

God has called you Muslims

A series of distortions and arrogations

The Muslim and The Islamist

Islamist?

A modernist trait
of extremism and severity



*In the Name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.
All praise be to Allah. Salutations and peace be upon our Master, the
Messenger of Allah, and upon his family, companions and
those loyal to him.*

Unity of the Ummah

Muslims are one ummah and one body, like a structure, each part strengthening the other. They worship one Lord. They read one Book. They follow one Prophet. Unity is among the greatest of what Islam brought and the Prophet (salutations and peace be upon him) called to. It is a statement of strength and might. Thus, preservation of unity is among the greatest duties. To respond to those who divide Muslims is among the greatest tasks. Among the problematic matters that appeared and spread in the beginning of the last century and affected the unity of the Muslim community is the increase in the use of the term 'Islamist.




{Hold fast to God's rope all together; do not split into factions.}

The term 'Islamist'

The definition – The problems:

What is the meaning of this term and how did it appear? What is problematic about it? What are the effects of an increased application of it?

Islamist?

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- 1 It was used by various groups under the rubric of 'The Islamic Project.' In their view, the term is applied to those who are attributed to Islam.
 - 2 It is a term that some theorists used in the face of secularism and liberalism... Its purpose was to distinguish a group or actions as Islamic or representative of Islam.

The **approach** of its increased use in religious, economic, political and other fields, even in details of daily life, is more chaotic than mature.

What is problematic about this term?

It is an undefined term.

What is intended by it is unknown!

This makes it difficult to create real parameters for modern usage of the term. With the widespread use of this appellation and the many who call themselves by it, you find great differences between them that reach the extent of their disavowal of one another and declaring one another disbelievers sometimes!



An objection

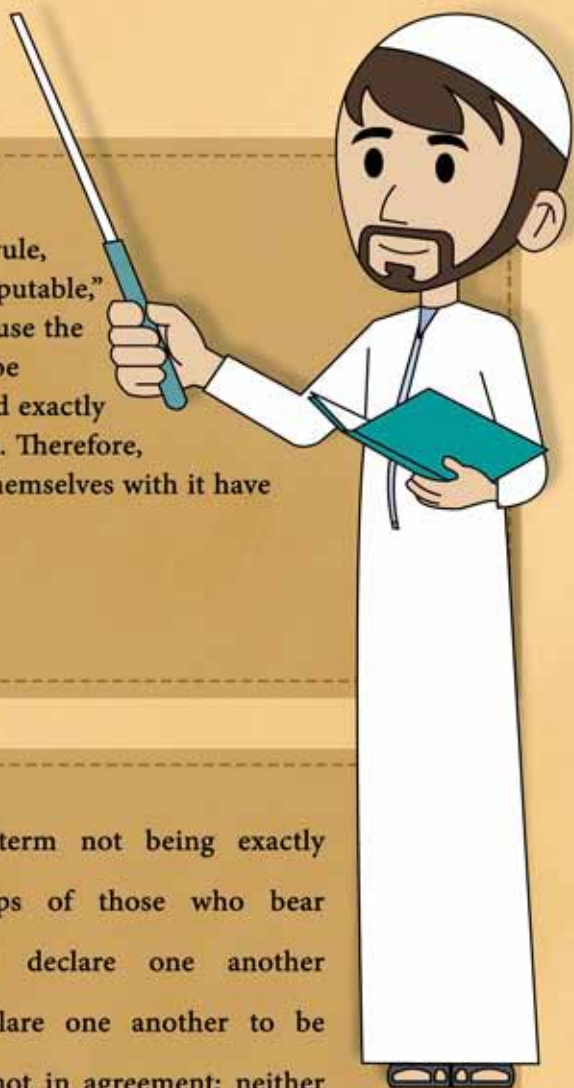
Some who hold fast to this term may object with two things:

- ◆ It is merely an appellation, and the rule is, "Terminology is not indisputable."
- ◆ It is an old appellation. Imam al-Ash'ari used it in his book, 'Maqalat al-Islamiyyin.'

