

An examination of the social circumstances of the design of the theory of guardianship of religious jurisprudent of Imam Khomeini

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Abstract:

Guardianship of religious jurisprudent as a political theory has come from the heart of religious texts.

That theory has much background and that has to do with the history of Shia religious jurisprudence but for the first time in the contemporary period it has been put forward by Imam Khomeini and it became the theoretical basis and the practical strategy of Iran's Islamic republic system.

This research seeks to identify and examine the social circumstances and to expand Imam Khomeini's theory of religious jurisprudent.

The writer believes that that theory was put forward and was accepted in a competitive space challenging the dominating and inclusive traditions such as monarchy, modernization, socialism, nationalism and constitutionalism.

Noting the oldness and stability of that theory regarding Imam Khomeini's thought changing political, cultural and economic circumstances of the time period of the design of the theory of guardianship of religious jurisprudent and that became suitable for announcing and communicating such a theory in Iran is the subject of the study of this research.

The writer believes that the inner supremacy of the theory and the comparatively suitable cultural and educational ground of the society on one hand and the weakness and strangeness of rival traditions and despotism and that was a dependent one on the other hand were factors and they prepared the ground for the victory and the spreading of the religious theory of guardianship of religious jurisprudent and Imam Khomeini who knew and leaned on appropriate circumstances had an innovation and that was communicating the theory of guardianship of religious jurisprudent and rejection and discarding of rival theories particularly monarchy. This research has been carried out in the framework of Ijtihad and with the beam line of time and place and It is inspired by the theoretical model of sociology of knowledge.

Key words: *Imam Khomeini, guardianship of jurisprudent, political thought, Ijtihad, time and place*