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The concept of welfare state in the light of Islam and modern world

¹Dr. Naseem Akhtar

(Associate Professor) Department of Islamic Studies Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, Pakistan.

Corresponding Author: khtr_nsm@yahoo.com

²Dr. Sohail Akhtar

Lecturer, Department of History, Ghazi University, Dera Ghazi Khan, Punjab, Pakistan.

³Dr Syed Muhammad Nasim Sarwer

Lecturer, Govt Degree Boys College Manghopir, Karachi, Pakistan.

Abstract

The paper primarily deals with welfare state and the topic chosen for this discussion is of great importance in our everyday lives. The state is the territory where we live and enjoy our freedom as a whole. In this assignment It has been tried to discuss the real meaning of a State, the role of state in the life of an individual, the difference between Islamic welfare state and modern welfare State. State is considered as a mother of people due to duties and different aspects of a state, it can be influenced on the common man's life. The early Islamic state set by the Prophet at Madina was the patronage of the people and modern state also claims as the custodian of People. This paper is a brief discussion, while it explores and highlights the role of state.

Keywords: State, Government, Democracy, Community, Economy, Modern, Welfare state etc.



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Introduction

They are different types of states in different ages. A welfare state is a state in which the basic human rights of the citizens and the provision of basic facilities for their social development, economic well-being and livelihood is the primary responsibility of the state. The structure of the welfare state is based on democratic principles, which ensure that no citizen of the state is deprived of basic human rights and civil liberties, and that every citizen receives the basic necessities of life without discrimination. The basic principle of the welfare state is the provision of equal civil rights and justice to every citizen irrespective of religion, creed, language, linguistics, nationality, color and race. In the structure of the welfare state, systems are devised to ensure equal civil rights, equal distribution of wealth, equitable sharing of resources, equitable distribution of social responsibilities, elimination of class distinctions and ensuring human equality for the deprived classes. According to renowned sociologist TH Marshall, the basic structure of the modern welfare state is based on three pillars: democracy, free economy and public welfare programs.

According to Aristotle

*“Every state is the community of some kind and community is established with a view of some good for mankind always acts in order to obtain that what they think good. But if all communities aim at some good the state or political community which is the highest of all and which embraces all the rest aims at good in a greater degree than any other and at the highest good.”*¹ According to Franz Oppenheimer, A sociologist *“the economic means and political means of attaining wealth, that is, between “work and robbery”, “the state” he concluded “is an organization of political means”* ² State formation represents a transformation from “roaming bandits ”to “stationery bandits”. As the economist Mancawr Olson wrote *“if the leader of the roving bandits gang who finds only slim pickings is strong enough to take hold of a given territory and to keep other bandits out, he can monopolize crime in that area, he can become a stationery bandit”*³ A system whereby the government undertakes to protect the health and well-being of its Citizens especially those in financial or social need, by means of awards, pensions and other benefits. The foundations for the Modern Welfare State in U. S were laid by the new deal program of president Franklin Roosevelt, a country practicing a welfare state system. We are going to discuss the state, welfare state and Islamic State in the following topics.⁴

1: The concept of state

Though the state is a requisite and cosmopolitan institution, no two writers agree on its definition. There have been many different views about the nature of state and hence its contrastive definitions. It may well seem curious, says R.M. Maclear, that so great and obvious a fact as the state should be the object of quite conflict in definitions. Aristotle defines the state as “a community of persons, more or less numerous, permanently occupying a definite portion of Territory, independent or nearly so, of external controls and possessing an organized government to which the great body of inhabitants render habitual obedience”⁵. In the financial system of the welfare state, government revenue depends on public funds, i.e. taxes and other taxes. And the same revenue is spent on citizen welfare programs and infrastructure development. Every successful welfare state in the world is based on democracy. In modern state Democracy is considered a best political system in which political parties, before coming to power, present in their manifesto a program for the development and welfare of the people and ensure the material welfare of the citizens after coming to power. The revenue of the government depends on public funds, so governments are accountable to the people. In the financial system of the welfare state, the progressive tax system is kept in mind while receiving funds from the public so as to collect maximum tax from the rich and minimum tax from the poor. And with this money, maximum benefits can be provided to the poor so that wealth can be distributed equally and resources can be distributed fairly and class distinctions can be eliminated. Therefore, a good welfare state structures include parliamentary democracy and a three-tier system of government, namely municipal, provincial and federal governments, and a network of strong social institutions that ensure the provision of basic necessities of life to citizens..⁶

