



ISLAMIC UNION TO FORMULATE ISLAMIC CALIPHATE ON FOOTSTEPS OF EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract

Islamic Caliphate started from the Caliphate Rashidun established in 632 AD soon after the death of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, followed by the Caliphates of Umayyad (661 AD), Abbasid (750 AD), and Ottoman in 1299 AD of which the latter was revoked forever by the first President of Turkey; Kamal Ataturk in 1924. The basic purpose for the creation of Islamic Caliphate is to establish the Din of Almighty Allah on earth by spreading international peace, harmony and by implementing principles laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. This paper makes a case for the erection of Islamic Union having characteristics of not only of the various Caliphates but also in resemblance to the structure and functioning of the contemporary European Union. Interdisciplinary research methodology will be deployed to prepare a strong case for the establishment of Islamic Union. Discourse analysis techniques will be utilized to examine, analyse and evaluate



traditional and contemporary literature on the topic. Research findings are: Islamic Union would be consisted of all existing Muslim states of the World headed by one Caliph for the establishment of Islamic Law and the purposes stated before. In modern era, we have an example of European Union which was formally established in 1993 under the Maastricht Treaty. A total of 26 countries of Europe have open their borders, 19 countries have same currency, and 27 member states of the European Union have same Parliament, a Court of Justice and other institutions to achieve the common cause of economic growth, peace and prosperity in the region to prevent war between members of the European Union. Keeping in mind the method of Caliphate Rashidun and manner of European Union, an Islamic Union would be created by all existing Islamic countries of the World. One currency can be adopted, one visa may be allowed to travel to all Muslim countries, an Islamic Court of Justice would be created and an Islamic Central Bank is suggested to be created, but it is a long process, first of all, an integration of all Muslim countries are required in different fields like the European countries first started the European Coal and Steel Community in 1952, the European Economic Community in 1957, and informally started the European Union and finally the European Union was formally established in 1993 under the Maastricht Treaty. Islamic Union is a suggested method to be adopted to move forward towards achieving the ultimate goal of Islamic Caliphate i.e., Islamic Union, based on principles laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah of Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and practically shown to us during the reign of Caliphate Rashidun.

Key Words: Prophet Muhammad ﷺ; Rashidun Caliphate; Umayyad, Abbasids and Ottoman Caliphate; European Union. Islamic Union.

Introduction

Each politically organized society has its head of the state. Caliphate is a term which is used for an Islamic State, its head is called a Caliph; who is the successor of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Rashidun Caliphate started after the death of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in 11 AH, it was devolved to Umayyad Caliphate from Hassan RZ to Muawiyah RA in 40 AH. The Umayyad Caliphate went on until 132 AH when Abu Jafar Al-Mansur established the Abbasid Caliphate which went on until 638 AH when Hulagu Khan defeated the last ruler of the Abbasid Caliphate. Later on the Ottoman Caliphate was established in 1299 at Istanbul, Turkey and went on until the defeat in the First World War



1914-1918 and dissolution of the Caliphate by the first president of Turkey - Kamal Atatürk in 1924.

Caliph literally means a person or a group which comes after the previous one – a successor. The word caliphate is used twice in the Holy Quran. Once for Adam RH as Almighty Allah says "And (remember) when your Lord said to the angels: Verily, I am going to place (mankind) generations after generations on earth. They said: Will You place therein those who will make mischief therein and shed blood, while we glorify You with praises and thanks (Exalted be You above all that they associate with You as partners) and sanctify You. He (Allah) said: I know that which you do not know" (Holy Quran 2:30), and once for Da'ud AH as Almighty Allah says "O Dawud (David)! Verily! We have placed you as a successor on earth, so judge you between men in truth (and justice) and follow not your desire for it will mislead you from the Path of Allah. Verily! Those who wander astray from the Path of Allah (shall) have a severe torment, because they forgot the Day of Reckoning " (Holy Quran 38:26).

