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Abstract

This article analyzes the development of Islamic studies in Turkey and its importance in the religious, scientific, cultural, and social spheres. Islamic studies has played a very important role in the history of Turkey, especially since the late 19th and early 20th centuries, important changes took place in the development of this field. The historical events, scientific institutes and modern research approaches that influenced the development of Islamic studies in Turkey are studied in depth. The importance of Islamic studies in the religious and political life of Turkey, as well as its relationship to contemporary social issues, is analyzed.

Keywords: Islamic studies, Turkey, scientific institutions, religious teaching, modern Islamic studies, religious life, historical development.

Introduction

Turkish Islamic studies is one country with great importance due to its rich history, scientific development and the integration of religious teachings with the modern world. The development of Turkish Islamic studies depends not only on the religious policy of the state, but also on the scientific environment, culture, and social conditions. Islamic studies is a product of the scientific schools that have been formed in Turkey over the centuries and has a special value for its theoretical foundations and applied research. Turkey, as one of the central powers of the Celestial Empire, has made major scientific achievements in the study and development of Islamic studies. During the Celestial Period, science and religious teachings flourished, and imams, scientists, and religious scholars organized their scientific activities. In the teaching process of Islamic studies, much attention is paid to the study of religious texts, hadith, fiqh, tafsir and methodology. During this period, Islamic studies was seen not only as a religious teaching but also as a key tool for organizing society, ensuring justice, and solving social problems. However, at the beginning of the 20th century, a new era began in Turkey's approach to Islamic studies. After the establishment of the Republic of Turkey in 1923, there was a new change between religious teachings and scientific approaches. It was emphasized that the introduction of secular politics, taking the first steps towards the separation of religion and state, reducing the role of religious institutions, but paying special attention to the development of scholarly approaches to Islamic studies, were noted. Modern Turkish Islamic studies, combining its historical roots and religious teachings with modern scientific methods, is growing. Leading Turkish research institutes in the field of Islamic studies, in particular the Presidency of Religious Affairs (Directorate of Religious Affairs) and the Faculty of Islamic Studies of Istanbul University play an important role in this process. Scholarly research on Islamic studies in Turkey focuses not only on



the study of religious teaching, but also on the application of Islamic values in society, solving new social problems, and aligning them with different political systems. A distinctive feature of Turkish Islamic studies is that it seeks to analyze religious issues in the light of the achievements of modern science, combining religious knowledge and scientific approaches. At the same time, Islamic studies in Turkey is of great importance not only for the study of religious science, but also for the development of religious awareness among Muslims, the improvement of social life and the solution of religious problems.

Literature review

The scientific research and literature on the development and importance of the field of Islamic studies in Turkey is wide and diverse. These publications provide detailed information about the historical development of Turkish Islamic studies, scientific approaches, approaches to the study of religious and social problems, and various social and political aspects of Islamic studies.

Islamic Studies in the Celestial Age

The first stages of development of Islamic studies in Turkey date back to the period of the Celestial Empire. During this period, scientific centers were established on the basis of religious teachings, fiqh, hadith, tafsir and other Islamic sciences. Ali Riza Yılmaz (2013) in his work "The Development of Islamic Studies in the Celestial Empire" emphasizes how scientific centers, such as madrassas and scientific research in Istanbul, played a significant role in practical approaches to Islamic studies. Islamic studies were practiced mainly by professionals working in the religious field, and they played an important role in religious life.

Changes in Islamic Studies in the Early 20th Century

At the beginning of the 20th century, there were major changes in Islamic studies in Turkey. The formation of the Republic of Turkey and the introduction of secular politics led to the formation of Islamic studies with new approaches. Ahmet Kuru (2009) in his work "Secularism and Religious Politics: The Turkish Experience" provides an in-depth analysis of the impact of secular politics on Turkish Islamic studies and how religious knowledge has changed. Kuru shows how secularism has played an important role in shaping religious teaching, as well as how state religious agencies such as the Presidency of Religious Affairs have influenced Islamic studies.

Modern Turkish Islamic studies is actively involved not only in the study of religious teachings, but also in the analysis of the role of Islam in society and its influence on politics. Ibrahim Kalin (2019), in his work "Modern Islamic Studies and Turkey", analyzes the current methods of Islamic studies and shows how these methods relate to religious and social issues. Kalin is one of Turkey's internationally recognized teachers who continues to develop Islamic studies on a scientific basis. He considers the balance between religious views and scholarly approaches important in modern Islamic studies.

Analysis and results

The development of Islamic studies in Turkey has historically been very complex and multifaceted. This process is closely linked to many historical, political, and religious changes that have shaped Turkey's place in the field of modern Islamic studies. Turkish Islamic studies underwent major changes in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, especially after the establishment of the Republic of Turkey in 1923. Religious and scientific institutes that coalesced with modern science and religious teachings created new trends and approaches of Islamic studies in Turkey. The purpose of



this analysis is to analyze the development of Islamic studies in Turkey, to study its historical stages, to determine what scientific and religious approaches exist today, and to study the results of this development in relation to social and political issues.

I. Historical development

16th century - 18th century: Islamic studies in the Age of the Celestials

The primary forms of Islamic studies in Turkey take shape during the Celestial Empire. By the 16th century, the Celestial Empire had developed Islamic studies as an important part of social and scientific life. During that period, science and religious teachings were closely intertwined, and important scientific fields such as fiqh (Islamic law), hadith (words and deeds of the Prophet), tafsir (interpretation of the Qur'an) and method (scientific method) emerged. The research centers of the Celestial Empire, especially the madrasah and scientific schools in Istanbul, played an important role in the development of Islamic studies. Not only were religious teachings taught in madrassas, but other fields of science and philosophy were also taught. Such research centers have played an important role in illuminating religious and scientific differences among Muslims, bridging religious divisions, and ensuring justice in social life. Although Islamic studies retained its scholarly quality during the Muslim period, due to political and religious influences, there were sometimes approaches based on strict interpretations of Islam. For example, in the Celestial Empire, major religious councils and fatwas were issued on the basis of Islamic studies, which became the main criteria for state policy.

