

The Dynamics of Islamic Development from the Classical to the Modern Era: The Evolution of Communication, Public Governance, and Social Administration

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Abstract:

The development of Islam from the classical to the modern era represents a historical process that reflects dynamic changes in various aspects of Muslim life, including politics, society, economy, education, and science. This study aims to analyze the dynamics of Islamic development from the classical period through the medieval and modern periods and to identify the factors influencing such development. The study employs a library research method with a historical-descriptive approach. Data were collected from various literature sources, including books, scientific journals, and historical documents relevant to the research topic. The findings indicate that the classical period was the golden age of Islam, characterized by significant advancements in science, civilization, and territorial expansion. During the medieval period, the Islamic world experienced decline due to internal conflicts, political fragmentation, the Mongol invasion, and Western colonialism. Meanwhile, the modern period has been marked by Islamic reform movements that sought to integrate Islamic values with the advancement of science and technology. The dynamics of Islamic development have been influenced by internal factors such as leadership, education, and religious thought, as well as external factors including intercivilizational interactions, colonialism, globalization, and technological progress. This study concludes that Islam possesses a strong capacity to adapt to changing times, enabling it to maintain its existence and continue contributing to the development of human civilization up to the present day.

Keywords: Islam, Islamic Civilization, Classical Period, Modern Period.

INTRODUCTION

Islam is one of the largest religions in the world and has had a significant influence on the development of human civilization. Since the revelation of the first message to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

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in the seventh century CE, Islam has developed not only as a religious doctrine but also as a comprehensive way of life that regulates various aspects of society, including social, political, economic, cultural, and educational dimensions. Throughout its historical development, Islam has established a civilization that has made substantial contributions to global progress, particularly in the fields of science, technology, philosophy, and governance (Esposito, 2005). Therefore, the history of Islamic development is an important subject of study in understanding how this religion has survived, evolved, and adapted to changing circumstances over time.

The historical journey of Islam demonstrates continuous dynamics and transformations from one period to another. In general, the development of Islam can be divided into three major periods: the classical period, the medieval period, and the modern period. Each period possesses its own characteristics, challenges, and achievements that have shaped the development of Islamic civilization up to the present day. The classical period of Islam, which lasted approximately from 650 to 1250 CE, is often referred to as the Golden Age of Islam. During this period, the Islamic world achieved remarkable progress in various fields of life. Such advancement was marked by the emergence of centers of learning, the rise of prominent scholars, and the expansion of Islamic territories across large parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe (Hitti, 2014).

The progress of Islam during the classical era was closely associated with strong political leadership, particularly under the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties. These dynasties succeeded in creating political stability and encouraging scientific development through educational and research institutions. One of the most renowned centers of knowledge during the Abbasid period was the Bayt al-Hikmah (House of Wisdom) in Baghdad, which served as a center for translating and developing scientific works from Greek, Persian, and Indian civilizations. The openness of Muslim scholars to diverse intellectual traditions produced outstanding figures such as Al-Khwarizmi in mathematics, Ibn Sina in medicine, Al-Farabi in philosophy, and Ibn Rushd, who significantly contributed to rational thought (Lapidus, 2014). These achievements indicate that Islam possessed

a strong intellectual tradition and played a vital role in the advancement of world civilization.

However, the glory of Islamic civilization during the classical period did not continue indefinitely. Entering the medieval period, the Islamic world encountered numerous challenges that led to decline in various aspects. Political fragmentation, internal conflicts among Muslim territories, and the weakening spirit of scientific inquiry were among the factors contributing to this decline. In addition, the Mongol invasion and the destruction of Baghdad in 1258 CE marked the end of the Islamic Golden Age (Nasution, 2013). The collapse of major centers of governance and learning had profound consequences for the development of Islamic civilization across different regions.

During the same period, the Western world experienced revival through the Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution, which stimulated progress in science, technology, and economic development. This shift resulted in the transfer of the center of world civilization from the Islamic world to Europe. Besides internal challenges, Muslim societies also faced Western colonial expansion, which further weakened their political and economic power. Nevertheless, Islam continued to flourish through major Islamic empires such as the Ottoman Empire in Turkey, the Safavid Dynasty in Persia, and the Mughal Empire in India, all of which played significant roles in preserving Islamic civilization in their respective regions (Hourani, 1991).

