

# **Understanding the Concepts of Ummah and Nation in Imam Khomeini's Political Thought**

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## **Abstract**

The research is an attempt to study the concepts of “Ummah” and “nation” first from Islamic and western perspectives, and then based on the political views of Imam Khomeini as a religious scholar and thinker in contemporary era. A governing system in the world today is made up of nation and those people governing the nation. Imam’s views however are considered on a national-Islamic basis. Thus, the researcher has undertaken to show how the Imam in his political thought distinguishes between a single nation and Ummah or the great nation of Islam. According to Imam Khomeini nationalism and the interests of a single nation are inferior to the values of a great unified-Ummah. The current research tries to elucidate Islamic and western perspectives in this regard in two separate chapters using a library research method. In the first chapter all terms and definitions from each perspective are explained. In the second chapter, set in three parts, Imam Khomeini’s exclusive views on the subject are discussed and studied.