



Islam and the Institutions of a Free Society

The 2nd Annual Conference

Marriott Hotel, Aga Khan Road,

Islamabad, Pakistan,

28th February to 2nd March, 2013 ,

Dear Friends, Respected Speakers and Honourable Guests

I welcome you to the second international conference of Istanbul Network for Liberty, an organization set up by Muslims to look for the principles of free society from within Islamic history and culture and to promote these values...

It is our mission to help setup an intellectual movement throughout the Muslim world, that replicates the time from the first couple of hundred years of Muslim civilization, when Muslims intellectuals freely debated and discussed ideas.

When new ideas were created and older ones adopted and refined in a spirit of free enquiry and tolerance.

Islam above any other meaning has always meant freedom from tyranny of any kind and in any form. In the first short three sentences of Surah Fateh Allah lays down the foundation of individual liberty, freedom of choice, equality, justice and rule of law.

Islam positively and actively promotes these principles and makes these the very foundation of social justice and freedom from tyranny.

Very few Muslims have reacted positively to the twin challenges of modernity and Muslim decline. Most of us have had an ostrich like attitude or taken ourselves to a dream land of a grand past.

Failure of Muslim civilization is a failure of Muslim intellectuals, not a failure of Islam.

Muslim intellectuals have failed to provide a framework for political, economic and social Islam based on Islamic principles that can provide a Muslim response or a Muslim interpretation to the twin challenges I mentioned earlier.

We all know that Muslims gained popularity because Islam empowered the individual through its core message of one God. The basis of social justice in Islamic civilizations was rule of law, freedom of trade, protection of private person and property and a limited government, where the authority of the Caliphal tyranny was always under check by the independent law givers.

I am bewildered that a majority of people view the rule of law in liberal-secular

terms and not in liberal-Islamic ones. As Wael Hallaq says ' If there was any pre-modern legal and political culture that maintained the principle of the rule of law so well, it was the culture of Islam (origins and evolution of Islamic law)

He then explains that in Islam the ruling powers had virtually nothing to do with legal governance or with the production and promulgation of law. Islamic law was never a state mechanism...

In this particular observation, I believe also lies the solutions to the problems Muslims have faced with the modern form of democracy, where law givers are not law doctors. It seems Muslim Law givers will not only have to act as Law doctors but above that stay very clear of executive authority and power.

But doesn't that make sense? If one truly represents people, then one's role should be to not only to lay down the law for the executive but also to act as a Check on its uninterrupted authority and to hold it to account.

A logical extension of this idea would be to have a Chinese wall like mechanism between elected law givers and elected executive, with those vying for executive power not to belong to the parties or groups who want to take the route of people representatives in formulating laws and restrain executives.

May be Muslim democracy can take this form.

Similarly the concept of a free market and economic liberty is inherent within Islam.

Gene Heck contends (in Charlemagne , Mohammad and Arab roots of capitalism) that Islam helped to rescue medieval Christian europe from the commercially devastating socioeconomic policies of the emperor chralamgne and his successors'

According to author Rose Wilder Lane, the Western conceptions of liberty were developed through interactions with Muslim traders and scholars.

She states that the Catholics in Spain, despite the re-conquista didn't offer complete submission to the Govt and steadfastly clinged to their rights and liberty the Islamic rule had exposed them to. She further states that the Magna Carta to which the west attributes the beginnings of the idea of limited government and introduction of civil liberties, was a consequence of pressure

by English Barons back from the Crusades who had witnessed the Muslim civilization, way of life and had learnt that like all other citizens even the Muslim leader Salahudin was not beyond the law.

I am utterly convinced that in order to set up a liberal democratic order in the Muslim Countries, the only way forward is to reinterpret the framework and paradigm of Islam, not reject and marginalize existing religious themes.

I utterly reject those who want to supplant Islam with ideas that have been seemingly borrowed. That will never work.

We need to engage the orthodoxy to prise open their mind to the liberal Islamic values.

We must argue that true Islam propounds and requires adoption of an order based on tolerance, freedom of choice and equal dignity of all human beings.

In this conference we hope to bring that out in a very solid and strong manner. We have excellent scholars to keep everyone engaged with their incisive papers.

We would also welcome any ideas for the future development, plans and programs.

Our thanks to the sponsors of this conference which led by Firedrich Naumann Foundation, Pakistan also include Vision21 and Burj bank, Pakistan.

My gratitude is also due to Linda Whetstone, Director of Institute of Economic Affairs and Free Society Network, whose immense efforts are a shining example of her commitment to the cause of Liberty.

Last but not the least I must thank Adeela Zeb profoundly, the secretary of the Organization, without whose tireless efforts we all would have not managed to get together here. Thank you for all your hard work.