In the modern era, the Islamic world has confronted new challenges arising from scientific progress, technological advancement, modernization, and globalization. These conditions encouraged the emergence of Islamic reform movements aimed at restoring the strength and prosperity of Muslim societies through reforms in thought, education, and social institutions. Reformist thinkers such as Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, Muhammad Abduh, and Rashid Rida argued that Muslims should master modern sciences without abandoning Islamic values. According to Rahman (1982), Islamic reform in the modern era represents an effort to respond to contemporary challenges while integrating Islamic teachings

with the advancement of science and technology.

In today's era of globalization, Islamic development continues to exhibit dynamic characteristics. Advances in information and communication technology have created new spaces for Islamic preaching and education through various digital platforms. On the other hand, these developments have also generated challenges such as radicalism, extremism, Islamophobia, and debates concerning the relationship between religion and modernity (Ahmed, 1992). These phenomena indicate that the development of Islam has always been closely related to social changes within society. The ability of Muslim communities to adapt to such changes has become a crucial factor in maintaining the relevance and existence of Islam in an increasingly complex world.

The dynamics of Islamic development from the classical era to the modern period demonstrate that Islam is a religion capable of growth and adaptation under different historical circumstances. This long historical journey reveals how Islam experienced periods of prosperity, decline, and revival through various reform efforts undertaken by Muslim societies. Therefore, studying the dynamics of Islamic development from the classical to the modern era is essential for understanding the factors that have influenced the evolution of Islamic civilization and the ways Muslims have responded to challenges in each historical period. Such understanding is expected to provide broader insights into the development of Islam and serve as a reflection for addressing future challenges in the modern world.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

The study of the dynamics of Islamic development from the classical to the modern era requires a theoretical foundation capable of explaining the transformations that have occurred within Muslim societies in social, political, cultural, and intellectual dimensions. The development of Islam as both a religion and a civilization cannot be separated from continuous processes of change that accompany historical developments. Therefore, this study employs several relevant concepts and theories, namely the concept of Islamic civilization, Social Change Theory, and Modernization

Theory, as analytical frameworks for examining Islamic development from the classical period to the modern era.

Concept of Islamic Civilization

Islamic civilization refers to the collective achievements and contributions of Muslim societies that are founded upon Islamic values and teachings. This civilization encompasses not only religious aspects but also politics, economics, education, science, arts, culture, and technology. According to Hitti (2014), Islamic civilization is one of the greatest civilizations in human history because it successfully integrated spiritual values with scientific advancement and social development.

Islamic civilization began to develop significantly after the establishment of the Muslim community in Medina during the lifetime of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Its development continued during the era of the Rightly Guided Caliphs (Khulafā' al-Rāshidūn), the Umayyad Dynasty, and reached its peak during the Abbasid Dynasty. During this period, Muslims established strong political institutions, developed educational systems, and produced scientific works that contributed greatly to world knowledge (Lapidus, 2014).

From a historical perspective, the development of Islamic civilization demonstrates that religion plays an essential role in shaping social and cultural structures. Islamic values have functioned not only as spiritual guidance but also as foundations for scientific development, legal systems, and social organization. Therefore, the concept of Islamic civilization is employed in this study to understand how Islamic teachings have influenced the development of Muslim societies from the classical period to the modern era.

Social Change Theory

The development of Islam from the classical to the modern era can be understood through Social Change Theory. Social change refers to transformations that occur in social structures, values, norms, behavioral patterns, and social institutions within a society. According to Soekanto (2017), social change encompasses alterations in social institutions that influence the social system, including values, attitudes, and patterns of

behavior within a community.

Social Change Theory argues that society is dynamic rather than static, continuously evolving due to both internal and external factors. Internal factors include intellectual development, changes in societal mindsets, and political dynamics within communities. External factors may consist of interactions with other cultures, technological advancement, warfare, colonialism, and globalization.

