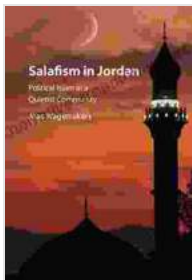


Political Islam in Quietist Community: Unraveling the Paradox of Religious Non-Engagement

Political Islam, characterized by the fusion of religion and politics, has long captivated the attention of scholars and policymakers alike. However, the phenomenon of political Islam in quietist communities – those that traditionally eschew political involvement – has remained relatively unexplored. This article delves into the intriguing paradox of religious non-engagement and political activism, shedding light on the dynamics and motivations driving political Islam within quietist communities.

Defining Quietism and Political Islam

Quietism, in the context of religion, refers to the belief that individuals should refrain from active participation in political affairs. This stems from the view that religious authorities, rather than the state, possess the exclusive prerogative to interpret and enforce religious law. As such, quietist communities typically prioritize spiritual growth and introspection over worldly concerns.



Salafism in Jordan: Political Islam in a Quietist

Community by Joas Wagemakers

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Political Islam, on the other hand, espouses the idea that Islam provides a comprehensive framework for both personal and public life. Proponents of political Islam believe that it is their duty to establish an Islamic state based on the principles of Sharia law.

The Paradox of Quietism and Political Islam

The convergence of quietism and political Islam presents a seemingly paradoxical situation. How can a community that professes religious non-engagement embrace a political ideology that advocates for active participation in governance?

This paradox can be understood by considering the following factors:

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Changing Societal Conditions:

As quietist communities interact with the broader society, their members encounter social, economic, and political challenges that influence their perspectives. The perceived failure of secular governments to address these challenges may lead to the erosion of trust in the state and a search for alternative solutions, including political Islam. *

Identity and Belonging:

Political Islam can provide a sense of identity and belonging, especially in marginalized communities. By adopting political Islam, individuals can

assert their religious and cultural identity while seeking collective empowerment. *

Religious Revivalism:

In many cases, the rise of political Islam within quietist communities coincides with a broader revivalist movement within the religion. This revivalism emphasizes the importance of political activism as a means of fulfilling religious obligations.

Case Studies: Quietism and Political Islam in Practice

The interplay between quietism and political Islam has manifested in various forms across different communities. Consider these case studies:

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The Tablighi Jamaat:

Founded in India in the early 20th century, the Tablighi Jamaat is a global Islamic missionary movement that emphasizes the importance of personal piety and religious propagation. However, in recent decades, the movement has adopted a more explicitly political stance, supporting conservative political parties and advocating for the establishment of an Islamic state. *

The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt:

The Muslim Brotherhood originated in Egypt in the 1920s as a non-political organization focused on religious education and social welfare. However, in the post-World War II era, the Brotherhood became increasingly involved in politics, advocating for the establishment of an Islamic state and eventually forming its own political party. *

The Ahmadiyya Community:

Founded in India in the late 19th century, the Ahmadiyya Community considers itself both a quietist and a political movement. While seeking the spiritual purification of humanity, Ahmadis also believe in actively advocating for the principles of Islam through peaceful means.

Motivations for Political Islam in Quietist Communities

The motivations driving political Islam within quietist communities are complex and multifaceted. They include:

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Religious Imperative:

Many individuals embrace political Islam as a fulfillment of their religious obligations. They believe that establishing an Islamic state is not only a political goal but also a religious commandment. *

Protection of Community:

In some cases, political Islam is seen as a means of protecting the community from perceived threats, whether from secular authorities or other religious groups. The establishment of an Islamic state is viewed as a way to safeguard the rights and interests of the community. *

Social and Economic Justice:

Political Islam can also be motivated by a desire for social and economic justice. Proponents argue that an Islamic state based on the principles of Sharia law would create a more equitable society than secular governments.

Implications and Challenges

The rise of political Islam in quietist communities has significant implications for both the communities themselves and the broader society. These include:

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Internal Divisions:

The adoption of political Islam can lead to internal divisions within quietist communities. Some members may embrace political activism, while others may adhere to traditional quietist principles. This can create tensions and conflict within the community. *

External Scrutiny:

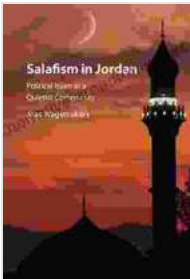
The involvement of quietist communities in politics can draw increased scrutiny from both secular authorities and other religious groups. This can lead to accusations of extremism and undermine the community's reputation. *

Impact on Society:

The political aspirations and activities of quietist communities can shape the broader social and political landscape. Their influence may extend from local to national levels, impacting policies and debates on a wide range of issues.

The phenomenon of political Islam in quietist communities is a complex and multifaceted one. It arises from a confluence of factors, including changing societal conditions, identity and belonging, and religious revivalism. While

the motivations driving political Islam within these communities are varied, they often include religious imperative, protection of community, and the pursuit of social and economic justice. The rise of political Islam in quietist communities has significant implications for both the communities themselves and the broader society, creating internal divisions, external scrutiny, and shaping the political landscape.



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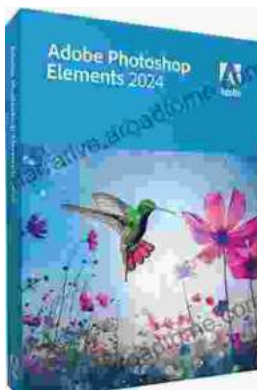
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