**Political Islam and modernization in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

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**Abstract:**

The aim of this research work is to examine the relationship between political Islam and modernization in Iran’s Islamic republic system; considering that the ruling system of Iran comes from the thoughts and ideas of his excellency Imam Khomeini (peace be upon him) thus in this thesis an effort has been made to examine the relationship between political Islam and modernization through viewing the ideas and the thought of his excellency Imam (peace be upon him) in facing the appearances of modernization regarding different dimensions that are philosophical, political, cultural and economic. According to his excellency Imam (peace be upon him) modernization has two dimensions and they are the hardware dimension and the software dimension. The hardware dimension of modernization that is the technological and scientific aspect and is the apparent, visible and outside effects and fruits of the Western civilization as it is useable for human beings society and it is a Godly endowment it is approved by him. But the software dimension of modernization or the bases of epistemology and philosophical of the Western thought and that has a deep opposition with the religious bases of his excellency Imam (peace be upon him) is rejected by him and vis-a-vis modern concepts he conceptualizes and he re-reads modern concepts that are in his meaning system. The hypothesis of this research work shows that his excellency Imam (peace be upon him) vis-à-vis the appearances of modernization has an approach that seeks to choose meaning that the framework of his excellency Imam’s (peace be upon him) religious and political thinking is based on the principles and bases of Islam and in that vein certain aspects of appearances of the new West’s civilization that match the principle and bases of Islam as a religion are approved and accepted by him and when that is not the case they are rejected or he uses them through conceptualization and changing the content of the imported concept and naturalization of that. Generally according to his excellency Imam (peace be upon him) all of human experiences of Western people that are neutral from the belief and thinking aspect and can be used in the best form in people’s social life is used. In this thesis an effort has been made to examine his excellency Imam’s thought regarding that based on Mr. Alexander Pitirim Surukin’s theory about how civilizations are affected by each other. At the end of this thesis I have come to this conclusion based on my researches that his excellency Imam’s (peace be upon him) approach vis-à-vis modernization can be studied based on the third method of the effects that civilizations have on each other and that is based on Mr. Surukin’s theory. Based on that method which is called the method of borrowing or mutual cultural fertilization the civilization that is affected uses that aspect of the appearances of that that affects that first is useful with respect to fertilization of the civilization that is affected and second from a cultural aspect it is considered the neutral element and on bases and principles of the one that is affected has no damaging action. That method regarding the effects that civilizations have on each other can be conformed on the approach of his excellency Imam (peace be upon him).