



Islamism (Political Islam)

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Political Parties

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Islamism

“Islamism is a complex phenomenon with multiple dimensions and various ramifications. Like other political doctrines, Islamism, in its contemporary shape, is an ‘ideology’, a ‘movement-organisation’ and a ‘form of government.’” (Mehdi Mozaffari, 2007)

Islamism

"It is almost certain that the etiquette of 'Islamism' was used for the first time by French writers at the end of the seventeenth century. Le Petit Robert gives 1697 as the first reference to the word. The Enlightenment philosopher Voltaire is one of the first writers to use the term..." (Mehdi Mozaffari, 2007)

Islamism

“Islamism,” understood as a revival movement that is characterized by political and social conservatism, literalism, and an intractable link between religion, politics, and daily life.” (Nathan Lean, 2018 :120)

Islamism

- “Islamism as an ideology or a political discourse is derived from a particular reading of Islam.” (Umit Cizre, 2008: 17)
- “Moreover, in defending Islam as a civilization, the Islamists borrowed from Western categories. Hence, parallels and similarities were found between, for example, the Islamic principle of Shurra and democracy.” (Umit Cizre, 2008: 18)

Smith and the Sacred Foundations of Nationalism

Islamic Civilisation



https://youtu.be/ze_fFC0qMaQ



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“The rise of contemporary Islamism as an essentially opposition movement is linked to a number of factors, for example:

- the failure of modernizing regimes to deliver on their promises and to provide their citizens with a worldview;
- the Arab-Israeli war;
- uneven globalization;
- increasing post-modernization of daily life;
- post-modern criticisms that undermine the intellectual bases of Westernization; and
- further modernization in Muslim countries which creates new opportunities for peripheral Muslim identity to express itself in the public sphere.” (Umit Cizre, 2008: 19)

Politics vs Religion



“People do not really fight about religion. If they seem to be doing so, they must really be fighting about something else.” (Bossy 1991 in Ivan Strenski, 2010)

Seminar Question:

- How does Islamism function as an ideology, movement, and form of governance, and to what extent do its interpretations (e.g., conservative revivalism vs. adaptation of Western concepts like democracy) reflect internal diversity or contradictions within Political Islam?

Bibliograph

- Ivan Strenski, *Why Politics Can't Be Freed From Religion*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.
- Mehdi Mozaffari, *What is Islamism? History and Definition of a Concept*, *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions*, Vol. 8, No. 1, 17-33, March 2007.
- Nathan Lean, *Understanding Islam and the West*, Rowman and Littlefield International, London and New York, 2018.