Islamic Civilization's Contributions to Modern Governance

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ABSTRACT

Islamic civilization has left an indelible mark on the world, with its influence extending to various aspects of modern governance. From administrative innovations to philosophical contributions, Islamic civilization has shaped political thought and practice globally. This study aims to analyze the historical influence of Islamic civilization on governance, highlighting its philosophical, legal, and administrative contributions. As well as, examine the contemporary relevance of these influences and their impact on political systems and societal dynamics. This research is a qualitative study using the literature review method. Data collection was obtained by studying the literature using documents and articles to obtain information about the subject, namely about the contribution of Islamic Civilization to Modern Government. Data analysis was carried out using data interpretation techniques and providing sufficient theoretical explanations related to the problem at hand. The results show that Islamic Civilization has had a profound and lasting impact on modern governance. From administrative innovations in Islamic kingdoms to the influence of Islamic legal and philosophical thought, Islamic civilization has shaped political systems and social organizations globally. By acknowledging and studying these contributions, we gain valuable insight into the richness and complexity of Islamic civilization and its enduring legacy in shaping the world we govern today.
1. INTRODUCTION

Islamic civilizations, through their intellectual curiosity, artistic brilliance, and cultural exchanges, have left an indelible mark on human history. Their contributions continue to shape our understanding of science, philosophy, art, and governance (Peters, 2023; Sujati, 2018). By studying and recognizing the impact of Islamic civilizations, we gain a deeper appreciation of their richness and diversity, as well as their enduring legacy in the world today. Islamic civilization encompasses a rich history and diverse cultural traditions that have significantly influenced the world (Astuti et al., 2023; Moddel, 2022). Among its many contributions, Islamic civilization has played a pivotal role in shaping modern governance. From the early Islamic empires to the philosophical and legal scholarship, Islamic thought has offered a unique perspective on political organization and social justice, which continues to resonate in contemporary political systems (Estuningtyas, 2020; Rahbaran, 2020). At present, however, understanding and recognition of the significant influence of Islamic civilization in the development of contemporary governance systems is still relatively minimal. Much of the historical literature highlights the contributions of Western civilization, while those of Islamic civilization are often overlooked (Auliya & Pujawati, 2023; Watson, 2024). In fact, Islamic governance principles such as justice, transparency, public participation, and good governance have provided an important basis for modern government systems. The urgency of this research lies in the need to delve deeper and appreciate the intellectual heritage of Islamic civilization. Thus, this research is expected to encourage a more holistic and inclusive understanding of the development of modern governance (Abror & Riau, 2020; Huda, 2021b).

Islamic civilization, with its rich history and cultural diversity, has exerted a profound influence on the world, including the domain of governance. The impact of Islamic thought on political systems and societal organization extends from the early Islamic empires to contemporary times. In this academic article, we explore the historical influences of Islamic civilization on modern governance, while also examining the ongoing relevance of these contributions in shaping political thought and practice. By analysing specific examples and drawing from a plethora of scholarly works, this study provides insights into the complex and enduring relationship between Islamic civilization and governance (Nurfazillah, 2020; Sunaryo, 2020). Islamic civilization, with its rich intellectual and cultural heritage, has had a profound and lasting impact on the development of human societies. At its core, Islamic political thought emphasizes justice, fairness, and the ethical responsibility of rulers towards their citizens. These values, enshrined in Islamic governance traditions, have influenced the formation of institutions, legal frameworks, and administrative practices that continue to shape the world (Peters, 2023; Sujati, 2018). From the golden age of the Abbasid Caliphate to the sophisticated bureaucracies of the Ottoman Empire, Islamic civilizations offer a wealth of knowledge and experience in governance that remains relevant in the modern era (Naim & Huda, 2021; Sadzali, 2020).

