

RELIGIONS, SOCIAL STRUCTURE, AND ISSUES OF SOCIAL ORDER**Musulmonova Mohinur Ulug‘bek qizi**

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Abstract: This article scientifically analyzes issues of social structure and social order in religions. It highlights the role of religion in social life, its importance in shaping moral norms, and its functions in ensuring social stability. In addition, systems of social governance, human relations, and principles of social justice in different religions are comparatively examined. During the research, religious sources, historical literature, and modern scientific views were used to reveal the role of religion in the development of society.

Keywords: Religion, society, social order, religious values, moral norms, spiritual education, social justice, religious tolerance, civil society, religious rituals, youth education, cultural heritage, social solidarity.

Introduction:

Religion (Arabic: دین — “faith”, “belief”, “obedience”) is a set of actions performed collectively in accordance with ancient sacred texts, mythology, and rituals; it may also consist of personal belief and mystical experiences. The term “religion” is used both for personal practices related to communal faith and for rituals performed by groups. Most patriarchal religions promote the idea of dividing the world and humanity into two parts: one sacred and the other profane. Religion is also defined as a social system built upon core beliefs focused on a supernatural, sacred, or supreme being or force that cannot be directly observed or proven. Traditions, values, institutions, rituals, and sacred texts are considered closely connected with these core beliefs, some of which may not always align with secular philosophy. Religion is sometimes described as a “way of life.” The word “religion” is occasionally used in the sense of “faith,” though this is not always appropriate, since faith represents a personal conviction rather than a social system. Religion is belief in God, gods, or supernatural powers. It is a unique way of understanding the creation of the universe and human life, expressed through doctrines, emotions, worship, and the activities of religious organizations. There is no single universally accepted theory about the origin of religion. According to Islamic teachings, religion consists of divine laws revealed by Allah through His prophets for humanity. It represents a belief in the divine power that created nature and mankind and that guides humanity toward the righteous and truthful way of life.

Literature Review:

The relationship between religion and society has long been studied by philosophers, sociologists, historians, and scholars of religion. Scientific literature on this topic widely discusses the role of religion in shaping social structures, social order, moral values, and interpersonal relations. French sociologist Émile Durkheim, in his work *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, interprets religion as the primary social institution that unites society. According to him, religious rituals and beliefs strengthen social solidarity by uniting members of society around shared values. Durkheim emphasizes that the main function of religion is to preserve order and stability within society. German sociologist Max Weber deeply analyzed the

influence of religion on economic and political systems. In his work *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Weber scientifically demonstrated how Protestant teachings significantly influenced the development of capitalist relations in Europe. He argued that religion is not only a spiritual phenomenon but also an important factor influencing social development. Eastern thinkers also paid special attention to issues of religion and society. Abu Nasr al-Farabi, in his work *The Virtuous City*, advanced ideas about an ideal society and the perfect individual. According to al-Farabi, social progress can be achieved through governance based on moral education and religious values. These ideas are consistent with the principles of modern civil society. Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, in his work *India*, comparatively analyzed the social life of different religions and peoples. He explained, through scientific observation, that religious beliefs directly influence customs, social stratification, and lifestyles. This work remains an important source for studying religious tolerance and intercultural dialogue. Islamic sources also pay great attention to social order and societal relations. The Qur'an and hadiths extensively discuss justice, equality, compassion, family stability, and respect for human rights. In particular, the hadith collections *Sahih al-Bukhari* and *Sahih Muslim* contain numerous narrations concerning moral values, neighborly relations, business ethics, and social responsibility. Among modern researchers, Peter Berger proposed important ideas regarding the role of religion in the era of globalization. Despite secularization processes, he argued that religion continues to maintain its significance in social life. According to Berger, religion not only satisfies spiritual needs but also performs the function of moral control within society. Uzbek scholars have also extensively studied the relationship between religion and society. The works of Naim Karimov and Alisher Kadirov highlight the role of national values, religious tolerance, and interfaith harmony in ensuring social stability. In particular, the legal foundations of freedom of conscience and the activities of religious organizations in Uzbekistan contribute to the development of a modern model of state-religion relations. Overall, the analysis of scientific literature shows that religion plays an important role not only in the spiritual life of society but also in maintaining social order, moral norms, and social cohesion. Throughout different periods and civilizations, religion has significantly influenced governance, law, culture, and social relations.

