

Fiqh and Fikr: The Crisis of Islamic Thought and the Urgent Need for Siyasah

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The Crisis of Islamic Identity and Why Political Awareness (Siyasah) Is More Urgent Than Ever

THE DEVASTATING REALITY

The statistics don't lie. Over 60% of young Muslims in Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon believe democracy is preferable to Islamic governance despite democracy's fundamental contradiction to Tawhid. Here are the statics:

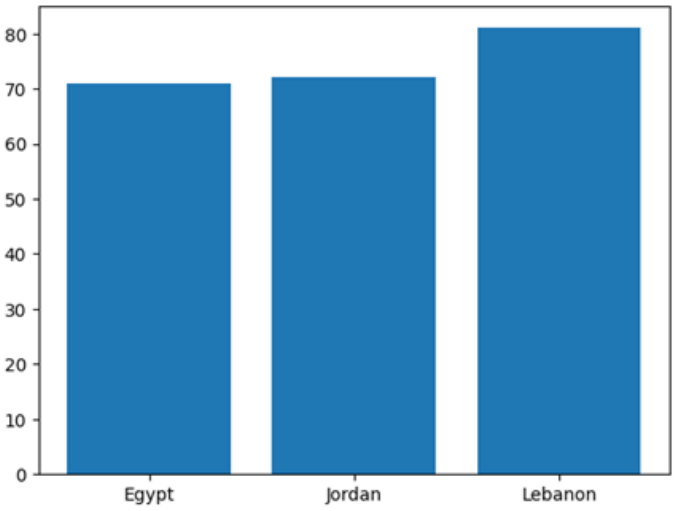


Figure 1. Public preference for democracy over alternative forms of government in Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon. Data from Pew Research Center, Global Attitudes Project (2011–2012).[1]

In the West, only a small number of the second and the third-generation Muslims maintain regular Islamic practice, with some abandoning Islam entirely.

The statistics are devastating and undeniable. A 2024 Pew Research study found that 23% of Americans raised Muslim no longer identify as Muslim by adulthood.[2] In Muslim-majority countries like Turkey, over 33% of youth identify as non-religious or

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[1] https://www.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2011/05/Pew-Global-Attitudes-Arab-Spring-FINAL-May-17-2011.pdf

[2] https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2025/03/26/religious-switching-into-and-out-of-islam/

atheist.[3] In Tunisia, 46% of young people describe themselves as "not religious."[4] Even in countries that enforce (corrupt))"Shariah" like Iran, underground atheism is exploding among youth. Even more disturbing: among Muslims who still identify as Muslim, only a small number of them pray five times daily in many Muslim-majority countries. Only the great minority in Turkey of Muslim women wear proper hijab, Tunisia, and Kazakhstan. Alcohol consumption, zinah, and riba are widespread even among self-identified Muslims. Support for implementing Shariah is declining dramatically among Muslim youth exposed to Western education. Why is this happening? Because we teach fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence) without **Fikr** (Islamic thought/worldview).

FIQH VS. FIKR: UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE

Fiqh means jurisprudence, the rulings on specific actions: how to pray, how to fast, what is halal and haram. **Fikr** means thought, ideology, worldview, the comprehensive Islamic understanding of life, society, politics, economics, and history.

The problem is we teach Muslims HOW to practice Islam without teaching them WHY Islam is true and HOW it relates to all of life. The result? A generation of Muslims who know how to make wudu but don't understand why Islam is the only true religion in a world of competing ideologies, how Islam addresses modern political and economic problems, why Western liberalism and capitalism are false and destructive, how Islam should govern society not just individual worship, why the nation-state system contradicts Islamic principles, or **why the Khilafah is obligatory.** Without **Fikr**, fiqh becomes an empty ritual. Muslims pray mechanically while their hearts belong to Western ideologies. They avoid pork but embrace every other aspect of Western lifestyle. They identify as Muslim culturally but live as secularists practically.

Allah repeatedly commands us to THINK, REFLECT, and UNDERSTAND, not just blindly follow rituals.