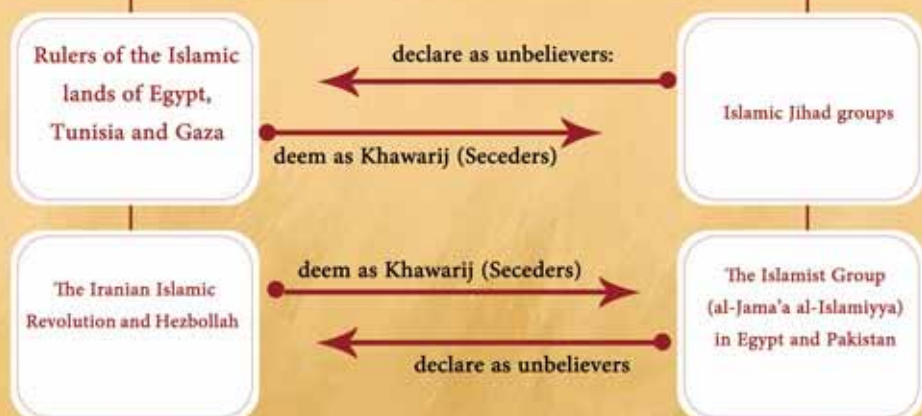
An answer

- As for their reliance on the rule, “Terminology is not indisputable,” then that is rejected, because the term ‘Islamist’ has yet to be defined. It must be defined exactly first and its intent known. Therefore, what those who affiliate themselves with it have alleged, does not suffice.

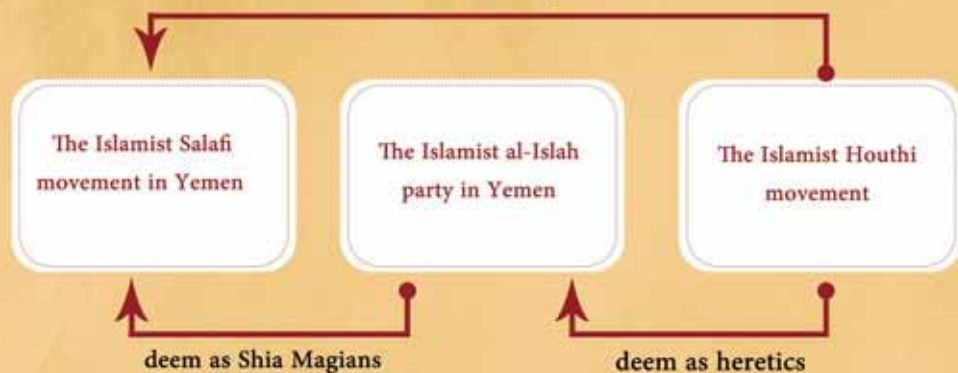
- The proof of this term not being exactly defined is that groups of those who bear the name ‘Islamists’ declare one another to be astray and declare one another to be disbelievers. They are not in agreement; neither on principles nor goals. Examples of that are:



The difference between Islamists



deem as Shia Magians



◆ Accordingly, dependence on the principle “Terminology is not indisputable” for the application of the term ‘Islamist’ is groundless due to its obscureness and due to the difficulty in creating real parameters for it.

The term 'Islamists' used by al-Ash'ari is **censure**, not **praise**

- ◆ As for Imam al-Ash'ari's --an Imam of the Ahlus Sunna-- usage, the answer is:

1 Imam al-Ash'ari's **usage** of this appellation does not constitute terminology. It is only an expression he used. It can be said that he alone used it.

2 Its **usage** came in contexts completely different to the contexts approved by those in the present-day who call themselves Islamists, because he applied it to every group that ascribes itself to Islam, even if it dissents from it. He compiled their beliefs from their original sources to distinguish between Muslims from these groups and others.

* **He mentioned** groups that make undue claims of God's incarnation in His creation, others that allege prophecy in their Imams, others that believe their Imam is the son of God...

* **So the term in itself means** a claim of ascription, not a realization of it. Therefore, it is more like censure and impugment, not praise. Not every Islamist is a Muslim to him.

Some repercussions and downsides of the increase in usage of the term 'Islamist'

- 1 Differentiating** between the people of La ilaha illaLlah (There is no god but Allah), and considering that there is the real Muslim, who is the Islamiŝt, and then there is the nominal Muslim, who is the generality of the people of La ilaha illaLlah. What we know is that Allah the Exalted consented to His Intimate Friend Abraham's (peace be upon him) calling us Muslims, not Islamists: {This is the way of your father Abraham. He named you Muslims.}
- 2 Monopolism:** speaking in the name of the religion or Islam. They do not engage while calling themselves 'a group of Muslims,' but rather as 'the group of Muslims.' This is very dangerous!
- 3 Non-acceptance of others,** because they are of the opinion that those who call themselves by this name represent Islam; conformance to them is conformance to Islam; contradicting them is contradicting Islam. So they do not accept others in any way, even if they are scholars and righteous.
- 4 Guardianship of others**
The Islamiŝt sees himself as a guardian of others. He thus subconsciously begins to monitor their acts and strives to expose their mistakes and faults. He sees himself as one of the Saved Sect!
- 5 Supremacism and arrogance.**
The Islamiŝt sees himself as the highest degree of Muslim. So he becomes haughty and condescending towards Muslims, and issues judgments that declare Muslims as disbelievers and make it lawful to kill them, appropriate their wealth and violate their honor.
- 6 Distortion of Islam's image or of those who are committed to it.**
The term 'Islamiŝt' has been used and exploited to serve interests and win the masses, for example during elections, etc. You then find conduct and methods under this appellation that go against Islam, such as breaking promises, lying, etc., which has led to the distortion of the image of one who is committed to Islam. What happened in previous years is not long ago!