Research Methodology:

The study was conducted based on the principles of historicism, comparative analysis, systematic approach, and scientific objectivity. During the research process, scientific literature related to religious studies, sociology, and history, as well as religious sources and modern scholarly works, were analyzed. Furthermore, issues of social structure and social order in different religions were comparatively examined, and their influence on social development was scientifically interpreted.

Analysis and Results:

In any society, moral norms are an important means of ensuring stability, trust, and peace. Religion strengthens these norms as divine commands. Therefore, religious people strive to demonstrate virtues such as justice, honesty, patience, and tolerance in society. In Islam, there are many verses and hadiths concerning morality, all of which are aimed at establishing peaceful coexistence among people. Likewise, in Christianity, moral principles based on the "Ten Commandments" serve to spread goodness within society. Religious holidays, collective prayers, charity, zakat, donations, and funeral ceremonies are not only performed in a religious spirit but also serve as tools for ensuring solidarity, mutual support, and social equality among

people. In Islam, the practice of zakat and participation in charitable works help reduce the gap between the rich and the poor. In Christianity, churches have established continuous support funds for the poor, needy, and sick. All these practices strengthen the system of social protection in society. Religion promotes principles such as obedience, responsibility, justice, purity, mutual respect, respect for elders, kindness toward the young, and obedience to laws. Through these ideas, religion contributes to the formation of civic culture. Observance of laws, acting for the common good, and maintaining moderation are often more strongly manifested among religious individuals. Spiritual education is an important factor in raising young people to become conscious, honest, and patriotic individuals. Religion has long been one of the strongest means of influence in this regard. For example, the Qur'an and other religious sources contain numerous commands and recommendations about respecting parents, seeking knowledge, speaking kindly, and refraining from evil deeds. These principles serve as essential guidelines for young people in choosing the right path within society. Religious traditions, ceremonies, and customs are inseparable parts of national culture. In the case of Uzbekistan, religious holidays such as Ramadan Hayit and Qurbon Hayit, as well as educational traditions such as recitations, prayers, and spiritual gatherings, have become deeply rooted in the people's identity and culture. This encourages society to preserve and value its cultural heritage. The relationship between religion and the state has always been complex and multifaceted. Throughout history, these relations have changed, and the role, rights, and opportunities of religious institutions in governance have been repeatedly reconsidered. In the first stage, many ancient civilizations based their political systems on religious beliefs and rules. At the same time, relations were aimed at maintaining a balance between religious and secular governance. In Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, religion and the state were inseparable. The Pharaoh of Egypt acted as a religious leader, and his authority was based not only on secular power but also on divine legitimacy. He was regarded as the representative of the gods and was expected to rule the people while paying close attention to religious beliefs and rituals. Such a union of religion and state dominated Egyptian society and was considered the main source of power. Similarly, during the Mesopotamian period, religious leaders and the founders of religious systems established strong ties between religion and the state. Such systems aimed to organize governance, laws, and social order on the basis of religious beliefs. States that adopted Islam as an official religion also sought to combine religion and state governance. During the Caliphate period, Muslim rulers, including Hazrat Ali (r.a.), possessed deep religious knowledge and attempted to establish high ethical principles in governance. Religious laws (Sharia) were implemented within the territories of the caliphates, and religion played a significant role in state administration. In Islam, however, certain tensions emerged between religious and secular leadership. During the time of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and afterward, governance in Islamic society relied heavily on religious values and principles. The Prophet's saying, "The best among you are those who are best to their families," also reflected moral guidance with social and political significance. In Europe, especially with the spread of Christianity, relations between religion and the state developed further. After Christianity was recognized as the official religion of the Roman Empire, religious governance became closely connected with political authority. Religious leaders such as the Pope directly influenced state policy and served as advisors to rulers, playing an important role in governing society. Throughout history, relations between religious and secular authorities constantly evolved. During the Middle Ages, conflicts frequently arose between the Church and the state. In particular, the strong influence of the Roman Catholic Church led to rivalry with secular rulers. Religious organizations directly shaped worldviews and influenced political processes. After

