

## CLASH OF IDEOLOGIES

Human beings are by far the most important beings that inhabit the earth. This is because we, and only we, can make the earth or we can break the earth. We are the only creation which has the power and weapons to destroy the world many times over. Everything is subservient to us and we stand head and shoulders above of other creations that we share the earth with.

War amongst us comes easy and we are not afraid of wiping out each other in the name of nationalism or in some other material benefit. Other beings are not as sophisticated as we are and it is us who have been endowed with the sharpest of intellect that we can do as we wish. There is no doubt about this.

We therefore have a lot to contribute to this world and we are the ones who primarily decide how we live our lives in this world. However, human beings differ on how to live life; we have a plethora of philosophies, religions and ideologies. All saying that their way is the right way to live life.

Some of us say that there is a Creator of this universe and we should live by His laws; that we have a spirit and that we should nurture our spiritual life and we neglect the spirit at our own peril. Others say that there is no such thing as the spirit and after death we simply become dust and bones. Yet others say that these values should not be discussed or have any influence in our worldly life and that human beings have sufficient intelligence and ability to decide our personal lives and that affairs of the state should be left to the collective decisions of human beings. And it is these differences that have preoccupied the greatest of minds for thousands of years and have been the cause of many wars.

### **What is an ideology?**

An ideology is a basis which answers the fundamental questions of life: where did we come from? What are we doing on earth? What happens after death? And from this basis there comes a system of life. Each ideology answers the questions of life and from their basis comes a system of life to govern life's affairs. There exists three dominant ideologies at present: Capitalism, Communism and Islam.

Capitalism is an ideology and we live at a time where it is the dominant ideology in the world. Capitalism's basis is secularism: the separation of religion from state. It states that individuals (who are seen to be sovereign) can decide for themselves their personal beliefs and they should not bring religion or religious beliefs into worldly or political matters. Democracy is Capitalism's tool used to govern the people's lives.

Whether there is a creator of the universe is irrelevant to life in this world. Capitalism is an ideology that states people or private individuals should own private businesses and not the state as suggested by Communism. Capitalism is deeply unpopular in some parts of the world today as the implementation of this ideology has blatantly meant that the wealth gap between the rich and the poor is obvious for all to see. Capitalism unashamedly works for the rich and the super-rich – taking from the poor and giving to the rich. In Capitalism the main goal of society is to enjoy the freedoms of life and to engage in making money. This, in actual fact, leads to greediness and undignified behaviour.

However, not everyone is allowed to make money: the capitalist elite have an advantage in as much as their influence and having the ear of the ruling elite means their interests are secured over and beyond the working classes.

“Capitalism does not permit an even flow of economic resources. With this system, a small privileged few are rich beyond conscience, and almost all others are doomed to be poor at some level. That's the

way the system works. And since we know that the system will not change the rules, we are going to have to change the system.” Martin Luther King, Jr.

This disparity between the poor and rich was latched on to by communist Russia, China and the socialist states of the world today, making their call for common ownership of businesses and goods very popular with the masses. This political or ideological flaw in Capitalism is also used by Islamic groups and activists who point out that under the Islamic State or society this disparity would not exist. Under Islam, for example, there would be no lobby groups who are made up of wealthy individuals and businesses who lobby politicians to make laws that favour their businesses and interests.

“Capitalism is an organized system to guarantee that greed becomes the primary force of our economic system and allows the few at the top to get very wealthy and has the rest of us riding around thinking we can be that way, too - if we just work hard enough, sell enough Tupperware and Amway products, we can get a pink Cadillac.” Michael Moore.

Capitalism has not reached all parts of the world yet, but it’s getting close.

“They talk about the failure of socialism but where is the success of Capitalism in Africa, Asia and Latin America?” Fidel Castro.

For many who live under the capitalist states they can see the problem and the corruption of the capitalists, but they cannot see any alternative. This is where Islam comes in to provide itself as an alternative way of life. Under Islam, for example, the wealth or natural resources such as gas, oil and water would be under the control of the state that would distribute it according to need and would use any money made from selling these commodities to external nations for the public good.

