

An examination of the relationship between tradition and modernization in the thought and practice of Imam Khomeini (peace be upon him)

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Abstract:

This thesis examines the relationship between tradition and modernization in the thoughts and practice of Imam Khomeini and in that way it makes an effort to answer the main question of this research and that is how did Imam Khomeini examine and saw the facing up of tradition and modernization in Iran's contemporary history and in order to tackle that what strategy and direction does he choose? I use Thomas Springs theoretical framework (crisis theory). The writer makes an effort to examine the historical background (the entrance) of modernization in the contemporary history of Iran and through that I discuss and examine the dimensions, the trend, the consequences, the crisis and the disorders that were the result of that particularly during the Pahlavi period and then expressing the positions and the historical response of Iranians to modernization within three different fields and Imam Khomeini can be located in the third one meaning those who had an inclination toward civilization; as such I end the discussion regarding that. As I mentioned the theoretical framework that is used in this thesis is the crisis theory; based on that the most important questions that I have aim at making it clear what is the crisis that resulted from the face up of tradition and modernization according to Imam Khomeini? And he believed what was the problem of the society of Iran? What did he believe was the reasons behind what was disharmonious and the crisis? What is the ideal society of him? And last what strategy does Imam Khomeini offer for the purpose of solving the problems? Ultimately the conclusion of this research is that Imam Khomeini who was a thinker of the passing time emphasizing protection and broadening of authentic Islamic and national traditions made an effort so that in the first place through the coming to life and new reading of tradition especially religious ones and in the second place through acceptance of practical requirements and time and place requirements can have an interaction.

Key words: *Imam Khomeini, Thomas Springs, tradition, modernization, political thought, crisis (theory), time and place, Pahlavi regime*