In the context of Islamic development, social change can be observed throughout different historical periods. During the classical period, social transformation was marked by the expansion of Islamic territories and the growth of scientific centers. During the medieval period, changes occurred as a result of political decline and increasing external influences on the Islamic world. In the modern era, social change has been reflected in Islamic reform movements, educational reforms, and the adaptation of Muslim societies to scientific and technological developments (Nasution, 2013).

Through Social Change Theory, Islamic development can be understood as a dynamic process characterized by continuous adaptation to changing social conditions. This theory helps explain how Islam has managed to survive and develop despite facing numerous challenges throughout history.

Modernization Theory

Modernization Theory is used to explain the transformations that have taken place within Muslim societies during the modern era. Modernization refers to the process of transitioning from traditional patterns of life to more advanced and rational systems through developments in science, technology, education, and social institutions. According to Rahman (1982), modernization in the Islamic world does not imply abandoning religious teachings; rather, it represents efforts to reinterpret and apply Islamic principles in accordance with contemporary circumstances.

The emergence of modernization in Muslim societies has been influenced by various factors, including Western colonialism, technological progress, and scientific developments originating in Europe.

These conditions encouraged Muslim intellectuals to introduce reforms in different aspects of life in order to improve the quality of Muslim societies. Thinkers such as Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, Muhammad Abduh, and Rashid Rida argued that Muslims should master modern sciences and reform educational systems while preserving the fundamental principles of Islam.

From the perspective of Modernization Theory, contemporary Islamic development demonstrates a process of adaptation to global changes. Islamic educational institutions have increasingly integrated religious and secular sciences, religious organizations have utilized digital technologies for preaching and education, and various Islamic movements have attempted to address social challenges arising from globalization. According to Esposito (2005), modernization has stimulated the emergence of contemporary Islamic thought that seeks to connect Islamic values with the realities of modern life.

The application of Modernization Theory in this study aims to explain how Muslim societies respond to contemporary developments and how reform processes influence Islamic development in the modern era. This theory also provides insights into the opportunities and challenges faced by Muslims in responding to social, cultural, and technological transformations in the twenty-first century

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a library research method with a historical-descriptive approach. Library research was selected because the data utilized in this study are derived from various written sources related to the dynamics of Islamic development from the classical period to the modern era. According to Zed (2018), library research refers to a series of research activities conducted through collecting, reading, recording, and analyzing relevant literature materials. The historical approach is used to understand the development of Islam based on chronological events and historical periods, while the descriptive approach is applied to systematically describe phenomena associated with the development of Islamic civilization.

The data used in this study consist of secondary data obtained from books, scientific journals, academic articles, historical documents, and other relevant literature concerning Islamic development during the classical, medieval, and modern periods. The selected references were chosen based on their relevance, credibility, and connection to the research objectives. Major references include works discussing Islamic civilization, the history of Islamic thought, and studies on modernization and social change within Muslim societies.

Data collection was carried out through documentary study, involving the examination of various literature sources related to the research topic. The process began with identifying relevant references, followed by an in-depth reading to obtain information regarding Islamic development in each historical period. Subsequently, the collected data were classified into several themes, including political development, education, scientific advancement, Islamic thought, and factors influencing transformations within Muslim societies.

The data were analyzed using a descriptive qualitative analysis technique. The analysis was conducted by interpreting and comparing information obtained from various sources in order to develop a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of Islamic development from the classical period to the modern era. The collected data were then organized systematically according to chronological historical periods, enabling a clear description of the processes, challenges, and transformations experienced by Muslim societies throughout history.

Through this research method, the study is expected to provide an in-depth understanding of the historical development of Islam, the factors influencing its evolution, and its relevance to contemporary Muslim societies. Thus, this research not only presents a historical overview of Islamic development but also explains how Islam has adapted and evolved in response to social, political, economic, and cultural changes throughout different periods of history.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Islamic Development during the Classical Period (650-1250 CE)

The findings reveal that the Classical Period represented the golden age of Islamic civilization. During this era, Islam developed not only as a religion but also as a major world civilization that contributed significantly to science, education, economics, and governance. Political stability under the Rightly Guided Caliphs (Khulafā’ al-Rāshidūn), the Umayyad Dynasty, and particularly the Abbasid Dynasty played a crucial role in fostering this progress.