Azhar Aslam
Chairman

Program

1st March 2013 First Day

0815 **Registration**

0900 **Opening by Chairman** **Dr Azhar Aslam**

Welcome on behalf of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation: **Olaf Kellerhoff**

First session:

Chair: **Dr Khalid Masud**

0930: **Dr Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad & Dr Omar Altalib**

Sociological, Philosophical and Legal Considerations of Shariah:

The Rule of Law in Islam

0955: **Dr Khalil Ahmad**

Rules as Moral Sign Posts

1020: **Discussion and Q & A**

1050 – 1110 **Tea Break**

Second session:

Chair: **Dr Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad**

1110: **Junaid Ahmad**

Making the Rule of Law effective in Muslim Countries

1135: **Dr. Hugh van Skyhawk**

Sufi poetry and the Translation of World Reconciliation
Ġalāl ad-Dīn Muḥammad Rūmī (1207-1273)

1200: **Discussion and Q & A**

1230 – 1400 **Lunch and Jumma Break**

Third session:

Chair:

1400: **Ali Salman**
The Morality of Capitalism for the context of Muslim Mind

1425: **Gareth Bloor**
Entrepreneurship in Islam and its relationship to the State

1450: **Discussion and Q & A**

1520 – 1545 **Tea Break**

Fourth session:

Chair: **Siegfried Herzog**

1545: **Dr Nouh El Harmouzi**
Protecting Private property in Muslim Countries

1605: **Dr Mustafa Acar**
Islam and Free market Economy, Friend or Foe ?

1625: **Edo Omercevic**
The compatibility of a Free Market and Islam

1645: **Discussion and Q & A**

1730: End of day One

1830 Dinner at Marriott with a Special Presentation

0900 **Opening**

First session:

Chair: **Dr Bilal Sambur**

0915: **Souad Adnane**

Improving the position of Women in Muslim Countries

0940: **Dr Prof Omer Caha**

Islamic Women's Movement in Turkey

0955: **Adedayo Thomas**

Women in Muslim Communities in Northern Nigeria

1020: **Discussion and Q & A**

1100 – 1125 **Break**

Second Session:

Chair **Dr Raza Ullah**

1125: **Dr Bilal Sambur**

Human Individual in Islam

1150: **Dr Azhar Aslam**

Individual as Addressee of God and Consequent Freedom of Choice

1215: **Discussion and Q & A**

1245 – 1400 **Lunch Break**

Third Session:

Chair: **Adedayo Thomas**

1400: **Dr Raza Ullah**

The Challenges of Building Liberal democracies in Muslim Countries.

1425: **MirsulJan Namazaliev**
Building Liberal democracy in Muslim Majority Kryrgyzstan

1450: **Discussion and Q & A**

1520 – 1545 Break

Fourth Session :

Chair: **Dr Azhar Aslam**

1545: **Dr Imdad Hussein**
Reclaiming Civil Islam in Pakistan

1605: **Shokhrukh Saipov**
Islam in modern Kyrgyzstan Life

1625: **Discussion and Q & A**

1655: Concluding Remarks and Thank you ... **Dr Azhar Aslam**

1830: Lok Virsa and Dinner in 1969 (For Speakers and Sponsors Only)
Transport will be provided

Speakers Biographies.

Mustafa Acar, Prof. Dr., Aksaray University, Turkey

Dr. Acar graduated from Middle East Technical University, Department of Economics (1986). He worked for State Institute of Statistics (1986-87) and Isbank Economi Research Division (1987-93) before he decided to pursue academic career. He received his masters (1996) and Ph.D. (2000) degrees from Purdue University, Department of Economics (USA). He has been serving as the Rector of Aksaray University since May 2011. His areas of interest include agricultural policy analysis, regional economic integration, general equilibrium analysis, Turkey-EU relations, globalization, free market economy and economic freedoms.

He has published several articles in the refereed national and international journals on agriculture, policy analysis, globalization, economic debates, and Turkish-EU integration and has published a number of books,.

Souad Adnane, is a women's rights activist in Morocco. She served as a project coordinator for five years in different local and international NGOs. She is currently in charge of coordinating and monitoring a community development program aiming at improving life conditions of vulnerable populations in the MENA region. She is also the Foreign Relations Coordinator of the Arab Center for Scientific Research & Humane Studies.

Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad, Ph.D Born on in 1948 at sea to Palestinian refugee parents, Dr. Ahmad was raised in the USA, graduated *cum laude* from Harvard and obtained a Ph. D. in astronomy and astrophysics from the University of Arizona. An internationally sought after lecturer on Islam, he teaches Islam at the Wesley Theological Seminary and has taught courses related to Islam and liberty at various universities. He is author of *Signs in the Heaven* and co-author of *Islam and the Discovery of Freedom*. His essay "An Islamic Perspective on the Wealth of Nations" appears in the International Library of Critical Writings on Economics. He is also an Islamic chaplain at American University, Imam of Masjid Dar-adh-Dhikr, President of the Islamic-American Zakat Foundation, and arbitrator for the Coordinating Council of Muslim Organizations Washington area). He was the Libertarian Party candidate for U.S. Senate in last November's elections.