Communism’s basis is materialism. It believes that there exists nothing but material. That the universe is all material. The fact that Communism does not believe in a creator of the universe means it is a godless ideology. This alone makes it undesirable for many in the Muslim nation as Muslims firmly believe in the Creator, Allah (SWT).

Karl Marx made Communism’s position on religion clear when he said:

“The first requisite for the happiness of the people is the abolition of religion.”

Communism denies the spiritual instinct of man. Under Communist Soviet Union, there was a purge on religion under the understanding that religion was nothing but superstition and the practices of ignorant people. People, however, resisted and even worshipped in secret and when the Soviet Union broke up, they returned to worshipping their deities.

And he summarised Communism’s position on wealth:

“The theory of Communism may be summed up in one sentence: Abolish all private property.”

Communism’s system for life is that the single-party communist state controls much of life. It governs and controls the economy making private ownership forbidden. The state controls man’s role within that economy. Much more so than Capitalism.

Islam is an ideology whose basis has a spiritual aspect. Its basis states that there exists a Creator of the universe Who created man to worship Him and Him alone. The Creator stipulates that man lives in accordance with the Sharia (holy law of Islam). According to the Islamic narrative, the Creator did not leave man alone without a belief or without a system of life to live by. He has given mankind a

political system, a social system, a method and system of war, a punishment system and rules and principles from which they can derive laws for any and every problem that they should face until the Day of Judgement.

Islam states that the Creator has sent prophets and messengers to every nation that existed on earth. However, Islam is the last and final message for mankind and the whole of mankind is obliged to follow Islam to achieve salvation.

### **What is a civilization?**

A civilization is created when a distinct ideology is implemented on a society over generations. It is a description of reality or it is a normal course which society takes when an ideology is implemented on any society. At its core, a civilization is dynamic and always looks to improve and grow greater and higher and if it doesn't, it fears destruction by its competitors.

Society and those who reside in it are moulded by its values. They take on the beliefs and customs and share its world view to the extent that they are willing to give their lives for the cause. It is my view that one has to have an ideology first before a civilization is created. From an ideology comes civilization. Like a tree – the ideology is the roots and trunk. From the roots and trunk come branches and leaves which go to form the civilization. Similarly the ideology flourishes and gives rise to civilizations which produce development in sciences, art, calligraphy, social systems, punishment systems, distinct architecture, buildings and much more.

When civilizations cross each other, it can end in war. Nations who represent a particular civilization can also experience civil war with groups within their civilization fighting each other. Islam for example, has had its fair share of civil war after the death of the Prophet (peace be upon him). This era saw the emergence of factions and groups – some political and some religious. The main thing to remember is that human beings differ and they will always differ.

It goes without saying that civil war weakens a civilization as it cannot deal the external threats appropriately and with a strong, unified response. So unity is a must if a civilization is to expand, grow and quite literally gain new ground.

The Chinese, for example, have experienced civil wars throughout their long existence. They are all too aware of the dangers of splitting up and have learned the benefits of unity. The Chinese civilization started some eight thousand years ago and it is still intact and flourishing. It has faced dynasties to Communism and still continues to exist where others have failed. Its language and customs will have to be respected and appreciated by the rest of the world as its international influence rises.

So do states create civilizations or civilisations create states? This is an interesting question and it's a bit of a 'Which came first, the chicken or the egg?' question. But personally I think that states create civilizations over a period of time. How long it takes for a particular civilization to thrive depends on how quickly the masses embrace the ideology and its implementation.

The communist civilization has impacted a number of countries. It affected the Soviet Union, China and South American countries. It has produced philosophers abound and has left an indelible result on world and national politics. It is here to stay.

The Islamic civilization has had the longest opportunity in recent history to make its mark on the world. And that mark has surely been made. The Muslim nation now boasts a population of around

1.3 billion and has in the region of fifty-three nations states where the Muslims make up the majority of the population making them 'Muslim countries'. It has had the chance of impacting other civilizations as the Islamic State implemented its expansionist policy and was only destroyed as a state in 1924.

### **Leaders and followers**

There will always be leaders and there will always be followers. This is how things have been since time immemorial. Leaders will either be voted in by the people or will take the position by force. Some leaders are good for civilizations and some not.