State through Ages: -

The pre-platonic Greece was divided in number of states. These states are called as Greek city states. In the ancient time, Greece consisted of 158 small states. These were the most primitive states in the world. A polis (plural; poleis) was the distinctive structure of a community in with other ancient Greek world. A polis consisted of an urban center, often strengthened and with a sanctified center built on the natural bastion or harbor which controlled the surrounding Territory (Chora) of land. The term polis has therefore been translated as “city state” as there was typically only one city and because an individual polis was independent from all other polis in terms of political, judicial, legal, religious and social institutions and practices, each polis was in fact a state. Like a state, each polis was also involved in international affairs, both the other poleis and non Greek states in the areas of, political alliances and wars. Other cultures have a similar social and political structure notably the Babylonians, Etruscans and Phoenicians and the later are

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believed to be the originators of the polis as a communal unit. The polis emerged from the dark ages which followed fall of Mycenaean civilization in Greece and by the time of eighth century BC a significant process of urbanization had begun.⁷ There were eventually more than 1,000 poleis in the Greek World but among the most important were Athens, Sparta, Argos, Corinth, Thebes, Aegina, Rhodes, Syracuse, Eretria and Elis. The biggest was Sparta, although with some 8500 km² of Territory, this was exceptionally large and most poleis were small in size. However, poleis such as Athens, Rhodes and Syracuse possessed significant naval fleets which also allowed them to control wide areas of Territory across the Aegean. In practice, whatever the political system adopted political power was dominated by a few aristocratic families.

State from past to modern

State formation is the process of the development of a centralized government structure in a situation where one did not exist prior to its development. States Formation has been a study of many disciplines of the social sciences for a number of years, so much so that Johnathan Haas writes that “one of the favorite past times of social scientist over the course of the past a century has been to theorize about the evolution of the world’s great civilizations.”⁸

Early states formation

Studies of early states formation focus on “primary states” (of which there may be few) and on early states (which formed in different parts of the world throughout history). Primary states are defined by anthropologist Spencer and Redmond as “those states that developed for the first time in the social environment.

Modern state formation

The awakening that arose in Europe with the Industrial Revolution separated the monarchy from the church, and religion became an individual matter. Rules came into force for the participation of the people in the affairs of the state. Where laws were made to establish the relationship between the state and the citizens, there were laws for the citizens to live in peace and harmony with each other. Unlike other ancient rules and regulations, the principles of equality and equality are adhered to. After centuries of struggle for power and transfer of power, the ruling party came to a collective decision

Types of States

States alter based on who holds power and who elects the sceptered and how authority is maintained.

One way to classify the state is by the kind of government present there, all leaders who gain power. Under this system, states fall into general categories of Authoritarianism, Oligarchy, democracy. Authoritarian governments differ in who holds power and in how much control they presume over those that they govern, but all are marked by the fact that the empowered are

unelected individuals. One well-known example of this type of government is monarchy. Oligarchy: It is a form of government in which power effectively rests with the small elite segment of society marked by royalty, wealth, family, military or religious harmony. One common example is theocracy. Democracy: It is a form of government in which the right to govern is held by the majority of citizens within a country or a state. All members of the society have equal access to power and all members enjoy universally recognized freedom and liberty.⁹

Essential elements of state

The State has four essential elements.

Population

Territory

Government

Sovereignty

1. Population

The State is a human institution. Hence population is its first and foremost element.

No state can be imagined without the people, as there must be some to rule and others to be ruled. The people constitute its "personal basis".

It is however, difficult to fix the size of the population of a state. For the Greek Philosopher Plato, the ideal state should not contain more than 5050 people. But Rousseau the French Philosopher would treat 10,000 inhabitants as the ideal population.

Modern states greatly vary in population. While some modern states (e.g. the USA, Russia and Canada) are still under populated relating to area, resources and similar factors, others (e.g., China, India, Egypt) are confronted by the problem of population which is expanding too rapidly for their natural and technological resources. There is no such hard and fast rule as to the number of people required to make a state. The population of a state must be large enough to preserve the political independence and to exploit its natural resources and small enough to be well governed. But it is the kind of people that matters more than their numbers. What kind of people comprises a particular state? Are they literate, well educated, culturally advanced? Aristotle rightly has said that a good citizen makes a good state. So what is important is the quality of people, their character, their culture and their sense of belonging to the state.

2. Territory

People cannot constitute a state, unless they inhabit in a definite territory. When they reside permanently in a fixed place, they develop a community of interests and a sense of unity. It becomes easy to organize them into a political unit and control them. So the state requires a fixed territory, with clearly demarcated boundaries over which it exercises undisputed authority. Territory is its "material basis". The territory of a state comprises:

- i) Land, mountains, rivers and lakes within its frontiers,
- ii) Territorial water, extending six miles into the sea from the coast,
- iii) Air space, lying above its territory.

The state has full rights of control and use over its territory. Any interference with the rights of one state by others may lead to war.

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But how much territory is necessary for the maintenance of state? There is no accepted rule as to the size of a state's territory. In the modern world, we find states of all sizes and shapes. More important than the size are the nature resources and the location of the state. A geographically contiguous territory is an asset; otherwise it creates problems of administration and control.