Junaid S. Ahmad has a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree in law from the USA, and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Law and Policy at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Lahore, Pakistan. He is also the coordinator of the Islamic Studies program at LUMS. He was president of the US-based National Muslim Law Students Association (NMLSA) and is on the Board of the Muslim Peace Fellowship. He is actively involved in Pakistan on a number of different intellectual, educational, and peace and social justice initiatives.

Khalil Ahmad holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy. He has been teaching philosophy, and philosophy of education to graduate and post-graduate classes. He is one of the founders of the Alternate Solutions Institute, first free market think tank of Pakistan. He writes extensively on the current issues, and most of his articles are available on www.ASInstitute.org and www.Hum-Azad.org.

He runs a Blog also: www.NotesFromPakistanblogspot.com.

He has published 5 books: *Charter of Liberty, Greatest Battle for the Rule of Law in Pakistan*, *Pakistan Mein Riyasti Ashrafiya Ka Urooj* (The Rise of State of Aristocracy in Pakistan), *Siyasi Partian Ya Siyasi Bandobast: Pakistani Siyasat Ke Pech-o-Kham Ka Falsafiyani Muhakma* (Political Parties or Political Arrangements: A Philosophical Critique of Politics in Pakistan), and *Pakistan's Democratic Impasse – Analysis and the Way Forward*.

Dr Azhar Aslam FRCS(G), FACS, FEACS *Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Specialising in Cosmetic Surgery* .

Azhar, originally from Mirpur, Azad Kashmir in Pakistan resides in UK. Azhar has a private Cosmetic Surgery practice in Harley Street, London and Cambridge. He has worked as panel advisor to the European Academy for Cosmetic Surgery and was the Academic Secretary of the British Association of Cosmetic Surgeons. But his real passion is Muslim reformation and to setup an intellectual movement throughout the Muslim world, that replicates the time from the first couple of hundred years of Muslim civilization, when Muslims intellectuals freely debated and discussed ideas. His vision is to set people free of tyranny and rebuild the ruins of the Islamic civilization. He wants to awaken the people to the value of liberty and markets unmeddled by governments and for such a socioeconomic order of social justice and freedom to serve as a framework for the global citizen. His work can be found on www.azharaslam.com

Ömer Çaha (Professor of Political Science) teaches at Yildiz Technical University, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Istanbul, Turkey.

He is the author of many books and articles on such issues as democratization, local governments, political behaviors, Islam and politics, civil society, ethnicity, women movement, Turkish politics etc. both in English and in Turkish. He has written many books and articles including:

1. *Dancing at the Local: Women Organizations and Local Democracy*, Ankara: Orion, 2012.
2. *Electoral Campaigns in Turkey*, Ankara: Orion, 2011
3. *Civil Women: Women and Civil Society in Turkey*, Ankara: Savaş, 2010.

Garreth Bloor is an elected public representative and chairperson of the economic, environment and spatial planning portfolio committee in the City of Cape Town.

His fiduciary duties include policy, strategy and oversight on annual budget of half a billion rand. He has undergrad and graduate degrees from UCT, where he is currently a member of the university council and is a former Student Representative Council Vice-President. He has participated in programs at Princeton University, Oxford and Cambridge and is a board member of the Cape Town Partnership and the Sable Accelerator Network in California. He has experience in the IT start-up sector, consulting and micro-finance.

Dr. Nouh El Harmouzi is Editor of the Arabic-language news and analysis site MinbarAlHurriyya.org of the Atlas Economic Research Foundation/ Cato Institute (USA) and university professor at Ibn Toufail University in Kenitra, Morocco. He is also Director of the Arab Center for Scientific Research and Humane Studies, the newly created Arab think tank based in Morocco.

He served as a university professor for five years at Paul Cézanne University in France, teaching Economic Development Theories and Economic Philosophy & Thought. His main research focus is on institutional dynamics, ideological beliefs, and their relationship with the process of development. He published many articles and research papers in various periodicals and wrote "*Underdevelopment in the Arab-Muslim world: what is the role of non-formal institutions?*" [Le sous-développement dans le monde arabo-musulman: Quel est le rôle des institutions informelles?]