Allah said:

إِنَّ فِى خَلْقِ ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ وَٱلْأَرْضِ وَٱخْتِلَٰفِ ٱلَّيْلِ وَٱلنَّهَارِ لَءَايَٰتٍ لِّأُو۟لِى ٱلْأَلْبَٰبِ ٱلَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ ٱللَّهَ قِيَٰمًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ فِى خَلْقِ ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ وَٱلْأَرْضِ رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَٰذَا بَٰطِلًا سُبْحَٰنَكَ فَقِنَا عَذَابَ ٱلنَّارِ

Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of the day and night there are signs for people of reason. They are those who remember Allah while standing, sitting, and lying on their sides, and reflect on the creation of the heavens and the earth and pray, "Our Lord! You have not created all of this without purpose. Glory be to You! Protect us from the torment of the Fire.[5]

[3] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Turkey

[4] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia

[5] The Holy Quran 3:190-191

Allah praises those who REFLECT, the root of the word fikr:

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ ٱلْقُرْءَانَ أَمْ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَآ

Do they not then reflect on the Quran? Or are there locks upon their hearts?[6]

Allah criticizes those who don't use their intellect:

وَلَقَدْ ذَرَأْنَا لِجَهَنَّمَ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ ٱلْجِنِّ وَٱلْإِنسِ ۖ لَهُمْ قُلُوبٌ لَّا يَفْقَهُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ أَعْيُنٌ لَّا يُبْصِرُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ ءَاذَانٌ لَّا يَسْمَعُونَ بِهَآ ۚ أُو۟لَٰٓئِكَ كَٱلْأَنْعَٰمِ بَلْ هُمْ أَضَلُّ ۚ أُو۟لَٰٓئِكَ هُمُ ٱلْغَٰفِلُونَ

Indeed, We have destined many jinn and humans for Hell. They have hearts they do not understand with, eyes they do not see with, and ears they do not hear with. They are like cattle. In fact, they are even less guided! Such ˹people˺ are ˹entirely˺ heedless.[7]

When people followed religion blindly without understanding, Allah condemned them:

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ ٱتَّبِعُوا۟ مَآ أَنزَلَ ٱللَّهُ قَالُوا۟ بَلْ نَتَّبِعُ مَآ أَلْفَيْنَا عَلَيْهِ ءَابَآءَنَآ ۗ أَوَلَوْ كَانَ ءَابَآؤُهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ شَيْـًٔا وَلَا يَهْتَدُونَ

When it is said to them, "Follow what Allah has revealed," they reply, "No! We ˹only˺ follow what we found our forefathers practicing." ˹Would they still do so,˺ even if their forefathers had ˹absolutely˺ no understanding or guidance?[8]

The Quran doesn't just command worship, it commands Muslims to understand the world correctly.

قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِى ٱلَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَٱلَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ۗ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُو۟لُوا۟ ٱلْأَلْبَٰبِ

Say, ˹O Prophet,˺ "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" None will be mindful ˹of this˺ except people of reason.[9]

The answer is obvious: knowledge and understanding matter supremely. Without correct **Fikr** about life, politics, economics, and society, Muslims will be lost even if they pray five times a day.

[6] The Holy Quran 47:24
[7] The Holy Quran 7:179
[8] The Holy Quran 2:170
[9] The Holy Quran 39:9

SIYASAH (POLITICAL AWARENESS) IS PART OF ISLAM

Many Muslims today think politics is separate from religion, this is a Western secular idea that has infected Muslim thinking. Islam is comprehensive, it includes politics, economics, and governance.

Allah said:

وَأَنزَلْنَآ إِلَيْكَ ٱلْكِتَـٰبَ بِٱلْحَقِّ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ مِنَ ٱلْكِتَـٰبِ وَمُهَيْمِنًا عَلَيْهِ ۖ فَٱحْكُم بَيْنَهُم بِمَآ أَنزَلَ ٱللَّهُ ۖ وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَآءَهُمْ عَمَّا جَآءَكَ مِنَ ٱلْحَقِّ ۚ لِكُلٍّ جَعَلْنَا مِنكُمْ شِرْعَةً وَمِنْهَاجًا ۚ وَلَوْ شَآءَ ٱللَّهُ لَجَعَلَكُمْ أُمَّةً وَٰحِدَةً وَلَـٰكِن لِّيَبْلُوَكُمْ فِى مَآ ءَاتَىٰكُمْ ۖ فَٱسْتَبِقُوا۟ ٱلْخَيْرَٰتِ ۚ إِلَى ٱللَّهِ مَرْجِعُكُمْ جَمِيعًا فَيُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ

We have revealed to you ˹O Prophet˺ this Book with the truth, as a confirmation of previous Scriptures and a supreme authority on them. ***So judge between them by what Allah has revealed, and do not follow their desires over the truth that has come to you.*** *To each of you We have ordained* ***a code of law and a way of life.*** *If Allah had willed, He would have made you one community, but His Will is to test you with what He has given ˹each of˺ you. So compete with one another in doing good. To Allah you will all return, then He will inform you ˹of the truth˺ regarding your differences.*[10]

The Prophet ﷺ said: *"Whoever dies without a bayah (pledge of allegiance to a leader) on his neck, dies a death of jahiliyyah."*[11]

This hadith makes political allegiance to Islamic authority obligatory, yet how many Muslims today even understand what bayah means? How many understand why we need a Khalifah?

The Prophet ﷺ said: *"The Imam (Khalifah) is a shield behind whom you fight and by whom you are protected."*[12]

Protection requires a state, an army, a political entity. Fiqh alone doesn't create this, political awareness (siyasah) and working to establish the Khilafah does.

WHY MUSLIMS LEAVE: THEY HAVE FIQH BUT NO FIKR

When Muslim children are raised with only fiqh, don't eat pork, pray five times, fast in Ramadan, but no **Fikr**, they have no intellectual defense against the secular ideologies bombarding them at school, university, and through the media. They're taught in school that "all religions are equal," that "democracy is the best system," that "capitalism creates prosperity," that "nationalism is natural," that "secularism is neutral," that "LGBTQ rights are human rights," that "feminism liberates women," that "Islam is outdated," that "Shariah is oppressive." Without a strong Islamic **Fikr** that can intellectually demolish

[10] The Holy Quran 5:48
[11] Sahih Muslim 1848a
[12] Sahih Muslim

these ideas and prove Islam's superiority, these children have no defense. They know how to pray, but they don't know why Islam is true. They know pork is haram, but they don't know why capitalism is haram. They know alcohol is forbidden, but they don't know why democracy is un-Islamic.

The result? They experience cognitive dissonance. Islam seems like a list of restrictions that don't make sense in the "modern world." Slowly, they stop praying. They start drinking. They engage in relationships outside marriage. They adopt Western lifestyles completely. Some openly leave Islam. Others remain "culturally Muslim" but have completely secular worldviews. Why? Because they were given fiqh without **Fikr**. They were taught HOW to be Muslim but not WHY Islam is the only truth and HOW it should shape every aspect of life including politics and society.

FIQH IS BUILT ON FIKR, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND

This is critical to understand: fiqh (jurisprudence) is built upon **Fikr** (worldview), not the other way around. If you don't have the correct Islamic understanding of life, your fiqh becomes meaningless ritual. The classical scholars understood this. They started with Aqidah (creed/belief) and usul (foundational principles) before moving to fiqh (specific rulings).

Why? Because correct belief shapes correct practice. If you believe Islam is just personal worship and has nothing to do with politics, economics, or society, you'll never understand why the Khilafah is obligatory. You'll accept the nation-state system. You'll vote in democratic elections thinking you're doing something Islamic. You'll work in riba-based banks thinking "there's no alternative." You'll accept nationalism thinking it's compatible with Islam.

But if you have the correct **Fikr**, understanding that Islam is a complete system for all of life, that it requires Islamic governance (Khilafah), that it rejects nationalism and democracy, that it has its own economic system prohibiting riba and exploitation, then your fiqh makes sense. You pray not just because "it's obligatory" but because you're submitting to Allah's comprehensive system. You avoid riba not just because "it's haram" but because you understand Islam's economic vision. You work for Khilafah not because someone told you to, but because you understand it's the Fard that will implement Islam as a complete way of life.