The role of rulers is arguably the most important one since they are the ones who establish the good and the bad within society i.e. their actions affect the masses. Most rulers are dictators with very few listening to the opinions of the masses. Take for example, Tony Blair's ignoring the voice of one million people (one of the largest demonstrations in history) who marched against the Iraq War.

Western civilizations have mainly been affected by the capitalist ideology and have produced leaders and ideologues such as David Hume, Adam Smith, David Ricardo and James Steuart. These leaders have been followed by contemporary leaders including: Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Tony Blair and others. These leaders have assisted the capitalist ideology and worked fervently against Communism and Islam.

Some communist and socialist leaders included: Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, Chairman Mao; Fidel Castro; Stalin; and many more. All of these leaders did their bit for the struggle mainly against the capitalists. Capitalism was being implemented on a state level where its strength lasted. Since without a state, society wanders around like a headless chicken.

The Islamic civilization has produced some inspirational leaders who did wonders for the Islamic ideology and showed the whole world how to rule. Abu Bakr, Omar ibn al-Kattab, Uthman ibn Affan and Ali bin Abi Talib are hailed by the Muslims as the 'Rightly Guided Khaliphs'. This is because they governed Muslims as well as non-Muslims with compassion and dignity and so left a pure legacy on how to rule and how to practise Islam.

What all of these leaders have in common is that at some point in their history they had to struggle for what they believed in and only with patience and steadfastness did they get results. It could be said that the current followers of these three ideologies are still struggling to maintain the superiority of their ideology.

How do you judge whether a civilization is thriving and is in robust form? Well, essentially you have to judge whether the state and people in society are ideological. Is the state and the ruling elite in the society referring life's affairs to a particular ideology repeatedly and on a consistent basis? If they are referring to a particular ideology, the civilization will be considered thriving and ideological.

It should be noted that it is not necessary that the masses of society in a particular state have to hold the same belief as the state they are residing in, in order to be considered an ideological state. So, for example, under the capitalist states there exists many different cultural and ideological groups of people - there exist Muslims, Jews and communists. But when it comes to solving life's problems the ruling elite refer to Capitalism for solutions. Secularism is the basis and from that comes the democratic system which is used to produce solutions.

And historically, in the Islamic State there existed a number of different groups such as the Jews and Christians. The groups were not Muslims and were not forced to adopt the belief of the Islamic State and they were allowed to live in peace under the protection of the state. The Prophet of Islam Mohammed (peace be upon him) established an ideological state in Madina in what is known today as Saudi Arabia. Jews, Christians and Muslims he ruled over all groups referring all matters to the Qur'an and his own opinions (which we now call the Sunnah). He did not divert from this basis in any of his dealing with people even though they were different from him.

The Prophet's companions did the same and so did all rulers that came after them. In fact, the Jews experienced their Golden Era under Muslim rule and the Christians and Jews enjoyed a special status under the Islamic State as they are the People of the Book. This being so because they were at one point in history people who received revelation from Allah (SWT).

### **Unstable ideology - a danger for all**

Part of the instability which exists in the Muslim states is because the societies do not find an acceptance of state systems. They are not fully acquainted with democracy; they only have slogans to cry out. They do not understand how Western civilization contradicts the Islamic narrative. All they see is the material advancement in the leading Western nations and they want a piece of the action.

They do not see or hear about the high rates of crime; the cases of sexual abuse; the increasing rates of homelessness; the corruption amongst politicians; the fact that there still exists people living in poverty; the irresponsible and reckless capitalists who squander the money of tax payers; they do not see the members of the capitalist elite who scratch each other's backs; the move towards privatisation of every government service to the fat cats. I could go on.

Furthermore, the Muslim populations are aware that the rulers that they have, have been imposed on them since the colonialist powers granted the lands 'freedom'. And they are also aware that these leaders have no interest in governing the populations but are in the business of lining their own pockets and those of their cronies. So, these societies are unstable and inconsistent and cannot be called ideological or progressive states.

Once the implementation of an ideology by the state takes place, there are distinct features which occur in a society. Flourishing aspects of this society will be characterised by the success in sciences – maths, languages, intellectual progress, characteristics which the ideology aspire to.