This research is supported by previous research that examines Islamic civilization. The research states that the internationalization of Islamic civilization is a complex and diverse phenomenon, which includes the growth of culture and science, extensive trade and diplomatic relations, the spread of Islam, and a rich and diverse intellectual and cultural life (Dahlan, 2018; Sujati, 2018). It is also supported by research related to the contribution of Islam in world civilization. The research states that Islam plays an important role as a provider of the development of civilization in the world, even though the West has now become a symbol of the progress of world civilization. The development of world civilization can be seen as an interaction of various factors such as ideas, cultural values and traditions, as well as social, economic, and political conditions in a particular place and time (Azzahra et al., 2024; Kiki Dewi Octaviani, Ellya Roza, 2024). This research is novel in that it delves into the historical contribution of Islamic civilization to governance and explores its lasting impact on the contemporary political and administrative landscape. By examining specific aspects such as legal systems, bureaucratic structures, political philosophy, and economic practices, we gain a different understanding of how the Islamic tradition has influenced and challenged Western models of governance (Islamy, 2019; Kamil, 2022). Based on this explanation, this study was conducted with the aim of analyzing the historical influence of Islamic civilization on governance, highlighting its philosophical, legal, and administrative contributions. In addition, it examines the contemporary relevance of these influences and their impact on political systems and societal dynamics. Through this research, it highlights the richness and complexity of Islamic civilization and its enduring legacy in shaping the current system of governance.

2. METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach and literature review method. The data collection technique used by researchers is to collect information from various sources such as books, journals, seminar results and discussions with experts on research topics. After the data was collected, the
researcher analyzed the data using data interpretation techniques and provided sufficient theoretical explanations related to the problem at hand. Data collection was obtained by studying the literature using documents and articles to obtain information on the subject, namely on the contribution of Islamic Civilization to Modern Government. Information obtained from data collection is analyzed from various perspectives such as science, art and culture, philosophy and social systems. Data analysis can provide a clearer and more measurable understanding of the contribution of Islam to the development of Islamic civilization, as well as a more comprehensive and objective picture of the Contribution of Islamic Civilization to Modern Government.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Islamic civilization, which spanned more than a millennium and spread across three continents, has contributed greatly to the advancement of human knowledge and civilization. Islamic civilization to various aspects of human life. First, Science and Technology, Islamic Civilization played an important role in the advancement of science and technology. Scholars made significant contributions to fields such as astronomy, mathematics, medicine, and chemistry. Second, Architecture and Art, Islamic Civilization is famous for its beautiful architecture and artistic traditions. The magnificent mosques, intricate tiles, and elegant calligraphy are a testament to their aesthetic brilliance. Third, Philosophy and Theology, Islamic civilization made significant contributions to philosophy and theology, engaging with Greek and Roman texts and producing original scholarship. Furthermore, there is Literature and Poetry, Islamic civilization produced many literary works, including epic poetry, philosophical treatises, and Sufi poetry. The Persian poet Rumi, famous for his spiritual poetry, has influenced cultures around the world. Fifth, Education and Libraries, Islamic civilization highly valued education, establishing universities and libraries that preserved and disseminated knowledge. Sixth, trade and Commerce, Islamic Civilization played a significant role in facilitating trade and commerce, establishing vibrant markets and encouraging economic interdependence. They developed sophisticated financial systems, including the use of letters of credit and early forms of banking. Seventh, Governance and Law, Islamic civilization introduced innovative governance practices and legal systems. The concept of the caliphate with its combination of religious and secular authority shaped Islamic political thought. Islamic law, or Shari'ah, provided a comprehensive framework of governance, influencing legal systems in Muslim-majority countries and beyond. Finally, Intercultural Exchange, Islamic civilization served as a bridge between ancient civilizations and the modern world, facilitating the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and cultural influences. Through the translation and dissemination of texts, Islamic scholars preserved and spread the wisdom of ancient Greece, India and Persia. Islamic civilization also interacted extensively with Christian and Jewish communities, influencing each other in a rich cultural exchange.