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ stated that Almighty Allah never sends a prophet or gives a caliphate to a Caliph but he has two groups: one advises him to do good and exhorts him and the other advises him to do evil and exhorts him, the protected person is the one who is protected by Almighty Allah (Bukhari 7198). The Caliphate is a general authority, exercised on behalf of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ for the establishment of Din of Almighty Allah, through the revival of the Islamic Religious Sciences. The Religious Sciences includes (i) establishment of the pillars of Islam and opening the way to carry out the Ijtihad and what pertains to it, (ii) organize the armies for the purposes of spreading the message of Almighty Allah and for evacuation of the harm from the society, (iii) pay salaries to the employees of the state on time and to allocate funds for the soldiers, (iv) administer justice according to principles laid down in Holy Quran and Sunnah of Prophet ﷺ, (v) implement fixed punishments ordained by Almighty Allah and his last messenger Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, (vi) make an organize system of Zakat to take wealth from rich people of the society and to distribute it to poor people, (vii) make efforts for fulfilment of Prayers by people of the state, (viii) eliminate injustice from the society, and (ix) enjoin and spread good and to forbid and eliminate an evil.

Almighty Allah says "Those (Muslim rulers) who, if We give them power in the land, (they) order for Iqamat-as-Salat. [i.e. to perform the five compulsory congregational Salat (prayers) (the males in mosques)], to pay the Zakat and they enjoin Al-Ma'ruf (i.e. Islamic Monotheism and all that Islam orders one to do), and forbid Al-Munkar (i.e. disbelief, polytheism and all that Islam has forbidden) [i.e. they make the Holy Quran as



the law of their country in all the spheres of life]. And with Allah rests the end of (all matters (of creatures)" (Holy Quran 22:41).

This study deploys interdisciplinary research methodology engaging various disciplines [Theology, History, Law, and Social Sciences] to delineate a strong case for the establishment of Islamic Union. Since various disciplines are engaged, discourse analysis research method is chosen to identify and connect various notions that might be helpful in the establishment of Islamic Caliphate in the contemporary world. This research analyses the concept of Caliphate in the Holy Quran and in the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the present scenario to establish the Islamic Union to follow the footsteps and the method of the Caliphate Rashidun, in a manner acceptable in the modern era like the European Union, which is formed to spread peace and to prevent war and to cooperate in different fields for the betterment of the social life and for the growth of the economy. The basic purpose of the suggested Islamic Union would be to establish a community and cooperation between Islamic countries of the world to go smoothly and steadily towards the ultimate goal of the establishment of the Islamic Caliphate on the footsteps of the Caliphate Rashidun. This research is rooted in a qualitative method, discourse analysis as stated before, to discuss and describe factual history and to analyse it under fundamental sources of Islamic Law to recommend future prospect of the theory under the light of principles laid down in Holy Quran and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ keeping in mind the modern day developed models like the European Union.

European Union & Islamic Union

Islam literally means 'peace' and the basic purpose of Islamic Law is to spread peace and to do justice even with enemies as Almighty Allah says "O you who believe! Stand out firmly for Allah and be just witnesses and let not the enmity and hatred of others make you avoid justice. Be just: that is nearer to piety and fear Allah. Verily, Allah is Well Acquainted with what you do" (Holy Quran 5:8). Almighty Allah also says "O you who believe! Stand out firmly for justice as witnesses to Allah even though it be against yourselves or your parents or your kin, be he rich or poor, Allah is a Better Protector to both (than you). So follow not lusts (of your hearts), lest you may avoid justice and if you distort your witness or refuse to give it, verily, Allah is Ever Well Acquainted with what you do" (Holy Quran 4:135).

The Council of Europe was formed in 1949 under the Treaty of London. The purpose of the formation of the Council of Europe is to spread peace in the region based upon justice and integration which is same as enunciated in Islamic Law as prescribed in Holy Quran and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (Bond, 2010).



The European integration started with the emergence of the European Coal and Steel Community in 1952 under the Treaty of Paris. The purpose of the formation of the European Coal and Steel Community was to prevent war amongst European states. The similar method can be adopted by modern Islamic countries to develop integration in the field of oil, gas, economy and other related fields to integrate in different fields to grow economically and to help in the development of the less developed Islamic countries and to prevent war amongst Islamic countries (Deadman, 2006). Almighty Allah says “The believers men and women are Auliya' (helpers, supporters, friends, protectors) of one another, they enjoin (on the people) Al-Ma'ruf (i.e. Islamic Monotheism and all that Islam orders one to do) and forbid (people) from Al-Munkar (i.e. polytheism and disbelief of all kinds and all that Islam has forbidden); they perform As-Salat (Iqamat-as-Salat) and give the Zakat and obey Allah and His Messenger. Allah will have His Mercy on them. Surely Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise” (Holy Quran 9:71). Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said “Do not envy one another; do not inflate prices by overbidding against one another; do not hate one another; do not harbour malice against one another and do not enter into commercial transaction when others have entered into that (transaction); but be you, O slaves of Allah, as brothers. A Muslim is the brother of another Muslim; he neither oppresses him nor does he look down upon him, nor does he humiliate him. Piety is here, (and he pointed to his chest three times). It is enough evil for a Muslim to hold his brother Muslim in contempt. All things of a Muslim are inviolable for his brother-in-faith: his blood, his property and his honour” (Muslim 2564).