Intellectual advancement during this period was marked by the establishment of the House of Wisdom (Bayt al-Hikmah) in Baghdad as a center for translation and scientific development. Interactions with Greek, Persian, and Indian civilizations encouraged scientific innovation and produced prominent scholars such as Al-Khwarizmi, Ibn Sina (Avicenna), Al-Farabi, and Ibn Rushd (Averroes). These findings demonstrate that openness to knowledge and governmental support for intellectual activities were the primary factors behind the success of Islamic civilization during the Classical Period.

Table 1. Characteristics of Islamic Development across Historical Periods

Period	Time Span	Main Characteristics	General Condition
Classical Period	650-1250 CE	Scientific advancement, territorial expansion, development of civilization	Golden Age of Islam
Medieval Period	1250–1800 CE	Political decline, fragmentation of power, colonial influence	Period of transition and decline
Modern Period	1800 CE-Present	Intellectual reform, educational modernization, technological adaptation	Period of renewal and transformation

Islamic Development during the Medieval Period (1250-1800 CE)

The findings indicate that the Medieval Period was characterized by decline in various aspects of Muslim life. The fall of Baghdad to the Mongols in 1258 CE significantly weakened Islamic political institutions and scientific centers.

In addition to external pressures, internal factors such as political fragmentation, conflicts among Muslim territories, and the decline of intellectual enthusiasm also contributed to this deterioration. Nevertheless, Islamic civilization managed to preserve its existence through the emergence of major Islamic empires, namely the Ottoman Empire, the Safavid Dynasty, and the Mughal Empire, which maintained Islamic influence in different regions.

The study also found that Western colonialism had a considerable impact on weakening the political and economic strength of the Muslim world, thereby stimulating awareness for reform in subsequent periods.

Islamic Development during the Modern Period (1800 CE-Present)

The findings show that the modern period has been marked by various Islamic reform movements in response to scientific advancement, modernization, and globalization. Awareness of the Muslim world's backwardness in education, technology, and economics encouraged Muslim intellectuals to introduce reforms in various aspects of life.

Thinkers such as Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, Muhammad Abduh, and Rashid Rida played important roles in promoting intellectual renewal through education, rationality, and *ijtihad*. Furthermore, the modernization of Islamic education through the integration of religious and secular sciences became one of the major forms of adaptation to contemporary developments.

The study also reveals that information technology has significantly influenced the dissemination of Islamic teachings and education. The

utilization of digital media, the internet, and online learning platforms has expanded public access to Islamic knowledge and strengthened communication networks among Muslims worldwide.

Factors Influencing the Dynamics of Islamic Development

The findings demonstrate that Islamic development has been influenced by both internal and external factors. Internal factors include leadership quality, Islamic thought, educational systems, and the social conditions of Muslim communities. External factors consist of interactions with other civilizations, colonialism, scientific advancement, technological progress, and globalization.

The findings suggest that the progress of Islamic civilization during the Classical Period was supported by strong leadership, encouragement of scientific development, and openness to external knowledge. Conversely, decline occurred when political fragmentation, internal conflicts, and weakening intellectual traditions emerged.

Table 2. Factors Influencing the Dynamics of Islamic Development
Internal Factors

Internal Factors	Impact on Islamic Development
Leadership	Determines political stability and the direction of societal development
Education	Promotes scientific advancement and human resource development
Islamic Thought	Shapes adaptation to changing circumstances
Social Conditions	Influences acceptance of reform and change

External Factors

External Factors	Impact on Islamic Development
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Intercivilizational Interaction	Enriches Islamic intellectual traditions
Western Colonialism	Weakens the political and economic strength of Muslim societies
Technological Development	Accelerates social transformation and Islamic propagation
Globalization	Creates both opportunities and challenges for Muslim communities

Challenges and Prospects of Islam in the Modern Era

The findings reveal that Islam in the modern era faces numerous challenges, including globalization, the spread of extremist ideologies, radicalism, and the rise of Islamophobia in several countries. Nevertheless, Islam possesses considerable potential for future development through the utilization of digital technology, the strengthening of Islamic educational institutions, and the promotion of religious moderation emphasizing tolerance, balance, and respect for diversity.

