follows:

A. *Problems related to Islamic Ummah:* According to Imam Khomeini problems of Muslim countries are not mere nationalistic, ethnic or communalistic but these are related to Islam and Ummah. All these problems therefore should be viewed and solution be sought and put forward in this perspective. One Muslim country's problem cannot be isolated from Islam and the whole Ummah. Secularistic approach will not solve the present problems of the Muslim world. Only pure Islamic and Ummah as the basis of approach can be effective. Every Muslim nation

should consider itself as the part of the whole Ummah. As Imam Khomeini in his message to Gorbachev clearly stated, "We regard the Muslim of the world as the Muslims of our own country and consider ourselves as a part of their future."¹³

Every Muslim therefore should be aware of the problems of the Muslim countries. A Muslim cannot avoid this as Imam Khomeini said "We must be aware of what is happening in other countries of the world and our duty in this regard"¹⁴

B. *Problems related to Global Kufr:* Global Kufr—the superpowers are directly or indirectly related to the problems we are facing now. We must understand that the major problems particularly the Quds and Palestine, Lebanon and Afghanistan issue are the direct product of imperialist-Zionist conspiracy. Superpowers are clearly related with this. Therefore to find our any solution super-power involvement must be considered. Superpowers are the plunderers and conspirators against Islam and Muslim Ummah. Zionist imperialism and its allies as the roots of all evils miseries of the Muslim lands, and therefore they must be challenged. No solution of the problems and the world Muslim is possible without fighting and defeating the superpowers and its allies in the Muslim lands.

C. *Governments of the Muslim countries are lackys of imperialism:* Most of the governments of the Muslim lands directly or indirectly are the lackys of imperialist forces. According to Imam Khomeini. "Most of the governments have their hands locked with those of the superpowers. Consequently you see that whenever such atrocities of the US take place, the Muslim that is the Islamic governments do not take any position. If occasionally one of them says something it is just lip-service"¹⁵

Therefore the so-called Muslim governments cannot solve the problems of the Quds, Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan and other.

D. *Fighting must lead to establishment of Islamic state:* As the problems of the Muslim lands are deeply related to Islam and no secular solution is effective, therefore, all struggle must be on the basis of Islam and the struggles against imperialism and their local agents must lead ultimately to Islamic Revolution and Islamic state.

Process and strategies suggested by Imam Khomeini

Process and strategies for the liberation of Quds and Palestine, Lebanon and Afghanistan, fighting the enemies of Islam and the Ummah, Imam Khomeini showed a clear-cut path. His ideas and thoughts in this regard are outlined as follows:

1. *Mass-mobilization on the basis of Islam:* Imam Khomeini believed in the strength of masses. He believed that only mobilized Muslim masses can solve the problems of the Muslim World. Until and unless the Muslim masses are properly mobilized it is not possible to change the existing situation. Therefore Muslim masses are to be awakened and mobilized.
2. *Superpowers are to be challenged:* Since the superpowers are the root cause of the problems of the Muslim World, they must be directly challenged. Imam Khomeini always emphasized this point. They are the Satanic forces. They must be fought. He urged the Muslim peoples that "they should stand against the superciliously arrogant powers and devourers and not sit passively until the liberation of the oppressed from the oppression of the powerful. The oppressed masses which comprise the absolute majority of the people of the world should feel assured that the promise of the Supreme Lord is near, and the star of the oppressor is setting down. 16 Citing the example of the Islamic Iran, Imam would tell the world Muslims "by it they may find their own Islamic potential and forever throw away the growls of the East and the West and their dependents and residue, and let it be example to them to rise up with faith in the Supreme Lord and reliance on the power of Islam cutting the criminal interests (of the enemies of Islam) from their own countries and focusing on the liberation, of our noble Quds and Palestine as their principle aim. In this way the disgrace of the Zionism, this off-shoot of the United States can be wiped out." 17
3. *Jihad — Un-compromising struggle and fight is necessary:* Imam Khomeini always emphasized upon that compromising approaches and policy is very detrimental to Muslim interest. It will not solve the problems. He wondered the behaviour of the heads of the Muslim countries by saying, "Don't the heads of the Muslim countries yet know that negotiations with powerful states and the criminals of the history will not end in the liberation of Quds or Lebanon or Palestine, but will result in the increase of their crimes and

oppressive acts?" 18 He again asked the peoples: "The Muslim nations specially the Palestinian and Lebanese nations should punish those who waste time indulging in political maneuvers and not to be influenced by such games which bear no result for the oppressed nations except their loss." 19 So there is no room for compromise and give-and-take method. The Muslims should use, as Imam Khomeini urged, 'faith dependent machine gun and the power of Islam and keep away from political games which reek of compromise and guarantee of the satisfaction of the super-power,' 20

4. *To rise up against the local agents of superpowers:* Imam Khomeini clearly stated that the existing rulers of the Muslim lands can not solve the problems. They are the stooges of the Zionist-imperialist powers. So people should rise against them and pave the way for establishing Islamic state-permanent solution of the problems. He asked "The noble people of Egypt and Iraq and other countries who are under the domination of hypocrites should rise up and not listen to the corrupt loudspeakers of the criminals pseudo-Muslims and fear not the fragile power of these treacherous people." 21 He also hoped that "by the noble nations uprising, certain treacherous leaders who rule over the Muslims and Islam are hand in hand with Israel and act upon the orders of US in opposition to the interest of the Muslims, will be cast from the scene and buried in the grave of history. The usurper rulers who are siding with the unbelievers in the way of unbelievers and apostate such as Saddam against Muslims and are raining blows on Muslims and Islam, should be pushed from the scene of Islam. They should be deposed from their rule over Muslims." 22

It is the duty of Muslim people to dethrone the unIslamic and hypocritical rulers and make the country an Islamic state.