Muslim, not Islamist

Muslim

...Allah's naming

Allah's naming: {God named you Muslims} [Surah Hajj:78].

A Quranic term that came on the tongues of a number of Prophets in the Quran:

Prophet Abraham: {Our Lord, make us Muslims devoted to You; make our descendants into a Muslim community devoted to You} [Surah Baqara:128].

Prophet Jacob: {God has chosen [your] religion for you, so do not die except as Muslims} [Surah Baqara:132].

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ: {This is what I am commanded, and I am the first Muslim} [Surah An'am:163].

Prophet Noah: {I am commanded to be of the Muslims} [Surah Yunus:72].

Prophet Joseph: {Let me die as a Muslim and let me join the righteous} [Surah Yusuf:101].

Prophet Moses: {Put your trust in God, if you are Muslims} [Surah Yunus:84].

Prophet Solomon: {We have already known (the truth of Solomon's Prophethood) and we have become Muslims} [Surah Naml:42].

So why the turning away from it?

Do not assert your own goodness

A Muslim is one from whose tongue and hands Muslims are safe. If there is any superiority among Muslims, it is not by slogans, names and mere affiliation to groups. Rather, it is by mindfulness of God based on good character:

{People, We created you all from a single man and a single woman, and made you into races and tribes so that you should recognize one another. In God's sight, the most honoured of you are the ones most mindful of Him: God is all knowing, all aware} [Surah Hujurat:13].

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "O people. Your Lord is one and your ancestor is one. Verily there is no superiority of an Arab over a non-Arab or of a non-Arab over an Arab, and neither white over black, nor black over white, except by mindfulness of Allah..." to the end of the narration.¹

And his saying (peace and blessings be upon him), "Mindfulness of Allah is here," while pointing to his chest, is proof that it is not mere slogans or names. He then shows that this virtue is accompanied by humility, no contempt for others, and it does not call to derogation of others. He (peace and blessings be upon him) says, "It is enough evil for a Muslim to hold his brother Muslim in contempt..."

¹ Reported by Ahmad in 'al-Musnad' (23489) [Narrations of companions of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him)], and by others, with a sound chain.

Conclusion

- 1** The term 'Islamist' is a problematic term. Its usage has spread and expanded. Therefore, reflection on it, knowing its intent and clearly defining it is necessary. It has been used without precise elucidation of its meaning. Thus anyone who wishes to claim it, does so, even with the serious disparity among the groups and parties that claim it.
- 2** The appellation 'Islamist' is a novel, alien appellation. It was used in the face of other currents and doctrines, such as secularism and liberalism.
- 3** Usage of this term has repercussions and downsides such as supremacism, exceeding of proper bounds in the religion, disunion and distortion of Islam's image.
- 4** This appellation for many groups and individuals has become a way for whoever wants to reach his personal goals, such as authority, prominence, wealth or other interests.
- 5** There arose from this appellation feelings among those who call themselves by it that they are the people of truth, and that others are astray.



6

The appellation of 'Muslims' was mentioned in the Quran. Allah Most Exalted named us by it. So it should not be turned away from for something else, due to its nobility – neither for a novel term nor by following the West and others in the names that they apply to Muslims.

7

Superiority among Muslims is by mindfulness of Allah, as mentioned in the Quran and the Sunna.

Finally...

We are Muslims. We bear witness that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah. We believe in Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day and that everything, good and bad, takes place by the Divine Decree.

{Who speaks better than someone who calls people to God, does what is right, and says, 'I am one of the Muslims'?:}

All praise be to Allah for the blessing of Islam, and it is enough as a blessing.

O Lord of majesty and munificence, let us live as Muslims, die as Muslims,
and let us join the righteous!

Peace and blessings be upon our master Muhammad and upon his family and companions.



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