Later in 1957, the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community were established under the Treaty of Rome which informally established the European Union. The European Union was formally established under the Maastricht Treaty in 1993 which was later on amended at Amsterdam in 1999, at Nice in 2003 and at Lisbon in 2009 (Calapod & Matei, 2015). The purpose of the formation of the European Union is to allow free movement of people, goods, services and the capital, in member countries (Blaurock, 1998). Keeping in mind the established structure of the European Union, an Islamic Union may be established for the free movement of the citizens of the Muslim states in all Muslim countries of the Islamic Union as well as the free movement of goods, services and the capital. Furthermore, one currency may be launched for all Muslim countries under the umbrella of the Islamic Union just as the Euro currency for many European Union states. It is noteworthy that 27 member states of the European Union do not have a separate visa requirement; one visa is enough to travel to 26 European Union Countries. What if the said traits and trajectory is followed in the creation of Islamic Union or Caliphate.



There are seven decision making bodies of the European Union (i) the European Council, (ii) the Council of the European Union, (iii) the European Parliament, (iv) the European Commission, (v) the European Court of Justice, (vi) the European Central Bank and, (vii) the European Court of Auditors (Olsoen & McCormick, 2018). Their constitution and functions are enumerated below.

The European Council formalised as an institution in 2009 upon the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon. It is a body defines overall political directions and priorities of the European Union. It is comprised of the heads of states of the European Union, the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission (Keating, Hooghe, & Tatham, 2015). Similarly, an Islamic Union would have an Islamic Council, which would be comprised of the heads of states of the Islamic Union, they may choose one of its members as the head of the Islamic Union. It is a strategic body which provides a political guidance and strategies to be followed by the Commission and the Parliament.

The European Union is comprised of bicameral legislative bodies includes (i) the Council of the European Union and, (ii) the European Parliament. The Council of the European Union is comprised of the relevant ministers of the European Union whose area is in discussion of the meeting. It can also be referred to as the Council or the Council of Ministers. 27 Ministers from the European countries meet to discuss issues of common interest, Ministers varies according to the topic under consideration as if discussing agricultural policy the Council is formed by 27 Ministers whose portfolio includes this policy area. The other house is the European Parliament whose members are directly elected through elections for five years and currently there are 705 members of the European Parliament which are elected for five years' term (Thomson et al, 2012). Similarly, the proposed Islamic Union would have a bicameral legislative system comprised of the Council of the Islamic Union and the Parliament of the Islamic Union. The members of the parliament of the Islamic Union would be elected for a five-years term from all Islamic Countries members of the Islamic Union.

The European Commission is comprised of the foreign ministers of the members of the European Union. Similarly, the Islamic Union would have an Islamic Commission which would be comprised of the foreign ministers of the Islamic States, to discuss the financial matters of the Islamic States and rich Islamic countries would be asked to help poor Islamic States.

There is a European Court of Auditors whose function is to audit the financial matters of the European Union. The same would be the function of the suggested Islamic



Court of Auditors. Lastly, the European Union has two most important institutions: The European Court of Justice and the European Central Bank. It is suggested that there would be an Islamic Court of Justice which would be required to settle disputes between the Islamic States and a dispute between an Islamic State and a Citizen of another Islamic State in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. The Islamic Central Bank would be the landmark in the history and would create and establish a separate Islamic Banking system free from Usury, Gharar and Maysir and based upon the principles laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. The interest free banking is the need of the Muslim Ummah and the Islamic Banking has already been started in many parts of the world, so it is not very difficult task to build an Islamic Central Bank under the Umbrella of the proposed Islamic Union.