3. Government

Government is the important- indeed, indispensable machinery by mean of which the state maintains its existence, carries on its functions and realize its policies and objectives. A community of persons does not form a state unless it is organized by an established government. Government usually consists of three branches: The Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. Their respective functions are legislation, administration and adjudication. The particular form of government depends upon the nature of the state which in turn depends upon the political habits and character of the people.

4. Sovereignty

The fourth essential element of the state is sovereignty. It is that important element which distinguishes the state from all other associations. The word 'Sovereignty' denotes supreme and final legal authority and beyond which no further legal power exists.

Sovereignty has two aspects- internal and external. Internal sovereignty is the supreme authority of the state over all individuals and associations within its geographical limits. By virtue of it, the state makes- and enforces laws on persons and associations. Any violation of these laws will lead to punishment.

External sovereignty implies the freedom of the state from foreign control. No external authority can limit its power. India before 1947 was not a state because though it had the other three elements, i.e., population, territory and government, the fourth and the most important one i.e., independence was missing.

A state's sovereignty extends to its territory. The sovereignty of the state over its territory and its people must be accepted as undisputed. A state also requires recognition by other sovereign states. Such recognition is provided by the community of states; international organizations like the United Nations, which grant membership to sovereign states. The UN membership is a means of recognizing state's sovereignty whenever a new state comes into existence, its recognition by other states and by UN is extremely important.

The term 'state' generally used for the units of the Indian Republic or for any of the fifty states which make the United States of America, is a misnomer. None of them enjoys sovereignty. Lack of sovereignty gives them no position or rank as states. Only by courtesy, we call them as states. Every state must have its population, a definite territory, a duly established government and sovereignty. Absence of any of these elements denies to it the status of statehood.

Concept of welfare state

The idea of welfare State has become very popular in recent times so much so that every state likes to call itself welfare state. Although welfare for the purpose of government is not an invention of this century, yet the term “welfare state” came into widespread use only after the Second World War. The term “welfare state” has not been clearly and exactly defined with the

result that welfare programs almost differ from country to country and place to place. However, generally understood meanings of this term are that it is a state in which the government assumes responsibility for minimum standard of living for every citizen.

Definitions: -According to narrow definition, the welfare state comprises two types of government spending arrangements

Cash benefits to households (transfers, including mandatory income insurance)

Subsidies or direct government provision of human services (such as childcare, pre-schooling, education, Health Care and old age care).

By broader definitions, the welfare state may also include price regulation (such as rent control, and agricultural prices) housing policies, regulation of the work environment, job security legislation and environmental policies.¹¹⁰

A welfare state is the state in which organized power is deliberately used (through politics and administration) in an effort to modify the play of market forces in at least three directions-first, by guaranteeing individuals and families a minimum income irrespective of the market value of their work or their property; second, by narrowing the extent of insecurity by enabling individuals and families to meet certain "social conditions" (for example sickness, or old age, unemployment) which leads to otherwise the individual and family crises; third by ensuring that all citizens without distinction of status or class are offered the best standards available in relation to a certain agreed range of social services.¹¹

Islamic concept of welfare State

The Holy Prophet spent a long time preaching Islam in Makkah. Due to his tireless efforts many people became Muslims, so the need was felt for a region where the population as a whole or the majority would be ready to accept the new system. Therefore, the most suitable region for this purpose was the land of Madinah. Immediately after the visit of the Holy Prophet to Madinah, the foundation of the Islamic State when the prophet of Islam, Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) migrated from Mecca and settled in Medina in the year 622 AD.² And signed a pact with concluded a three party pact comprising Muhajirin, Ansar and Jews of Medina. This pact came to be known in history as the "charter of Medina" which laid down the foundations of the small Islamic State at Madinah headed by Prophet (SAW) himself. The Holy Prophet gave the city-state of Madinah a stable system and laid the foundation for dealing with external threats. This document presented the Holy Prophet as a supreme administrator and it was his great achievement. The word "religion" is also used once in the document. The word has the connotation of both religion and government at the same time

Characteristics of Islamic Welfare State

What will be the outline of the ideal Islamic state of today? In other words, what practical form will the Islamic system of Khilafah take in the field of state and politics in modern times? The first and most important reason for the distinction is that the right of absolute sovereignty will be recognized only for Allah (according to Allama Iqbal). The practical manifestation of which will be the unconditional and unconditional supremacy over both the system and the law of the Qur'an and Sunnah, which will be unambiguously enshrined in the constitution of the state as the basic

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principles of the state. As if the basic principle of this state is not human sovereignty, but the concept of human caliphate -