the spread of the Industrial Revolution and ideas of freedom, the separation of religious and secular governance began in Europe and later spread throughout the world. Similar political processes were observed in other regions as well. During modernization, relations between religious and political systems became simplified and separated. Thus, relations between religion and the state have changed and developed throughout history. In every era, these relations took different forms under the influence of particular civilizations and religious systems. Although the role of religion in governance has evolved over time, religious systems have consistently influenced society and played an important role in shaping state structures. Studying these historical processes remains highly significant for modern politics as well. Religion is one of the oldest and most influential social institutions in human history. It is not merely a system of belief but also a primary source of moral, cultural, and spiritual values. Every society's formation and development has involved religion as a crucial factor. All major civilizations in human history developed on the basis of religious beliefs. The influence of religion on social life extends beyond rituals and worship; it is directly connected to interpersonal relations, social order, moral standards, and social justice. One of the primary functions of religion in social life is the formation of moral values. Every religion encourages people toward goodness, truthfulness, respect for elders, kindness toward younger generations, diligence, honesty, justice, and sincerity. In Islam, these values are widely expressed through Qur'anic verses and Hadiths. Sayings such as "Allah loves those who do good" and "None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself" define the religious foundations of moral norms. Likewise, in other religions, principles such as "Love your neighbor as yourself" in Christianity and "Do not harm others" in Buddhism contribute to harmonious human relations in society. Moral standards are strengthened through religious teachings and serve as an essential condition for the healthy development of society. The family is the most important social unit of society, and its stability guarantees social stability. Religion, especially Islam, pays special attention to family matters. The Qur'an extensively discusses relations between men and women, marriage, child upbringing, and parental rights. Respect, responsibility, and compassion among family members are based on religious values. Religion assigns a role to each family member: the father as the head of the family, the mother as a source of kindness, and children as the fruits of upbringing. Religious marriages and holidays also strengthen family unity and warm relations among relatives. Religious teachings emphasize gender equality, responsibility for raising children, family prosperity, and honesty. The stability, peace, and development of society depend on solidarity and cooperation among citizens. Religion acts as a powerful spiritual means for ensuring this unity. Religions unite people through common beliefs and values, transforming them into communities. For Muslims, Friday prayers and Eid celebrations are not only acts of worship but also important social events that strengthen collective unity. Similarly, Sunday church services in Christianity, prayers in synagogues, and meditations in Buddhist monasteries strengthen community spirit, mutual respect, and solidarity. Religion encourages people to participate in collective social activities, thereby promoting cooperation, assistance, sacrifice, and peace within society. Historically, religions have promoted social justice. In Islam, the principle "Do not oppress, and do not allow oppression" and in Christianity, teachings such as "Help the poor and care for orphans" have strengthened the concept of justice. These teachings have inspired humanitarian movements, charitable works, and ideas of social equality. Religious laws encourage helping the poor, supporting debtors, and protecting widows and orphans, thereby reinforcing social justice. Today, many religious organizations continue to contribute to social justice. They are active not only in matters of faith but also in education, healthcare, culture, and charity,

promoting social equality and protecting human rights. Religions also help reduce social conflicts and support fair solutions in society. In today's era of globalization, young people are increasingly exposed to various ideologies, ideas, and cultures. In this context, religious education plays an important role in shaping their moral outlook. Religious teachings educate youth in the spirit of patriotism, honesty, patience, respect, piety, and diligence. Mosques, religious centers, and educational institutions bear significant responsibility in this regard. Religious education is also an important means of increasing young people's social activity, protecting them from harmful ideologies, and strengthening their sense of social responsibility. Through religion, young people gain a deeper understanding of their history, culture, and values. This contributes to national identity, higher social consciousness, and stronger ideological immunity. The role of religion in social life is broad and multifaceted. Religion functions not only at the level of personal belief and worship but also as one of the key factors in shaping moral, cultural, political, and social structures. Through strengthening moral norms, family values, social solidarity, justice, and youth education, religion contributes significantly to social stability. Therefore, understanding religion correctly and considering its role in modern social development remains an actual and important issue.

Conclusion and Suggestions:

In conclusion, religion, as an essential component of social life, plays a significant role in shaping social order, moral norms, and spiritual values. Different religions encourage people toward goodness, justice, solidarity, and mutual respect, thereby contributing to social stability. Religion is also an important factor in strengthening family values, educating young people, promoting social unity, and preserving cultural heritage. Historical processes demonstrate that although relations between religion and the state have taken different forms in different periods, religion has always had a substantial influence on governance and social life. In the context of modern globalization, the promotion of religious tolerance, interfaith harmony, and spiritual values remains highly important for the progress and development of society.

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