

Democracy And Islam In The New Constitution Of Afghanistan

Shura Democracy and the Muslim World.

Introduction

While the issues of basic freedoms, human rights and democracy in the Muslim World have been debated by Muslim scholars, intellectuals and activists since the 19th century, the model of Islamic state represented by the Taliban regime in Afghanistan has intensified this discourse. Some are more than ever convinced that there is no place for a shari'ah state in the modern world; others are divided between the traditional khilafat model and a modern form of shura.

This article sets out to analyse the prospects of democracy in the Muslim World in the light of recent political developments. As a prelude, the principle of shura, its relation with democracy and its role in Muslim history will be discussed. This will be followed by a general survey of the state of democracy in current Muslim regimes. Finally, the views of modern Muslim scholars on the issue of democracy will be presented.

The Role of Shura in Islamic Polity

The term shura has generally been accepted by Muslim scholars as that which most closely approximates the notion of democracy. Though there are scholars who reject any comparison between the two, they accept the principle of shura as the cornerstone of Islamic polity.

The word shura means consultation; mutual debate in order that one may see another's opinion; counsel; advice; extracting or drawing forth an opinion.¹ In a general sense it could be defined as an obligation to engage in debate and discussion, and a corresponding democratic right to free expression of opinion.

The Qur'an (42 : 38) specifies shura as one of the major characteristic of believers :

They determine their affair by consultation (shura) among themselves??

In another verse (3 : 159) the prophet Muhammad is instructed to consult his companions when making important decisions :

"and consult them in your affairs"

It is evident from these verses that the Qur'an prescribes mutual consultation (shura) as the basis for decision-making.

Early historians of Islam and biographers of the prophet are unanimous that he regularly consulted his companions before taking major decisions.² The Prophet consulted his companions with regard to the following :

... strategy to be adopted in battle against the Makkan army.³
... policy on captives in the battle of Badr and the Truce of al-Hudaybiyah⁴ and
...the manner of announcing the time of prayers⁵

This study reports on a conference held to identify ways in which the new constitution of Afghanistan could help put the country on the path to a strong, stable.PDF this report was supported by RAND using its own funds. RAND is a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decisionmaking through research.Democracy and Islam in the New Constitution of Afghanistan [Khaled Abou El Fadl] on codinginflipflops.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Reports on a.codinginflipflops.com: Democracy and Islam in the New Constitution of Afghanistan: Khaled M. Abou El Fadl, Said Arjomand, Nathan Brown, Jerrold Green, Donald.Democracy and Islam in the New Constitution of Afghanistan has 1 rating and 0 reviews. In , RAND called together experts in Islamic law, constitution.In , RAND called together experts in Islamic law, constitution writing and democracy, and with specific country and regional expertise. Drawing on the.Reports on a conference held to identify ways in which the new constitution of Afghanistan could help put the country on the path to a strong, stable democracy .Download Democracy and Islam in the New Constitution of Afghanistan by Khaled M. Abou El Fadl, Said Arjomand, Nathan Brown, Jerrold.Democracy and Islam in the new constitution of Afghanistan / Khaled M. Abou El Fadl [et al.]; Cheryl Bernard, Nina Hachigian, editors Bernard, Cheryl.Available in the National Library of Australia collection. Format: Book; 55 p. ; 30 cm.Democracy and Islam in the New Constitution of Afghanistan: Conference Proceedings, Islamic Books, Muslim Clothing, Hijabs, Digital Qurans, CD and DVD.In , RAND called together experts in Islamic law, constitution writing and democracy, and with specific country and regional expertise.the Islamic content of the new Afghan constitution the new constitution lends itself to interpretation We want to share in democracy and to.ticles in the new Constitution of Afghanistan that relate to fundamental 3 Women Living Under Muslim Laws, Knowing Your Rights, Women, family, laws and.

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