Not everyone who lives within its geographical boundaries, but only those who declare their faith in Allah and His Messenger Muhammad. Non-Muslims will have the status of a "protected minority" whose full protection of life, property and honor will be taken (hence they are called "dhimmis") and those who believe Complete freedom of personal law, including worship and family law, will also be guaranteed. Furthermore, their places of worship will be protected in exactly the same way as mosques, but since the legislative process in the Khilafah system or Islamic state, by its very nature, is within the limits of the Quran and Sunnah-

If there has been a clear and ideal state in human history which can be called a complete welfare state, then the state of Muhammad Mustafa is Madinah, to which the welfare state applies in every aspect. Whose welfare projects are exemplary in their universality. The state of Madinah is defined as an Islamic welfare state. The welfare state refers to a model state that was established in Madinah Munawwara. It was truly an Islamic ideological state. Ordered to create a tolerant society in which all Muslims living, including those of other religions, live in harmony with one another in social terms.

Established a successful and unprecedented state, in which the lives, property, honor and dignity of mankind living within the four quarters were fully protected. He laid the foundation of the welfare state in Madinah and as a leader gave a new concept of ruler and said in clear words "Sayyid al-Qaum Khadim Muhammad" ie the head of the nation is his servant. You put an end to religious bigotry. In the shadow of his leadership, together with his sincere companions, he established regular system of Shuraiyat, Diwan-e-Siyasat, Masjid, Bait-ul-Mal, foreign policy affairs, da'wah, training and rijal-making. Made the institution of justice, gave the philosophy of religious freedom. It is as if the activities of many walks of life were carried out at the same time.

Modern Welfare State-

Modern States has taken several steps in order to achieve their goals of national welfare. The principles of Mutual Insurance have been adopted and schemes of social insurance have been introduced. The welfare state refers to the concept of a state in which a state takes responsibility for the protection of all citizens and the well-being of its citizens. A welfare state makes the life and financial security of its citizens a top priority and takes concrete steps to do so. A state does not discriminate among its citizens in any way. In modern times, new ideas have been introduced in the state which has improved human life. He restructured the state system and defined both the rights of the people and the rights of the state. The idea of democracy in man and the improvement of the state system is called the welfare state

Fundamentals of the modern welfare state.

The state is not meant for itself but for the development,

Prosperity and well-being of its citizens.

The state achieves its goals by striking a balance between collective and individual interests.

The scope of action of the state should be defined. The state has to do many things like:

Defend your borders

Establishing discipline within your boundaries

Organize your community by establishing an administrative and judicial system

Raising revenue and other funds to run the system

Comparative study of Islamic welfare state and modern welfare state:

Islamic welfare state:-Islam as universal religion of humanity, believes in the well-being of mankind in this world as well as in the next world. It aims at material as well as spiritual welfare of its followers. The Quran, in one of its very popular prayers teaches its believers to ask Allah:

“Our Lord! Give unto us in the world that which is good and in the hereafter that which is good” ... (2;201).

The primary objective of Islamic State is therefore to establish an ideal society based on justice, equality and virtue. The Islamic State not only establishes the system of Allah’s worship but also establishes the system of zakat. Thus, both the spiritual and material well-being of the individual is aimed by Islamic State. In other words, Islamic State in the welfare state which performs the number of functions in addition to the traditional functions of the state, for social and economic welfare of its citizens in this world and there religio- spiritual welfare in here after. Its functions aimed at material welfare of its people include provision of basic necessities of life for all, ensuring of comprehensive social security system establishment of social justice whereas its functions for spiritual well-being of its people include establishment of Islamic System of life for the Muslims and full of religious freedom for the non- Muslims.

Modern welfare state: -

The term modern welfare state is pejorative as used by Quinney. In the pejorative sense it refers to a system of justice that expressed primary concern for individual achievement with enough emphasis on community, only two of these provide a social setting in which individual achievements can be supported. The modern welfare state does not share the peacemakers concern for “the social vision of social order”.¹

Modern welfare states are chiefly distinguished from earlier forms of poverty, relief by their universal, comprehensive character. Changed attitudes towards the world wide great depression, which brought unemployment and misery to millions, were instrumental in the move to the welfare state. The activities of today’s welfare states extend to the provision of both cash welfare benefits, such as old age pensions and in kind welfare services such as health childcare services. Through these provisions welfare states can affect the distribution of well-being and personal autonomy among their citizens as well as influencing how their citizens consume and how they spend their time and money.

Conclusion: -

Islamic state works and aims at the well-being of its citizen in this world and the hereafter. It helps to regulate the wealth among different classes of society by adopting the system of zakkat and usher. Modern welfare state aims at the material welfare of its citizens. A state whether Islamic or Modern becomes welfare when it’s rulers and citizens work honestly for the betterment

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of state and for their own good. By adopting some good rules, every state can become a welfare state.

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