



ISLAM & LIBERTY
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KEY MESSAGES

September 6, 2023

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“Peace & Prosperity in Muslim Majority Countries & Beyond”

- Since democratic institutions are not well established in most of the Muslim majority countries, civil society needs to be alerted to protect civil political field and traditions against the state apparatus. That is also a way to protect our freedoms and liberal democratic systems.
- Development of a nation couldn't be complete ignoring political aspects of development as it has been seen in the case of Bangladesh. Same scenario is also seen in many Muslim countries like Middle Eastern countries. So, political freedoms should be in the agenda of development of Muslim majority countries.
- Study of social non movements imply that policy makers shouldn't defer addressing issues and concerns raised by various sections of society during their non movement phase, to a time when large scale mobilizations and at times violent reactions take place. A timely response by the policy elite is important and analysis of social non movements help us in assessing those needed and appropriate responses.
- Getting democracy back is not impossible in Tunisia providing democrats draw lessons from past mistakes and consider working on two complementary trajectories: an immediate one defending human rights and freedoms threatened by autocracy and a medium to long-term one based on building the solid grounds for democracy.
- How Indian Muslim women have used the public sphere on multiple occasions to assert and practice their citizenship right. However, the lack of women individual narratives has undermined their 'visibility' in the public sphere. From a public policy perspective, if the discourse of Indian Muslim women is explored through narration methods, it could help in unveiling their desire and aspiration of accessing the public sphere and practicing their sovereign rights in India.
- Economic performance usually goes hand-in-hand with outward-looking, free market and free trade policies; economic indicators improve when market-oriented policies are implemented under economic and political stability with lower uncertainty and higher predictability; they deteriorate under higher uncertainty, lower predictability, inward-looking, anti-free market policies.



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- As western democracies lurch toward greater Illiberalism, Muslim communities within those societies may be well positioned to “save” their liberal pillars due to Islamic precepts that align with and promote liberalism as well as by their experience as being the targets of illiberal policies and projects.
- The rule of law in Türkiye is jeopardized because the independence of judiciary is limited by the Justice and Development Government. A civilian tutelage replaced the military and bureaucratic tutelage over the judiciary in Türkiye.
- Multiple barriers, legal, social, human and economic, interplay with each other and factor into low/stagnant female Labor participation in some majority Muslim countries. The role of religious interpretations in shaping social norms and legal/institutional frameworks should also be accounted for.
- The core message of my presentation is the utmost importance of developing a development model for Islamic countries based on the concept of an Islamic market economy that combines the market economy mechanism, Islamic legal controls, and the cultural and social specificities of each country.
- Challenge of freedom of religion is brought by three actors, namely: state, quasi-state institutions, and civil society groups. State should play role as the guarantor of religious rights observance and not be part of those who infringe religious rights.
- More freedom economic will produce more prosperity and peace which mean having small size of government in economic sector and more secured property rights and rule of Law and controlling inflation and free trade and free markets (Labor, credit and Business). We can recommend Malaysia as good example in this domain. Malaysia is doing very well in economic freedom Index established by Fraser Institute and in certain points it was doing better than Singapore the country ranked second in the world in Fraser Institute Economic Freedom Index in 2022.
- Islam and Free Market Economy are compatible. Taxes are discouraged. Prices are in the hands of God.
- Islamic Finance needs to solve problems of real economy making sure that it offers solutions of financial inclusion and sustainable development.
- It is not possible to bring religions together however we can create harmony between religious communities by converging on God as Sustainer of the universe.
- Innovation and prosperity are higher in countries with less religious restrictions.