

Encounter with Modernity: Women and Family in Islam, the search for identity

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I. DESCRIPTION

Qasim Amin wrote his book "The liberation of women" at the end of the 19th century in an attempt to reform customs and revitalize Arabic culture. The education of women was seen as a key factor for the development of the Arabic countries. Q.Amin, together with his friend Muhammad Abduh, the Great Mufti of Egypt, started the campaign for reforms concerning the rights of women and her role in the family. Thus, Polygamy and divorce were curbed and the monogamic family became predominant in Egypt and other Islamic countries.

But the fate of women was united to the fate of their countries and dependent of the political events in colonial and post-colonial era. The spread of the Islamist Ideology had not stopped the access to education of women, but modern societies started searching for their identity in the identity of their women. Therefore, a narrow frame of rules concerning women expressed just a desperate search for identity in modern Islamic countries.

In addition to that, we will present a survey of the rights of women, while exploring the theological implications of the role of women and family in Islam.

II. CONTENTS

Seminar 1: Theological background: Women and family in Islam

Seminar 2: The rights of women and reforms of the law

Seminar 3: Nationalism and the rights of women: The way to monogamy

Seminar 4: The Islamist reaction: Fighting colonialism and the search for identity

Seminar 5: Women and family in modern Islamic countries: The keepers of tradition

III. METHODOLOGY

Seminar discussion
Commentary of texts

IV. EVALUATION

Participation in the discussion. Short essay