So for example, the communist ideology aims for a reduction in societal poverty and equal distribution of wealth. If this aim were to become prevalent in society, it will be a distinct success for the communist ideology and would serve to contribute to meet the definition of a successful or progressive civilization. As soon as these characteristics are prevalent; one can call this is a civilization. How long this takes depends on the speed with which the state implements its ideology and the masses embrace it. So it could take a generation or more.

Ideologies can be created in the minds men or it can come in the form of revelation from the Creator, Allah (SWT). Karl Marx, the protagonist of Communism, is an example of how an ideology can be spread by a leading or influential individual. I say this because the ideas of Communism are older than Karl Marx himself. He was simply a carrier with a clear understanding of the ideology.

An ideology can also come from a divine source, revealed to a human being. The Prophet of Islam Mohammed (peace be upon him) is an example of this. He had revelation given to him to spread to the whole of mankind.

Ideologies can be in the minds of men and in the written word, books. For the ideology to flourish and become a civilization, it needs to implement its laws through a state where it will be tested and it will either bring tranquillity or sorrow or something in between. Ideologies can bring delight or grief.

In Islam, one sees that the ideology would provide the greatest deal of stability for society from the minds of the individuals to the workings of the state. The individual will remain with Allah (SWT) acknowledging Him and knowing that He watches over his every move; so in an Islamic society there will certainly be less crime as everyone will know that Allah is strict in punishment and their conduct will be guided by the sources of law which include the inimitable Words of Allah (SWT) - the Quran and Sunnah - the sayings and actions of the Prophet Mohammed (peace and blessing upon him).

### **Nations rise and fall**

Nations rise because they have adopted a distinct and forceful ideology. Because they have something to say or contribute to the world. It is usually on how to live life and how to view it. No nation rises without answering the fundamental questions of life and no nation rises without stability and steadiness, having been given the chance to flourish.

Nations fall because they let go of their ideologies that had formed them. They fall into disunity and there is no cohesion in society. There exist factions and opposing groups who destabilise society and they differ on how to live life.

The Western nations of today are broadly speaking, progressive nations. One of the characteristics of a progressive nation is that there exists a consensus on how to live life and how to deal with life's problems.

The Muslim countries, however, are in complete chaos; with no one voice on how to progress. There is not the consensus that is required. Some are calling for the implementation of Islamic law while others are calling for secularism; nationalism; yet others calling for Communism or socialism. The Muslim nations are going about trying to see what works and what fits with them, being let down time after time by unscrupulous political leaders playing on their hopes and wishes, only to dish out 'more of the same'.

One of the benefits of following an ideology resolutely is that you see material and social progress sooner or later and people have a good the standard of living. And it has to be said that to bring about change and revolution in a society which enjoys a high standard of living is difficult because people are satisfied with what they have and do not want to rock the boat.

Therefore, it can be said that it is much easier to bring about change in poorer and disgruntled societies because they feel a problem, the problem of poverty, withering away of moral and ethical values, corruption of their rulers, contradictory and inhumane laws and much more. And it is in this situation that you will get a clash of ideologies and civilisations. There will be those who are happy with what they have and those who seek change to a different society.

## **Society**

In order to change or influence something you have to have an understanding of what it is: what are its constituent parts? Having studied and analysed society, one can say that society is more than just a collection of individuals. A society has individuals who have relationships between each other on an agreed basis; they also have a system of government who facilitates and governs these relationships. A society also has dominant ideas which are prevalent among the individuals. These dominant ideas are held to be true and right and they will not be challenged. Along with these dominant ideas, there will be emotions attached to them and the society will hold these emotions also to be true and praiseworthy.

So seeking to change society (which is what all ideologies and civilizations seek to do) without understanding what society is, is a futile exercise. So it is these constituent parts that have to be targeted and changed if one is to change society.

People of power and influence are special groups of people who have to be influenced and strengthened with the Islamic civilization and ideology since they are truly the ones who hold power and sway over a society. These include: intellectuals, tribal leaders, politicians, army generals and personnel, newspaper editors etc.

However, it is the carriers of dawah (duat) who have to carry the message of Islam to the rest of the world. These are indeed the praised group of people. They are the ones who have to have the exemplary qualities to make them into shining stars so that they take the lead to the magnificent ideology of Islam.

