

Imam Khomeini and the Unity of the Islamic Ummah

Abstract:

Imam Ruhollah Khomeini was one of the most influential Muslim figures of the contemporary era. One of the central themes of his religious and political thought was the unity of the Islamic Ummah. He believed that Muslims, despite differences in nationality, language, culture, and schools of Islamic thought, share fundamental beliefs and values that can serve as a strong foundation for solidarity and cooperation. Recent studies continue to identify the unity of the Islamic Ummah as an important component of Imam Khomeini's intellectual legacy.

For Imam Khomeini, Muslim unity was not simply a political strategy but a religious and social responsibility. He regarded the Qur'an, the Prophet Muhammad, faith in God, and Islamic brotherhood as common foundations capable of bringing Muslims closer together. In his view, internal divisions and sectarian conflicts weakened Muslim societies and prevented them from realizing their collective potential.

Therefore, he repeatedly called upon Muslims to focus on their common principles rather than allowing differences to become a source of hostility.

A significant practical expression of this approach was the establishment of Unity Week, which became an important symbol of solidarity between Muslims of different schools. Imam Khomeini sought to transform the idea of unity from a theoretical concept into a living social and political principle. His approach emphasized dialogue, brotherhood, mutual respect, and cooperation among Muslims.

Another important dimension of his vision was the Palestinian cause. Imam Khomeini considered Palestine and Jerusalem issues that could unite Muslims beyond national and sectarian boundaries. The designation of International Quds Day was therefore presented as an effort to bring Muslims together around a shared concern and to strengthen solidarity with the oppressed. The legacy of Imam Khomeini's emphasis on Islamic unity remains relevant today. In a world facing religious polarization, political conflicts, and social divisions, his call for Muslims to recognize their shared identity continues to be discussed as an important element of contemporary Islamic thought.

His vision placed unity, dignity, independence, and cooperation at the heart of the future of the Islamic Ummah.

Ultimately, Imam Khomeini viewed unity not as the elimination of legitimate differences, but as the ability of Muslims to rise above those differences and work together on the basis of their common faith, values, and interests. From this perspective, the unity of the Islamic Ummah represents both a religious ideal and a path toward greater social solidarity, independence, and mutual understanding.

Refrence:

- *Sahifeh-ye Imam Khomeini, Vol. 15, pp. 383–387*
- *Sahifeh-ye Imam Khomeini, Vol. 15, pp. 411–412*
- *Sahifeh-ye Imam Khomeini, Vol. 15, pp. 406–410*
- *Muhammad Rahim Iwazi, “Imam Khumayni’s Vision of Islamic Unity,” Al-Taqrīb, No. 6, March 2010*
- *Qur’anic Call to Unity: Reflections for Islamic Unity Week ۲۰۲۰ .*
- *Imam Khomeini’s speech on the necessity of unity and brotherhood among Muslims; December 29, 1981.*
- *The English text of the speech is available on the Comprehensive Imam Khomeini Website.*
- *Imam Khomeini’s remarks during Unity Week on the unity of Muslims; January 12, 1982.*
- *English text of the speech on the unity of the Islamic Ummah.*
- *An speech emphasizing the Qur’an’s emphasis on Muslim unity and the responsibilities of Islamic scholars.*