Overall, the findings indicate that the development of Islam from the Classical Period to the Modern Era has been a dynamic and adaptive process. Islam has maintained its existence through its ability to respond to social, political, economic, and technological transformations occurring throughout history. These findings demonstrate that Islam functions not only as a religious system but also as a civilization that continuously evolves and contributes to the advancement of humanity.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study demonstrate that the development of Islam from the Classical Period to the Modern Era represents a dynamic historical process shaped by various social, political, intellectual, and technological factors. The evolution of Islamic civilization reflects the ability of Muslim

societies to adapt to changing circumstances throughout history. These findings can be understood through the perspectives of the concept of Islamic civilization, Social Change Theory, and Modernization Theory.

The results indicate that the Classical Period (650-1250 CE) marked the golden age of Islamic civilization. During this period, Muslim societies achieved remarkable progress in science, philosophy, medicine, mathematics, and governance. The establishment of intellectual centers such as the House of Wisdom in Baghdad illustrates how Islamic civilization developed through openness to knowledge from other cultures and civilizations. This finding supports the concept of Islamic civilization proposed by Hitti (2014), which emphasizes that Islamic civilization successfully integrated spiritual values with scientific and cultural advancement. The achievements of the Abbasid era demonstrate that religion and science were viewed as complementary elements contributing to the prosperity and development of society. Moreover, strong political leadership and governmental support for scientific activities played significant roles in fostering intellectual growth and civilizational progress.

The findings further reveal that the Medieval Period (1250-1800 CE) was characterized by political fragmentation, internal conflicts, and declining intellectual productivity. The fall of Baghdad in 1258 CE symbolized not only the collapse of Abbasid political authority but also the weakening of scientific and cultural institutions within the Muslim world. These findings are consistent with Social Change Theory, which argues that societies continuously undergo transformation due to both internal and external influences. Internal factors such as political instability and the decline of intellectual traditions contributed to the deterioration of Islamic civilization, while external factors including the Mongol invasion and Western colonial expansion accelerated this process. Nevertheless, Islamic civilization did not disappear entirely. The Ottoman Empire, Safavid Dynasty, and Mughal Empire succeeded in preserving Islamic identity and maintaining the continuity of Islamic institutions. This condition indicates that social change does not necessarily lead to the disappearance of a civilization but may instead result in structural transformation and adaptation.

The findings also show that the Modern Period has been characterized by efforts to overcome backwardness through reform and modernization. Muslim intellectuals such as Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, Muhammad Abduh, and Rashid Rida promoted educational reform, rational thinking, and the revival of *ijtihad* as mechanisms for responding to modern challenges. These findings support Modernization Theory, which suggests that societies evolve from traditional patterns toward more rational and advanced systems. However, modernization in the Islamic context does not imply abandoning religious principles. Instead, it represents an effort to harmonize Islamic teachings with contemporary developments in science and technology. The integration of religious and secular sciences within educational institutions illustrates the adaptive capacity of Muslim societies and confirms Rahman's (1982) argument that Islamic modernization seeks to reinterpret Islamic teachings in accordance with changing social realities while preserving their fundamental values.

In addition, the study demonstrates that Islamic development has been influenced by the interaction between internal and external factors. Internal factors such as leadership quality, educational systems, intellectual traditions, and social conditions have significantly affected the progress and decline of Muslim societies. Strong leadership and support for knowledge contributed to advancement, whereas political disunity and intellectual stagnation contributed to decline. External factors including intercivilizational interactions, colonialism, technological development, and globalization have also played crucial roles. During the Classical Period, interactions with Greek, Persian, and Indian civilizations enriched Islamic scholarship. In contrast, Western colonialism weakened the political and economic power of Muslim societies. In the contemporary era, technological progress and globalization have created new opportunities for Islamic education and communication while simultaneously presenting new challenges.