In terms of legal system and jurisprudence, there are two types of legal system: Islamic law (syariah) and judicial system. This legal system also has a significant influence on the development of modern law and justice. In modern governance, Islamic civilization has made many contributions ranging from legal and jurisprudential systems, political philosophy and ethical governance, economics and financial systems, as well as contemporary relevance and impact. Islamic civilization has made significant contributions to the development of legal systems and jurisprudence in modern governance. The Islamic legal system, known as Shari'a, covers various aspects of social, economic and political life. Sharia principles such as justice (‘adl), public good (maslahah), and equality (musawah) have been adopted in various modern legal systems. Moreover, the Islamic legal methodology that combines the sacred text with ijtihad (independent reasoning) provides the basis for a dynamic and adaptive approach to law. This is seen in contemporary judicial systems that apply flexible interpretations of the law in accordance with evolving contexts and situations. Islamic political philosophy provides an important foundation for ethical and responsible governance. The concept of leadership in Islam, which emphasizes trust, shura (deliberation) and justice, has inspired the principles of modern democracy and participatory governance. Islamic political thought emphasizes the importance of just and wise leaders, and the need to listen to the aspirations of the people. These principles are reflected in modern political systems that prioritize transparency, accountability and public participation in decision-making. In the field of economics and financial systems, Islamic civilization has made valuable contributions through the development of concepts such as zakat, waqf, and the prohibition of usury (interest). The zakat and waqf systems have provided effective models of wealth redistribution and helped reduce social inequality. The prohibition of usury led to the creation of a fairer and more stable financial system, which is currently adopted in the form of Islamic banking and Islamic finance. These contributions are important in creating an inclusive and sustainable economic system, and have inspired ethical finance initiatives around the world. The
contemporary relevance and impact of Islamic civilization's contribution to modern governance can be seen in various aspects. Islamic legal and ethical principles continue to influence discussions on social justice, human rights and good governance. In addition, Islamic economic and financial models offer a sustainable and ethical alternative to conventional financial systems. This research shows that Islam's intellectual and spiritual heritage has significant relevance in dealing with today's global challenges, and can contribute to the development of more just, inclusive and sustainable governance.

Discussion

The Islamic civilization, which spanned more than a millennium and spread across three continents, has contributed greatly to the advancement of human knowledge and civilization. Judging from the Legal System and Jurisprudence, it can be divided into two, namely Islamic law (syariah) and the judicial system. First, Islamic Law (syariah) has had a significant influence on legal systems around the world. Shariah provides a comprehensive framework for governance, covering areas such as criminal justice, contract law, property rights, and ethical behavior. Shariah principles promote justice, fairness, and equality before the law (DeLong-Bas, 2023; Fitria, 2024). Second, the Judicial System, with its emphasis on independent and impartial courts, has influenced the development of the modern judiciary. Islamic courts, overseen by qualified jurists (qadis), ensure accessible and speedy justice, and set a precedent for fair judicial practices (Azzahra et al., 2024; Effendi & Syafrudin, 2020). The contribution of Islamic Civilization to Modern Government can be seen from various aspects. First, the most significant contributions of Islamic civilization to modern governance lies in the realm of legal systems and jurisprudence. Islamic law has had a profound influence on legal frameworks across the globe. It provides a comprehensive guide for governance, encompassing criminal justice, contract law, property rights, and ethical conduct (Kusmana, 2020; Norrahaman, 2023). The principles of Shari’ah emphasize justice, fairness, and equality before the law, resonating with modern ideals of rule of law and human rights. Islamic judicial systems, with their emphasis on independent and impartial courts, have also left an imprint on modern judiciaries. The institution of qualified jurists (Qadis) overseeing courts ensured accessible and swift justice, setting a precedent for fair trial practices. Additionally, Islamic legal scholarship and jurisprudence developed sophisticated methods of interpretation (fiqh) and legal reasoning, influencing legal theory and practice far beyond the boundaries of the Islamic world. Islamic civilizations introduced groundbreaking innovations in administration and statecraft, many of which continue to inform modern governance practices. The establishment of centralized bureaucratic structures, with defined roles and responsibilities, set a precedent for efficient and effective governance (Dahan, 2018; Elkhairati, 2019).

