

## Abstract

The issue of Islamic Caliphate has been the most serious issue in the Islamic thought. It became the most controversial issue after the death of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Additionally, it was the main issue over which Muslims fought.

The importance of this study stems from the fact that it is an attempt to shed light on the dispute between the Muslim Brotherhood Movement and Hizb al-Tahrir with respect to the Caliphate issue. In addition, it identifies the real reasons that widen the gap in the views of these two movements.

Both of these Islamic movements view authority in Islam as a political authority rather than religious. They believe that the sovereignty is the sharra and that the authority lies in the hands of Ummah (nation)

Unlike Hizb al-Tahrir, the Muslim Brotherhood Movement views life from a modern perspective that does not contradict the Islamic Shari'a. The Movement tries to incorporate religion and modernity. This is evident in the Movement's stand towards democracy and political pluralism. The Movement believes that there might be possibility to make use of them and that the constitutional and representation systems are the closest modern systems to Islam. Modernity is evident in the Movement's opinion as regards the mechanism to accede to power. In this regard, the Movement

accepts the local state, the national state and the Islamic state accordingly. This means that the Movement believes in interim solutions in order to achieve its ultimate goal, the establishment of Islamic State.

Hizb al-Tahrir is more restricted than the Muslim Brotherhood Movement as it is confined to the thoughts of its founder Al-Nabhani's. However, it is clearer that the Muslim Brotherhood Movement in the sense that it has drafted a constitution for the coming Khilafa State. Hizb al-Tahrir rejects the local state and pushes towards the immediate enforcement of the Islamic state. It has experienced many crises with the governments. Furthermore, the Hizb believes that the system of democracy is Kufr (wrong). therefore, it might be neither dealt with nor followed.

Both parties agree that the Ummah is the party entitled to choose the ruler through Al-Bay'ah system. They believe that the ruler may not be imposed over the Ummah. Additionally, they believe that the ruler must be obeyed as long as he is obedient to Allah and his orders and he performs his duties towards the Ummah. Kafer rulers (those who do not believe in Allah and reject the Islamic Shari'a) may not be obeyed. Therefore, they view the present rulers as illegitimate and may not be obeyed. As a result,, they must be overthrown and rebelled against. This