Furthermore, the findings indicate that contemporary Muslim societies face numerous challenges associated with globalization, radicalism, extremism, misinformation, and Islamophobia. The rapid expansion of

digital technology has facilitated access to Islamic knowledge but has also increased the spread of inaccurate religious interpretations and extremist ideologies. Nevertheless, these challenges are accompanied by significant opportunities. Digital platforms have expanded access to Islamic education, strengthened global Muslim networks, and enabled more effective dissemination of Islamic teachings. In addition, the growing emphasis on religious moderation provides an important foundation for promoting tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and social harmony in increasingly diverse societies.

Overall, the discussion demonstrates that the development of Islam from the Classical Period to the Modern Era reflects a continuous process of change, adaptation, and renewal. The findings confirm that Islam possesses a strong capacity for resilience and transformation, enabling it to remain relevant and continue contributing to the advancement of human civilization in the contemporary world

Conclusion

The development of Islam from the Classical Period to the Modern Era demonstrates a dynamic historical process that has continuously evolved in response to changing social, political, economic, and cultural conditions. During the Classical Period, Islamic civilization reached its golden age, characterized by remarkable achievements in science, education, governance, economics, and culture. These accomplishments were supported by political stability, a strong intellectual tradition, and openness to knowledge from other civilizations. This period produced many influential Muslim scholars whose contributions significantly shaped the advancement of world civilization.

During the Medieval Period, the Islamic world experienced various challenges that resulted in decline in several aspects of life. Political fragmentation, internal conflicts, the Mongol invasion, and the growing influence of Western colonialism weakened the political and economic power of Muslim societies. Nevertheless, Islamic civilization continued to survive through major empires such as the Ottoman Empire, the Safavid Dynasty, and the Mughal Empire, which played important roles in

preserving Islamic identity and maintaining the continuity of Islamic institutions in different regions.

In the Modern Period, Muslim societies recognized the necessity of reform in order to respond to contemporary challenges. Various reform movements emerged with the aim of restoring the progress of the Muslim world through educational development, intellectual renewal, and the utilization of science and technology. Modernization has not been perceived as a threat to Islamic teachings but rather as a means of improving the quality of life while maintaining the fundamental principles of Islam. Moreover, globalization and technological advancement have created new opportunities for Islamic education, communication, and the dissemination of religious knowledge across the world.

The findings of this study indicate that the dynamics of Islamic development have been influenced by both internal and external factors. Internal factors include leadership quality, Islamic intellectual traditions, educational systems, and the social conditions of Muslim communities. External factors involve interactions with other civilizations, colonialism, scientific progress, technological development, and globalization. The interaction between these factors has shaped different patterns of Islamic development in each historical period.

Based on these findings, it can be concluded that Islam possesses a strong capacity for adaptation and renewal in the face of changing historical circumstances. Despite experiencing periods of decline and various challenges, Islam has continued to maintain its existence and contribute to the advancement of human civilization. Therefore, understanding the dynamics of Islamic development from the Classical Period to the Modern Era is essential for comprehending the current condition of Muslim societies and for formulating appropriate strategies to address future challenges and opportunities. By integrating Islamic values with scientific and technological progress, Muslim communities have great potential to contribute to the creation of a more advanced, just, and civilized global society.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that Muslim communities continue to strengthen educational systems by integrating Islamic values with scientific and technological advancements in order to enhance the quality and competitiveness of human resources in the modern era. Efforts to promote moderate and inclusive interpretations of Islam should also be intensified to foster tolerance, social harmony, and respect for diversity while addressing challenges such as radicalism and extremism. In addition, the effective utilization of digital technology and modern communication platforms should be encouraged to expand access to Islamic education and facilitate the dissemination of authentic Islamic teachings on a global scale. Governments, educational institutions, and Islamic organizations are also expected to provide greater support for research, intellectual development, and innovation in order to revive the spirit of scientific inquiry that characterized the golden age of Islamic civilization. Furthermore, future researchers are encouraged to conduct more comprehensive studies on contemporary Islamic development, particularly regarding the impacts of globalization, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and emerging social challenges on Muslim societies. Through these efforts, Islam is expected to continue contributing positively to the advancement of human civilization and the creation of a more peaceful, just, and progressive global society.

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