Islamic Political Thought

Popular Governance in the Alawi Discourse

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Abstract: This study explores the foundations and principles of popular governance in the Alawi discourse, with a particular focus on the political thought and practice of Imam Ali (AS). It argues that Alawi political theory emphasizes active citizen participation in decision-making, implementation, and oversight. Imam Ali (AS) considered government a divine trust, whose legitimacy is contingent upon public acceptance and consent. Core principles of this model include justice orientation, transparency, consultative governance, accountability of rulers, and the protection of human dignity. Within this framework, the people are recognized not merely as the "Pillars of Faith" and "God's Family," but also as holding a pivotal role in the formation, administration, and supervision of government. The study further suggests that revisiting the political legacy of Imam Ali (AS) can provide valuable insights for contemporary political systems seeking to develop indigenous models of popular governance that combine divine legitimacy with popular approval. Such a model has the potential to address the needs of modern Islamic civilization and to serve as a normative basis for effective governance in Muslim societies..

Keywords: Popular Governance, Imam Ali (AS), Political Participation, Human Dignity, Justice.