## **Politics – a natural occurrence**

As long as humans exist, there will always be politics. This is because, we as human beings, cannot really survive by ourselves. We have needs and instincts. We have the need to eat, the need to be clothed and to have shelter. Our survival, spiritual and social instincts also need to be satisfied.

Let's take for example a little baby. Can the baby feed itself? Can it dress itself? Can it clean itself? The answer is clearly, no. So the baby needs food, clothes and shelter. Who will provide these things? The parents or the guardians. For them to be able to provide these necessities in a modern day society, requires businesses who sell food, some who sell clothes and some who sell shelter.

All of these providers need to be regulated. There needs to be common agreement about price and quality. Who will guarantee that these common agreements are upheld? A system of government. You can now see that society cannot function well without common agreement and a system to enforce these agreements. Since politics defines and establishes itself in solving and governing the affairs of the people in society all of the above issues are political issues.

Where does the state intervene and where it doesn't is a matter for the ideology from which the system of government emanated. In Communism the state has a hand in all affairs and decisions by the state are made in the name of the common good. In Capitalism there is much more freedom and less regulation or intervention by the capitalist state. Individuals make their own decisions based on whatever is seen to be beneficial. In Islam, the affairs of a Muslim is defined and controlled by the Sharia (holy Islamic law) and he/she is not free to do as they wish. There is, of course, intervention made by the Islamic State whenever it is required in accordance with the Shariah.

## **War and ideological struggle**

Civilizations will go to war to protect their way of life as we have seen through history and as we see in today's day and age. Civilizations will either be in all-out war or they will be vilifying their enemies, through propaganda. With the Western Capitalism we had the fear of the 'reds under the beds' to put the fear of Communism in the hearts of the people and now the new enemy is Islam and the portrayal of 'fundamentalist' Muslims as 'terrorists'.

Terrorism is not a part of Islam and Muslims are not terrorists, yet this is the way the capitalist ideologues want Islam and Muslims to be viewed. There is a great effort being made in this regard so that Muslims are put on the back foot and feel that they have to be apologetic for their way of life. Muslims should be aware of this strategy and plan so that we can react to it in the right way.

The recent rise and fall of the so called Islamic State in Syria and Iraq gave the capitalist ideologues in the Western nations (mainly United States of America, UK and France) ammunition to link the call of Muslim groups to establish the true Islamic State to the barbaric and inhumane actions of those in Iraq and Syria. The so called Islamic State fell into the trap laid by the Western nations in order to say to the world that 'This is what the Islamic State is all about – barbaric practices.' It should be noted here that what really went on inside the so called Islamic State has to be verified by Muslim sources.

Not happy with this, the so called Islamic State encouraged Muslim individuals to engage in acts of terror not just in the UK, US and France, but also in the Muslim lands. Anybody with a thread of intelligence would point out to the Islamic State group that these acts of terrorism serve no purpose at all, other than to give ammunition to the West and their propaganda war. The upshot of all this is that those who call for the true Islamic State are automatically labelled as supporters of terrorism. We have, in this example, how civilizations clash and are at war with each other.

All civilizations have a system of war and a way to gain new ground and ultimately expand. However, just because there is the means of war, does not mean it should always be used. My view is that actual war should be avoided at all costs. There exists no issue which cannot be solved through diplomacy and through peaceful means.

The Islamic civilization is without doubt from Allah (SWT) and the revelation is infallible. This is not to say that there should not be any checks and balances to make sure the civilizations and in particular the Islamic civilization should take steps to reduce or eliminate the possibility of another regression and decline in adherence to the ideology of Islam.

There are a number of things that should be put in place to safeguard the Muslims' adherence to Islam. One of the major steps would be to have lots of political groups or parties based on the Islamic ideology. In fact, Islam makes it a recommendation that there should exist groups enjoining the good and forbidding the evil within society. Contrary to some opinions among the scholars or ulema, who say that, having groups within a society causes disunity in an Islamic society. This view is not correct, the opposite is true; having groups guiding and supporting the Islamic society, increasing the knowledge of Muslims, being the eyes and ears of the Muslims is a way of safeguarding from decline and stagnation.

One of the reasons for the initial decline of the Muslim community was that they did not hold to account their leaders as they should have done. This will be one of the duties of Islamic groups – to account the leader of the Muslims and to make sure that he is not going astray and to make sure he is acting in accordance with the Islamic ideology.