The institution of diwan, or administrative departments, in the early Islamic caliphs, for example, laid the foundation for modern civil services. Islamic governance traditions also emphasized consultative processes, often incorporating majilis or shura (consultative assemblies) into decision-making. These assemblies brought together religious scholars, military leaders, and community representatives, reflecting a degree of representation and consensus-building that resonates with modern democratic ideals. The Islamic emphasis on meritocracy and expertise in administration has also influenced the development of merit-based civil services in many countries. One of the most significant contributions of Islamic civilization to governance can be traced back to the early Islamic empires, namely the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires. These empires, which reached their zenith in the 16th and 17th centuries, combined Turco-Persian cultural traditions with Islamic statecraft and military organization (Kiki Dewi Octaviani, Ellya Roza, 2024; Ulya, 2018). The administrative innovations of these empires laid the foundation for modern governance in the regions they ruled. A key characteristic of these Islamic empires was their ability to integrate diverse populations and govern vast territories effectively.

They achieved this through a centralized bureaucracy, which included specialized departments for finance, military affairs, and public works (Amanah et al., 2023; Huda, 2021a). This bureaucratic organization influenced later European empires and contributed to the development of modern administrative systems. Islamic legal scholarship has had a profound influence on governance, both within Islamic societies and beyond. Shari’ah law, derived from the Qur’an and the Hadith, provided a comprehensive legal framework that governed all aspects of life, including political and social relations (Ridwan, 2022; Suci Fitria Ningsih, 2023). The development of Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh) and the establishment of legal schools of thought (madhhab) contributed to a sophisticated understanding of law and justice. One of the key contributions of Islamic legal thought to governance is the concept of justice and equality before the law. The Qur’anic injunction of “Qisas”, or equal retaliation, for example, emphasized the importance of proportional punishment and deterrence, influencing legal systems worldwide. Additionally, the Islamic legal tradition emphasized the role of the ruler as the guardian of justice, promoting the idea of the rule of law and checks on arbitrary power (Auliya & Pujawati, 2023; Huda, 2021b). Islamic legal scholarship, centred around Shari’ah law and Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh), has
had a profound influence on governance both within and beyond Islamic societies. The Qur’anic concept of “Qisas”, or equal retaliation, for instance, emphasized proportional punishment and justice, impacting legal systems worldwide. The Islamic legal tradition also promoted the idea of the ruler as the guardian of justice, underscoring the importance of the rule of law and checks on arbitrary power (Naim & Huda, 2021; Sujati, 2018). Shari’ah law provided a comprehensive framework for social and political relations, influencing legal systems and contributing to a more equitable society. Second, Islamic political philosophy has had a profound impact on governance, offering a distinct perspective on the role and responsibilities of rulers. The concept of the caliph as both a religious and secular leader set a framework for the interplay between spiritual and temporal authority. Islamic political thought emphasized the accountability of rulers to their citizens, introducing the notion of a "social contract" that influenced Western democratic thought. Islamic ethics played a pivotal role in governance, promoting principles such as justice (adl), consultation (shura), and the welfare of the community (Maslaha) (Azzahra et al., 2024; Kusmana, 2020). These ethical foundations shaped policies and institutions, influencing areas such as welfare programmes, protection of vulnerable groups, and the responsible exercise of power. The Islamic emphasis on ethical governance continues to offer valuable insights for addressing contemporary challenges such as corruption and the abuse of power. Islamic philosophy has also made significant contributions to political thought, offering insights into governance and social organization. Philosophers such as Averroes (Ibn Rushd) and Avicenna (Ibn Sina) had a profound influence on Western philosophical and political traditions (Islamy, 2019; Kamil, 2022). Their interpretations of Aristotelian philosophy and their own original ideas shaped European thinking on topics such as the role of the state, the nature of law, and the relationship between religion and politics. The concept of the "just ruler" in Islamic political philosophy, for example, emphasized the importance of moral virtue and ethical governance (Auliya & Pujawati, 2023; Watson, 2024). This idea influenced later Western conceptions of just rule and the social contract. Islamic philosophical thought also contributed to the development of ideas around civic duty, citizenship, and the responsibilities of rulers towards their subjects (Astuti et al., 2023; Estuningtyas, 2020). Third, Islamic civilizations made significant contributions to economic thought and practice, influencing modern economic systems and financial markets. Islamic economic principles, such as profit-sharing, prohibition of interest, and ethical investing, have given rise to a distinct branch of economic theory and practice known as Islamic finance (Kiki Dewi Octaviani, Ellya Roza, 2024; Ulya, 2018).