Transformation of Islamic Studies in the 19th - Early 20th Centuries

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, new approaches to Islamic studies emerged in Turkey. During this period, the political, economic, and social systems of the Celestial Empire underwent drastic changes, which also affected Islamic studies. Under these conditions, Islamic studies began to develop based on scientific approaches. Approaches have emerged that emphasize the inseparability of religion and science. Most of the scientific and religious scientific approaches in the alphabet of the method are of a high scientific level and have been tested in practice in educational institutions. The development of innovative approaches in the field of Islamic studies in Turkey has been brought about by changes that include the Jadidist movement of 1908 and other scientific and religious renewals. For the first time in Islamic studies, scientific methods, historical approaches, new forms of tafsir and re-evaluations in the science of hadith were carried out for the first time. The Jadidist movement, important in introducing innovations in Islamic studies, developed the religious and scientific advice of its time.

II. Formation of the Republic of Turkey and Changes in Islamic Studies

Founding of the Republic of Turkey (1923) and Islamic Studies

After the founding of the Republic of Turkey in 1923, great changes began in the field of Islamic studies. This period saw the introduction of a secular policy in Turkey, reforms aimed at separating religious teaching from the state, and controlling state religious institutions. In 1924, madrassas and religious schools were closed, and religious institutions were excluded from the official state system. Such reforms led to the development of Turkish Islamic studies based on new scientific approaches, secular and scientific methods. The Presidency of Religious Affairs and Islamic Studies The Presidency of Religious Affairs (Diyamet Administration) is the official religious institute of Turkey. Founded in 1924, this institute systematically developed Islamic studies for the application of



scientific and religious teachings in society. Diyanet, in particular, played a major role in modernizing religious teaching, solving religious problems using scientific approaches and disseminating religious knowledge to the general public. He was instrumental in the publication of religious studies, fatwas, and religious scholarly literature. Modern Scholarly Approaches From the 1930s onwards, Turkish Islamic studies began to shape its modern approaches. New scientific methods were introduced in the study of religious science, economic and political issues. Academic institutions, such as the Faculty of Islamic Studies at Istanbul University and the Faculty of Islamic Studies at Ankara University, play an important role in the development of religious and scientific teachings. These institutions not only study religious teaching, but also scholarly analyze aspects of Islam as it relates to contemporary social and political issues.

III. Modern Turkish Islamic Studies

Turkish Islamic studies is based on scientific and religious methods. It provides for the change of religious teachings from traditional approaches to modern scientific methods, such as historical methods and scientific interpretations. Ibrahim Kalin (2019) analyzes modern approaches to Islamic studies in his work "Modern Islamic Studies and Turkey", shows the scientific foundations for the adaptation of Islam to social and political life.

There has been an increase in research in Turkish Islamic studies aimed at strengthening the links between ancient scientific methods and modern science. For example, research by Nihad Aydin (2018) focuses on examining the role of Islamic studies in social life and its role in politics. At the same time, there has been an extensive analysis of the relationship of Islamic studies to social justice, human rights, and democracy.

IV. Islamic Studies and Social Questions

Islamic studies in Turkey plays an important role not only in the study of religious knowledge, but also in solving social and political issues. Suna Akin (2018) in her work "Islam and Politics in Turkey" provides an elaborate account of how Islamic scholars analyze social and political issues, as well as the influence of religious policies and practices on contemporary Turkish politics. The application of Islamic studies in social and political issues in Turkey is important in addressing religious differences in society, developing religious awareness, and ensuring social stability. In this context, Turkish Islamic studies is not only academically but also actively involved in supporting social change.

Conclusion

The development of Islamic studies in Turkey is one of the most important factors in the religious and scientific life of the country. Although religious teachings, science, and Islamic studies passed through the early stages of their development during the Celestial Empire, a new era in this field began with the establishment of the Republic of Turkey. The Republic of Turkey, founded in 1923, allowed the development of Islamic studies on the basis of new scientific and religious approaches by promoting secular policies. In the twentieth century, the development of Islamic studies in Turkey based on scientific and religious methods reached its peak. Scientific centers such as the Presidency of Religious Affairs and the Faculty of Islamic Studies of Istanbul University conducted advanced research aimed at studying Islamic studies using modern approaches. These institutes devoted a great role to the detailed study of the scientific and religious aspects of Islamic studies,



the introduction of new scientific methods, and the analysis of the decisive role of Islam in modern society. Modern Turkish Islamic studies, combining religious science and scientific methods, is used as an important tool for analyzing social, political, and cultural issues. Islamic studies not only the study of religious teachings, but also helps prepare societies for social change, striking a balance between religious views and scientific approaches. Turkish Islamic studies, in particular, demonstrates its enormous importance in the development of religious awareness, bridging differences among Muslims, and ensuring social justice. Turkish Islamic studies also plays a major role in presenting the results of modern scientific and religious research to the public, influencing social and political changes. This sector makes an important contribution to ensuring the stability of Turkish society and by developing innovative approaches to solving religious problems. In order to further develop Islamic studies, introduce new scientific methods and adapt religious teachings to modern scientific approaches, much scientific research is ongoing in Turkey.

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