The Islamic Union would not be a sovereign supra national organization because the sovereignty belongs to Almighty Allah alone and the authority is to be exercised within limits prescribed by Him which is a sacred trust and it is not ruled by some people, it is actually ruled by Almighty Allah. The Caliph, which is first chosen by Almighty Allah and then by the people of the state at large through the Oath. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ took oath from his companions that they will not worship other than Almighty Allah, will not steal anything, will not commit adultery, will not kill children, will not accuse an innocent person and will not disobey orders to do good deeds.

Ubaid b. as-Samit reported, “Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) took (a pledge) from us as he took from the women that we will not associate anything with Allah and we will not steal, and we will not commit adultery, and we will not kill our children, and we will not bring calumny upon one another. And he who amongst you fulfils (this pledge), his reward rests with Allah, and he upon whom amongst you is imposed the prescribed punishment and that is carried out, that is his expiation (for that sin), and he whose (sins) were covered by Allah, his matter rests with Allah. He may punish him if He likes or may forgive him if He so likes” (Muslim, 1709c).

The Caliph is required to be amongst the best people of the society in truthfulness, trustworthiness and in knowledge. The obedience to the ruler of the Islamic State is conditional if its orders are within the scope of Holy Quran and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ otherwise its orders are not binding on the people. The Caliph is not a ruler, he is actually a successor of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and a representative of the Islamic Ummah (Aziz, Badshah, & Ullah Khan, 2021).



The proposed Islamic Union would not be allowed to change the definitive laws mentioned in the Holy Quran and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and the proposed Islamic Union would be based upon the Islamic values and generally would be required to work for the betterment of the humanity and it would be required to provide education to every citizen of the state free of charge which includes the moral refinement and the general knowledge of Islam and worldly affairs and the Islamic Union must work for the social welfare of the people at large where the health facilities would be free for all nationals of the proposed Islamic Union.

The proposed Islamic Union would be a role model, where all Muslims can easily practice and profess their religion of Islam without any restriction and hindrance and it would be required to establish a pure justice system where all are answerable before the law without discrimination of the ruler and a layman and would be required to eliminate and eradicate all forms of parochial, racial, tribal, sectarian and provincial prejudices and exploitation and would be required to take coercive measures against offenders and oppressors and would be required to enforce the Islamic moral values in the collective spheres. The role and responsibility of an Islamic Union would include that it must become the role model for other states and unions and it should spread Islamic Cause in the region and in the world and it should remove hurdles in the way of Dawah activities and it should play its part in the revival of Islamic Sciences and it should give and provide education to all and it ought to protect religion, life, intellect, progeny and wealth and it ought to defend Islamic territories of the union and it should join hands with other states to promote the common cause of humanity.

One might counter argue and term the creation of Islamic Union to be utopian. If nothing is achieved, at least this study provokes scholars to think about any akin arrangements that might be helpful in development and regional connectivity. We are living in a globalized world, where interdependence and connectedness are vital. There are so many Muslim states, all what needs to be done is to trigger a scholarly debate on the topic which might influence the future of Muslim generations and humanity as a whole, after all.

Conclusion & Recommendations

Islamic Union is a proposed idea to establish Caliphate on footsteps of European Union. The European Union has seven main institutions which can also be made under Islamic Union as (i) the Islamic Council consisted of all rulers of the Muslim countries of the World who can join hands to formulate guidelines for functioning of the Islamic Union and they may choose or elect one of them as Head of the Islamic Union who could be



called Caliph, (ii) the Council of the Islamic Union would be the second body of the Islamic Union consisted of the relevant Ministers of the Islamic Countries, (iii) the Islamic Union Parliament consisted of elected members directly elected from the votes of all Islamic countries of the World, (iv) the Islamic Union Commission propose legislation, (v) the European Court of Justice decide cases in accordance with injunctions of Islamic as laid down in Holy Quran and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, (vi) the European Central Bank formulate a banking structure free from interest that has no corresponding consideration in an exchange of property for property, uncertainty about ultimate outcome of the contract which may lead dispute and litigation and principles as do not harms others so that you will not be harmed, usufruct devolves with liability, and (vii) the European Court of Auditors to audit accounts of the proposed Islamic Union. Moreover, one currency for all Islamic Countries and one visa policy for all Islamic countries of the World.



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