If there is anyone to be wary of in today's world it is the Chinese. This is because their way of life is represented by an exceptional state, moving ever faster towards domination of world markets. Not much has been said about China's cultural risk and rise. It is a rising nation with its economy rivalling the USA as the world's largest economy.

In the UK now, one cannot speak one's mind, especially the youth. With government initiatives like Prevent and others set up to counter act 'extremist' views. Thousands have been reported for expressing 'extreme' views. The upshot of all this is that Muslims will be unable to speak their mind and there will be suspicion and distrust among the Muslim community. Muslims and non-Muslims are now positively encouraged to report on each other. What is the difference between this and Nazi Germany?

There is no such thing as complete freedom. One is not free to rebel against the state or challenge the authority of an ideology. A current example of misunderstanding of freedom is the trouble in Spain and the Catalonian struggle for 'freedom' from Spain. Spain has now sacked the Catalonian leader and has taken direct rule. There have been huge demonstrations in favour of separation, but the Spanish Government has ignored the will of the Catalonian people and has declared the attempted referendum on independence illegal and unconstitutional.

Every civilization protects itself from rebellion. Islam kills the one who abandons the religion – the apostates are put to death. Capitalist and communist states have laws against rebellion and each civilization implements the laws with force. My point is that there is no such thing as complete freedom. You either have to abide by the laws of an ideology or face its retribution.

### **Ideologies in practise**

Under Capitalism we have seen the wholesale selling of public services and capital to the capitalists of society, leading to greed-loving societies with only the fat cats benefiting from these sales. Anyone who opposes this is disregarded and is said to be not living in the real world.

In the UK alone gas, electricity, schools, National Health Service, the prison system, housing management have had their part ownership and management transferred to private companies or have had encouragement from the Government to make use of private company services. Now, what is striking is that these private companies are only interested in making money and are not really concerned about the feelings and emotions of the people they are 'serving'. What has happened is that the ruling elite have done their buddies a favour and sold out the public ownership policies.

Capitalism is a system of greed where the capitalist class exploit the working class for their benefit alone. And so it is no surprise that many people are becoming fed up of being used and abused but they cannot see alternative. But slowly and surely public belief in this system of greed is starting to wane. And we may yet live to see the demise of Capitalism.

In Capitalism, the free market should be free of any governmental interference. Basically, the markets should be left to their own devices. But invariably what happens is that the major players, who have all the money, take over market share of any given market and make use of their unfair advantage to put medium and small sized competitors out of business. And this model of the economic system is enforced and supported by the capitalist politicians and assisted by law.

Look for example at the rise of the supermarkets over recent years in the UK. They are directly responsible for the local green grocer going out of business. And this phenomenon is seen through all

markets: where the businesses with greater capital outdo their competitors and put them out of business. Monopolies are created, who hunker down to rid themselves of any competitors; this results in small and medium sized businesses going out of business.

Members of the working class who work for the super rich and super powerful get a pittance for their efforts at work. This leaves them struggling to live even in the so called First World. I have practical experience of this as I used to work in the retail market and we used to get peanuts as wages even though one may be working all the hours God gives.

Part of the problem of poverty is that the way Capitalism measures how a nation is performing economically is by working out the gross domestic product or GDP, which is erroneous. The GDP is simply a figure and has no bearing of practically measuring wealth. If you measure it with the GDP you may find that the country is wealthy but the wealth is owned by a small group of people whereas the majority of people are struggling to make ends meet and live in poverty. This is the situation even in First World countries like the USA and UK.

The economic system of any country should take into account those who are in poverty as well as those doing well. In an economic system one should see whether the basic needs of food, shelter and clothing are being met.

Communism's problem is that it does not recognize private property, as everything is owned communally or more accurately by the communist state. This standard goes against the natural human instinct of private ownership and gives no incentive for individuals to trade or start up businesses leaving a hole in the economic system of a communist state.

Under Islam there is no concentration of wealth that one has in Capitalism and unlike Communism one is allowed to own private property. In the Islamic system the focus is on whether the people's basic needs of food, clothing and shelter are seen to. Furthermore, because in an Islamic society there is no banking system, the wealth of a society will be circulating amongst the members of the public and not hoarded in a bank somewhere doing nothing.