5. *Whole Ummah should be awakened and mobilized for the liberation and solution of the burning issues of the Muslim World: Whole Ummah should be awakened united and mobilized.* Imam laid great emphasis upon this point. He said: "All Muslims must be warned and must understand how strong their spiritual powers and economic powers are, Muslims and one billion people, supported by God, Islam and the power of faith." This worldwide mobilization of the Ummah is an essential part of the struggles against enemies of Islam and for the liberation of the Quds, Palestine, Lebanon and Afghanistan.

Impact

The impact of Imam Khomeini's ideas and thoughts, his role and contributions has been tremendous upon the Muslim world, particularly upon the three major issues and problems i.e. Quds and Palestine, Lebanon and Afghanistan. Even a brief discussion would reveal this truth.

Quds and Palestine: Palestine and Quds issue is the long-standing problem, This is the greatest challenge to the Muslim world. The Zionist-imperialist superpowers created this problem as a part of their subversive activities and conspiracy against Islam and the Muslim world. For the last 40 years, the Palestinian Muslims have been fighting for their existence and freedom. The illegitimate Zionist state fully aided by the imperialist forces fighting Islam and the Muslim world. They captured the Holy Quds, the first prestige of the Ummah. So Imam Khomeini declared Quds issue is the first and the foremost issue of the Ummah. According to him liberation of Quds is the holiest duty of the Muslim. Struggle for Quds is the struggle against Zionism, imperialism, falsehood, exploitation and any sort of aggression. It is the struggle for the restoration of the honour and prestige of the Ummah. So he utilized every opportunity for awakening the consciousness of the peoples towards this issue. He declared last Friday of the Ramadhan of every year as Quds day for awakening and mobilization of the Ummah. To popularise the Quds issue throughout the world in its proper perspective, credit goes to Imam Khomeini. He gave a new meaning, a new sense of direction urgency and new impetus to the Quds and Palestinian struggle. he shifted the issue from nationalist-secularist frame-work to the Islamic frame-work. Inspired by Imam Khomeini's ideas the Intifada (uprising) of Palestinian peoples on the basis of Islam became possible. Though the Palestinian people and the Ummah have to fight a long way to reach the goal but it must be along the path initiated by Imam Khomeini.

Lebanon: Lebanon is another burning issue of the Muslim world. This is also created by Zionist-imperialist powers. Muslims are being divided and oppressed. Imam Khomeini's idea of uncompromising Jihad and unity of all factions of Muslims enhanced the struggle

of Lebanese Muslims. Lebanese issue is not a mere communal issue, it is an Islamic issue and can be solved only through Islamic struggles. Following the guidance of Imam, the Islamic Iran played and is playing a vital role in Lebanon. We think that ultimate success of Lebanese Muslims can only be possible by following the line of Imam Khomeini.

Afghanistan: Afghanistan is another burning issue. It was created after Islamic Revolution in Iran. It is the counter attempt of the Soviet Union to resist the ultimate expansion of Islamic Revolution. But the brave Afghan peoples being inspired by the Imams ideas and the Islamic Revolution put up strongest resistance against the fully equipped Soviet army. With in eight-years struggles and Jihad Soviet Union was compelled to withdraw its army. It is the primary victory of the Afghan Mujahidin. It is proved for the first time in the history that Soviet army could be defeated in the battle-field by the peoples equipped with faith and sacrifice. Afghanistan is the prospective Islamic republic. But the superpowers and their allies are trying to resist Afghanistan to be an Islamic Republic. If Afghan Mujahideen follow the path of Imam Khomeini-uncompromising struggle for Islam, sacrifice and solid units it is hoped that Superpowers conspiracy can be overcome and ultimate victory-an Islamic Revolution will take place

Conclusion

Our brief discussion reveals that Imam Khomeini's ideas and thoughts, role and contributions to the major issues of the present Muslim world are vital and pioneering. As a Leader of Islamic Revolution and Ummah he gave the real direction, comprehensive meaning of struggle, opened the universal dimension of struggle, provided invincible courage and confidence, shook the imperialist-Zionist powers, showed the clear and correct path of success. Imam Khomeini initiated the future of the Ummah and now it is the task of the Muslim people to carry the banner, move the caravan and reach the destination-liberate the Quds, drive out the plunderers and world hypocrites and oppressors, make all oppressed peoples particularly the Muslim Ummah free from the shackles of imperialism and superpowers. May Allah help the Ummah in this noble task.

Footnotes:

1. Al-Quran 49:10.
2. Ibid. 8:72, 9:71
3. Ibid. 8:72
4. Ibid. 8:73
5. Ibid. 8:75

6. Ibid. 48:29.
7. Sahih Al-Bukhari and Muslim.
8. Bukhari, Muslim.
9. Musnad Ahmad, Anu Daud, Bukhari, Tirmizi.
10. Abu Daud.
11. Imam Khomeini on the Fahd plan, Crescent International Dec. 16-31, 1989.