This system, with its emphasis on risk-sharing and asset-backed investments, has attracted growing interest globally and influenced regulatory frameworks in many countries. Islamic civilizations also played a pivotal role in facilitating trade and commerce, establishing vibrant marketplaces and fostering economic interdependence. The Islamic commercial law and contract principles, such as those governing partnerships and sales, influenced the development of commercial law in Europe and beyond. The Islamic emphasis on ethical business practices and social responsibility in economic activities continues to offer valuable lessons for addressing modern challenges such as income inequality and sustainable development. Last, the influences of Islamic civilization on governance are not confined to historical contexts but continue to shape political systems and societal dynamics in the contemporary world. Islamic civilization’s emphasis on justice, equality, and the rule of law has had a lasting impact on democratic principles and practices. The notion of representation, accountability, and the welfare of the governed, which are fundamental to democratic governance, resonate with the Islamic ideals of justice and ethical leadership (Ridwan, 2022; Suci Fitria Ningsih, 2023). This has influenced the development and functioning of democratic institutions, particularly in Muslim-majority countries, where Islamic principles inform political discourse and policy-making. The results of this study are in line with previous research that examines Islamic civilization. The research states that the internationalization of Islamic civilization is a complex and diverse phenomenon, which includes the growth of culture and science, extensive trade and diplomatic relations, the spread of Islam, and a rich and diverse intellectual and cultural life (Dahlan, 2018; Sujati, 2018). In addition, the results of this study are also in line with research related to the contribution of Islam in world civilization which states that Islam plays an important role as a provider of the development of civilization in the world, even though the West has now become a symbol of the progress of world civilization. The development of world civilization can be seen as an interaction of various factors such as ideas, cultural values and traditions, as well as social, economic, and political conditions in a particular place and time (Dahlan, 2018; Sujati, 2018). This research has the merit of revealing how Islamic principles of governance, such as justice, public participation and transparency, have significantly influenced modern concepts of governance. The implication is that the findings may encourage greater recognition of the legacy of Islamic civilization in the formation of contemporary political and legal systems, as well as strengthen intercultural and interfaith dialogue. The drawbacks are the possible historical and interpretive biases that could arise, as well as the lack of concrete empirical data to support some of the claims. Suggestions for future research include expanding the study to more
countries and time periods, using more rigorous and diverse methodologies, and involving experts from various disciplines to gain a more comprehensive and objective understanding.

4. CONCLUSION

Islamic civilization has had a profound and lasting impact on modern governance. From administrative innovations in Islamic kingdoms to the influence of Islamic legal thought and philosophy, Islamic civilization has shaped political systems and social organizations globally. Islamic civilization has had a profound and lasting impact on modern governance, both historically and today. From administrative innovations in Islamic empires to the global impact of Islamic legal and philosophical thought, Islamic civilization has shaped political thought, social organization, and governmental structures. The contemporary relevance of these influences is evident in the principles of democracy, Islamic finance and social justice initiatives. As the world continues to grapple with governance challenges, the study of the contributions of Islamic civilization offers valuable insights and alternative perspectives that can inform and enrich political systems and practices. The contributions of Islamic civilization to modern governance are vast and varied, shaping political thought, legal systems, administrative practices, and economic frameworks.

5. REFERENCE