### **The correct civilization and ideology**

The correct civilization is the civilization with the right ideology being implemented. So, how do we judge what the right ideology is? The answer is that if the ideology satisfies the mind (by agreeing with reality) and acknowledges and satisfies the spiritual instinct within man it can be said to be the correct ideology.

Agreeing with reality and the mind means that it should be in agreement with what human beings perceive through the senses and not go against it.

Man has always worshipped. He has worshiped the sun, fire, animals and even other human beings. This is because man needs to worship. He has a spiritual instinct. He feels weak and limited and needs to look up to and seek guidance from a higher authority. Satisfaction of the spiritual instinct will lead to the settlement of the heart and will bring comfort and tranquillity.

The Western capitalist ideology does not fit the bill since the basis of the ideology is secularism i.e. a separation of religion and state. The assertion that whether God exists or does not exist does not really matter and the answer to this question should not affect this life's affairs is simply erroneous. This basis is essentially saying that religious views should not affect the political life of this temporal existence.

This view is wrong because the fundamental question of whether God exists or not has a relevance to this life. Since, if He does exist we must find out why He has put us on this earth. If He does not exist then this also has relevance for this worldly life. One way or another, the answer to the question of whether God exists or not has a relevance to this life. This is why the basis of secularism is wrong and does not convince the mind nor does it settle the heart by which it does not satisfy the spiritual instinct of man.

The capitalist ideology does not bring tranquillity to the heart since the spiritual belief in a creator does not extend from the personal belief. It does not extend to political matters and is restricted to personal belief. It has to be said that only belief in the spiritual aspect of the universe brings satisfaction to the heart.

Communism's basis of atheism or materialism in no way convinces the mind. Its explanation of the universe being material and eternal is incorrect. This is because material is limited and planned, the laws of the universe does not point towards material being able to pop into existence; create itself; plan itself and maintain itself.

Thus, if one were to throw thousands of random letters of the alphabet in the air, expecting them to fall onto the floor, producing a masterpiece of a poem, any rational being would say that it would be impossible! Yet, when we view the universe with its intricate planning and organisation, how can we say that all the atoms of the universe fell into place producing this complexity?!

Secondly, our observation of the universe points to the fact that matter is limited. This means that it can be said with certainty that the whole universe including the edges of universe is limited and finite and cannot exist on its own power and therefore dependent on a higher power.

So, the natural organisation or planning of the universe points to an organiser or a planner i.e. points to the existence of a God since the universe is mind-bogglingly intricate and planned right down to the single atom. This is the only point of view that agrees with reality and satisfies the mind.

Communism does not satisfy the spiritual instinct; in fact it denies that such a things exists within humans. It positively goes against it and it goes against any form of worship.

This leaves Islam as the only ideology to state clearly and firmly that there exists a Creator of the universe Who planned it, created it and sustains it. The belief in a Creator who plans everything agrees with reality since when we observe the universe we can see for sure its complexity and organisation. This can only be the work of a Creator and a Sustainer.

There are numerous verses of the Qur'an asking man to contemplate upon the universe and see how it is organised. They were also asked to think even about the animals which Allah (SWT) has subdued and made them a thing of necessity for man:

“Do they not see that We have created for them of what Our Hands have created, the cattle, so that they are their owners? And We have subdued them unto them so that some of them they have for riding and some they eat.” (Qur'an 36:71-72)

And about themselves:

“Have they not thought about their own selves? God did not create the heavens and earth and everything between them without a serious purpose and an appointed time, yet many people deny that they will meet their Lord.” (Quran 30:8)

Islam is the only ideology which agrees with the spiritual instinct within man, settles and brings tranquillity to the heart since there is agreement between the weakness of the created and the recognition that he is at the mercy of the Creator.

“...Verily in the remembrance of Allah do the hearts find contentment.” (Qur’an 13:28)

In Islam we are truly and confidently told that Islam is superior and can never be surpassed. This brings us confidence and tranquillity. And finally, we are told:

“This day I have perfected for you your way of life and completed My favour upon you and have approved for you Islam as your way of life.” (Qur’an 5:3)

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