

Ideological Frameworks



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Political Parties

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Sunni Islamist Ideologies

- **Muslim Brotherhood:**
 - **Focus:** Creating an Islamic state by means of progressive change and democratic involvement.
 - **Political Stance:** Combines political activism with social and religious reform.
 - **Key Groups:** Hamas (Palestine), Islamic Action Front (Jordan), and Muslim Brotherhood (Egypt).

Sunni Islamist Ideologies

- **Wahhabism:**
 - **Focus:** Islam interpreted literally and strictly, with a focus on Tawhid (monotheism).
 - **Political Stance:** supports the Saudi royal family, who are largely non-political but have a big say in laws and government.
 - **Key Groups:** No formal political parties, but influential in Saudi governance.

Sunni Islamist Ideologies

- **Salafism:**

- **Focus:** Go back to the practice of the Salaf, the first three generations of Muslims.
- **Political Stance:** usually apolitical, yet some groups support getting involved in politics.
- **Key Groups:** Al-Nour Party (Egypt), various Salafi groups in the Gulf States.

Sunni Islamist Ideologies

- **Jihadism:**
 - **Focus:** Armed struggle to establish an Islamic state or caliphate.
 - **Political Stance:** rejects democratic procedures and contemporary nation-states.
 - **Key Groups:** Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Boko Haram.

Shiite Islamist Ideologies

- **Wilayat al-Faqih:**
 - **Focus:** Rule by jurists from Islam, in this case the Iranian Supreme Leader.
 - **Political Stance:** Combining governmental authority with religious authority.
 - **Key Groups:** Iraqi political parties, militias, and Hezbollah (Lebanon).

Shiite Islamist Ideologies

- **Quietist Shiism:**
 - **Focus:** The study of religion and spiritual guidance free from overt politics.
 - **Political Stance:** stays away from overtly political involvement and concentrates on social and local issues.
 - **Key Groups:** Iraqi clerics and their adherents in Najaf.

Hybrid and Regional Variations

- **Political Islam:**
 - **Focus:** Various methods combining political action with Islamic ideals.
 - **Political Stance:** can include extremist activists as well as moderate reformists.
 - **Key Groups:** Justice and Development Party (Morocco), Ennahda (Tunisia), and AKP (Turkey).

Hybrid and Regional Variations

- **Islamic Socialism:**
 - **Focus:** Islam and socialist ideas of equality and social justice combined.
 - **Political Stance:** supporters of social welfare and income redistribution within an Islamic context.
 - **Key Groups:** historical impacts on certain Iranian factions and organizations such as the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party.

Hybrid and Regional Variations

- **Sufi Political Movements:**
 - **Focus:** a focus on community-based methods and spiritual practices.
 - **Political Stance:** Though most movements are non-political, some use political activism to address social challenges.
 - **Key Groups:** different Sufi orders that are influential in the region, including Pakistan and Sudan.

Hybrid and Regional Variations

- **Regional Examples:**
 - **Turkey:**
 - **Focus:** blending secular government with moderate Islamism.
 - **Political Stance:** supporters of economic growth, human rights, and democracy within an Islamic context.
 - **Key Groups:** Justice and Development Party (AKP).

Hybrid and Regional Variations

- **Regional Examples:**

- **Iran:**

- **Focus:** Islamic Republic based on the principles of Wilayat al-Faqih.
 - **Political Stance:** theocratic rule under which clerics have a major political influence.
 - **Key Groups:** Revolutionary Guard Corps, the ruling class.

Hybrid and Regional Variations

- **Regional Examples:**
 - **Palestine:**
 - **Focus:** Liberation and establishment of an Islamic state.
 - **Political Stance:** Opposition to Israeli occupation and different strategies for engaging in politics.
 - **Key Groups:** Hamas (militant and political wings).

Ideological Frameworks

From extremist to moderate and from politically involved to apolitical movements, these frameworks demonstrate the range of Islamic political thinking and practice throughout the Middle East.

Seminar Question:

What effects do Islamist groups' various ideological frameworks have on their political tactics and relationships with secular government systems, and what does this mean for international relations and regional stability?