WHAT MUSLIMS NEED TODAY: FIKR ABOUT THE MODERN WORLD

The priority today is not teaching more fiqh rulings about wudu and prayer, most Muslims already know these basics even if they don't practice them. *(This doesn't mean Fiqh isn't important, Fiqh is one of the most important sciences of Islam, and we acknowledge that)* The priority is teaching Islamic **Fikr** that addresses the modern world and exposes the false ideologies dominating Muslim minds. Muslims need to learn: Why secularism is kufr and why separating religion from politics destroys Islam. Why democracy contradicts Islam's sovereignty belonging to Allah alone. Why nationalism is haram and divides the Ummah against Allah's command for unity. Why capitalism is a system of exploitation that Islam prohibits. Why Western liberalism's "freedoms" lead to moral collapse. Why feminism contradicts the Islamic understanding of gender roles. Why the nation-state system was designed to keep Muslims weak and divided. Why the Khilafah is the Fard obligation that will solve these problems. How to work for Khilafah through da'wah and nusrah, the Prophet's methodology.

Without this **Fikr**, Muslims will continue abandoning Islam in massive numbers. With this **Fikr**, they will not only practice Islam themselves but work to establish it as a complete system through the Khilafah.

THE SOLUTION: TEACH FIKR ALONGSIDE FIQH

Every Islamic school, every masjid, every study circle must prioritize teaching Islamic ideology and political awareness alongside basic fiqh. Children must learn not just how to pray but why Islam is true and how it addresses all of life. They must learn to critique secular ideologies from an Islamic perspective. They must understand that Islam without the Khilafah is incomplete, that personal piety alone is not enough when the Ummah is humiliated and Muslims are slaughtered worldwide. Parents must teach their children Islamic **Fikr** at home, discussing current events from an Islamic perspective, explaining why the nation-state system fails Muslims, teaching them that their identity is Muslim first, not Pakistani, Arab, or Turkish.

Imams must stop giving khutbahs only about personal piety and start addressing the political and ideological challenges Muslims face. Scholars must prioritize teaching **siyasah** (Islamic politics) and how to understand the world through an Islamic lens. Study circles must focus on building comprehensive Islamic thinkers, not just people who memorize fiqh rulings. If we continue teaching fiqh without **Fikr**, we will continue losing our youth to secularism, atheism, and Western ideologies. But if we teach **Fikr**, comprehensive Islamic thought that addresses the modern world and exposes false ideologies, we will produce Muslims who not only practice Islam but understand it deeply, defend it intellectually, and work to establish it politically through the Khilafah.

CONCLUSION: FIKR IS MORE URGENT THAN FIQH TODAY

The crisis facing the Muslim Ummah today is not that Muslims don't know how to pray, it's that they don't know why Islam is true or how it should govern life. This is a crisis of **Fikr**, not fiqh. Allah commanded: "**So know that there is no deity except Allah and ask forgiveness for your sin.**" (Quran 47:19)

Knowledge comes before action. Understanding comes before practice. Fikr comes before fiqh. The Ummah will not be revived by teaching more fiqh rulings to people who already know them but don't practice them. The Ummah will be revived by teaching Islamic **Fikr** that transforms how Muslims see the world, exposes the lies of secularism and Western ideologies, and motivates them to work for the Khilafah that will implement Islam as Allah intended.

قُلْ هَٰذِهِۦ سَبِيلِىٓ أَدْعُوٓا۟ إِلَى ٱللَّهِ ۚ عَلَىٰ بَصِيرَةٍ أَنَا۠ وَمَنِ ٱتَّبَعَنِى ۖ وَسُبْحَٰنَ ٱللَّهِ وَمَآ أَنَا۠ مِنَ ٱلْمُشْرِكِينَ

Say, 'O Prophet,' "This is my way. I invite to Allah with insight—I and those who follow me. Glory be to Allah, and I am not one of the polytheists."[13]

Fikr: This is what we need. This is the priority. Teach **Fikr**. Build Islamic thinkers. Raise a generation that doesn't just know how to pray but knows why Islam is the only truth and how to establish it completely through the Khilafah

W'Allahu Alam (Allah knows best)

Tiktok- IftiraTarihUtansin[14]

Instagram- IftiraTarihUtansin_[15]

Discord- iftiratarihutansin

Twitter- IftiraTarihUtansin[16]

Website- Hayatimanvecihad8[17]

Acces our website;

[13] The Holy Quran 12:108
[14] https://www.tiktok.com/@iftiratarihutansin?_t=ZN-8uM21ZWsBmQ&_r=1

[15] https://www.instagram.com/iftiratarihutansin_/

[16] https://x.com/iftiratarihutan

[17] https://hayatimanvecihad8.wordpress.com/