Imdad Hussain completed his Masters (2005) and PhD in Public Policy (2010) from National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies, Tokyo. The title of his PhD

dissertation was “State Power, Public Policy and Religion: Islamization of Education in Pakistan.” He has extensively investigated Islamization of education in Malaysia and Singapore. Currently, he is Assistant Professor at Center for Public Policy and Governance at Forman Christian College University Lahore. He teaches *Urban Growth, Environment and Security in South Asia* and *Environment and Public Policy*. He has served as Instructor of Public Sector Management to the 38th Common of the Civil Services Academy of Pakistan. He also works with Punjab Urban Resource Center, Muawin and Saiban: these NGOs work for the urban poor. His interests include interfaith harmony, Islamization and urban policies. He has recently published *Thirsty Cities: Analyzing Drinking Water Policy in Punjab*.

Mirsuljan Namazaliev is from the Kyrgyz Republic and is the Co-founder and Managing Director of CAFMI (Central Asian Free Market Institute), which was set up in 2009. Since its incorporation, he has been involved, amongst other things, in the management of its various publications and educational events. He holds a degree in Political Science from Bishkek Humanities University, Kyrgyzstan (2009). Mirsuljan’s professional goals include promoting liberal values academically, and in implementing liberal reforms in his country.

Edo Omerčević (MEC, BEcon) has gone through more than a decade of training in economics and finance. He started his tertiary education at the International Islamic University Malaysia where he obtained his Bachelor in Economics (Hons) as well as his Master of Economics degree. He is currently a Ph.D. in Economics candidate at the International University of Sarajevo. His interest and specialization is in the field of money and banking, with special reference to complementary and alternative currencies and monetary systems. Mr Omerčević is presently a lecturer at the American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina and he is a co-founder of the Center for Advancement of Free Enterprise (Centar za poslovnu afirmaciju) that is promoting free market ideas in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mohammad Abul Ahrar Ramizpoor was born on 1970 in an intellectual Afghan family. He followed his primary and secondary education in Kabul. Later he joined Kabul university Sharia faculty, Jurisprudence and Law school. He obtained his BA degree on 1990 from them and after his graduation he was appointed as a lecturer there. (1991-2007)

On 2005 he received a Chevening fellowship on Governance and sharia through British Council in Kabul to Birmingham University UK as he followed

another post graduate fellowship on 2010 on International Human Rights Law in Nottingham University UK.

Mr. Ramizpoor currently works voluntarily as the general coordinator of Afghanistan Economic and Legal Studies Organization (AELSO). He is also a Human Rights officer at the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). In addition he is teaching at the law faculty of a private university in Kabul by the name of Kardan University.

Ali Salman is a development consultant, policy entrepreneur and economic analyst based in Islamabad. He is Director of the recently established Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME) and he has worked as a consultant and trainer for major international development organizations, public sector organizations and non-profits. Ali is author of several studies and monographs including the path-breaking "[Liberate to Learn: Review of Education Vouchers Scheme in Lahore](#)", a critique of price controls [Price Controls: Implications for Liberty and Welfare](#), and "[Discord between Economic Freedom and Social Justice in Islam](#)." He has held a Gulbright scholarship, Royal Netherlands Fellowship and Charles Wallace Fellowship and has master degrees in Economics, Public Policy and Business Administration.

Bilal Sambur, is Director of the Center for Studies on Religion and Freedom at the Association for Liberal Thinking in Ankara Turkey. He is also Associate Professor at the Süleyman Demirel University, Isparta

Adedayo Thomas is a Nigerian, affiliated with the Atlas Economic Research Foundation as the Publisher and Director of Outreach of its AfricanLiberty.org program. He is a libertarian and strives to promote ideas of the free society in the core institutions English speaking African countries. Adedayo has a B.A. in Theatre Arts and Post Graduate Diploma in Public Relations from University of Jos, and Nigerian Institute of Journalism, respectively. He has a Master's degree in Development Studies from the Nigerian Defense Academy. Adedayo is also a graduate of Cato University where he studied Philosophy, History, Jurisprudence, and Economics of Liberty, and has completed the Atlas Economic Research Foundation's Think Tank MBA program in Washington D.C.

Dr Raza Ullah is Assistant Professor in the Department of Management Sciences, Islamia College University, Peshawar in Pakistan. He obtained his PhD in public Administration from University of Peshawar. His doctoral research was about Hernando De Soto's property rights works especially focusing on its gender dimension. He did Master in Business Administration

and BSc from University of Peshawar, Pakistan. Besides, he has taught at Allama Iqbal University, City University, BRAINS Post Graduate College, Abasyn University Pakistan etc. He is also associated with Staff Training Institute, civil secretariat Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as trainer. He is teaching Total Quality Management, Strategic Management, Comparative Management, Knowledge Management, and International Trade and also supervising many students' research. He has organized and presented at local, national and international conferences and workshops. He is Director Programs and Institutional Relations in Pakistan's first free market think tank 'Alternate Solutions Institute' and also associated as executive member to the Quality and Productivity Society of Pakistan and American Institute of Pakistan Studies . He has interest in democracy, free market, Islam, politics, and globalization.

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