

ISLAM AS IDEOLOGY

ISLAM: A COMPLETE WAY OF LIFE

risala publications, e-mail: info@risala.org website: <http://www.risala.org>
<http://www.mykhilafah.com/hizibebook/IslamACompleteWayOfLife.pdf>

Islam as an Ideology

The word 'Islam', in Arabic, means submission and peace. As a term, 'Islam' refers to the Message which was revealed to Muhammad (peace be upon him) by Allah, the One Creator, and a 'Muslim' is the one who believes in Islam. **In sharp contrast to Christianity, Judaism, and other religions, Islam is not merely a religion. Rather, Islam is a unique and comprehensive ideology** that guides the life of the human being. Like any other ideology, Islam consists of a creed or doctrine, and a system of rules and regulations. Unlike **other ideologies**, however, it is not man-made.

The creed of Islam (Aqeedah) provides the correct and **comprehensive** answer to the fundamental question regarding the existence of man and universe. It addresses the issue of the human being's purpose in life and integrates it into the grand scheme of existence, i.e. what came before this life and what will come after it. Thus, the Islamic creed settles the core problem in every person's life, that of the nature of our existence, and serves as the guiding principle for humanity to conduct its affairs by.

The Islamic system provides a **comprehensive law** governing the affairs of the human beings. It establishes, in the **absolute**, correct manner,

- 1) The relationship between the human being and his Creator,
- 2) The **personal affairs of individuals**, and
- 3) The **social, political, economic, and international relationships** that exist in the society.

The system has its own method that provides the means for its implementation, thereby transferring it from 'theory' to 'practice'. It is an integral part of the **ideology** and distinguishes it from a philosophy, which provides hypothetical ideas but no practical means of implementing them.

Thus, **Islam consists of a creed, and system**. What distinguishes Islam from the **ideologies of Capitalism and Communism** is that Islam is built on the correct idea, established through rational thought. In contrast, the **other ideologies** in the world failed to build a comprehensive and rational outlook to the life of the human being and the world in which he exists.

