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The Role of Mosques and Friday Prayer in Emergence and Spread of Islamic Awakening

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Abstract

The Islamic Awakening movement is one of the most important developments in the Islamic world during the past century. The Islamic Awakening is a development inspired by "consciousness" and "will" in the sleepyhead Islamic societies in order to revitalize rights and restore Muslims' individual and collective identities. Given the mission and position of mosques and pray, particularly Friday Prayer in the Islamic Awakening, this article deals with the role of mosques and Friday Prayer in emergence and spread of the Islamic Awakening on the basis of documentary qualitative method by considering recent developments in the Middle East. The findings show that from the beginning, "mosque" has had various functions. From the start of Islam until now, mosque has been the basis of blending religion and politics, a base for raising consciousness of masses, a place for general unity and brotherhood, and a trench for mobilization and struggle of believers against tyrant rulers. As the most important basis of popular revolutionary mobilization in the Islamic Revolution was mosque and in Palestinian Intifada was Al-Aqsa mosque, today also the most glorious popular uprisings in such countries as Egypt, Yemen, Tunisia, Bahrain and Libya are resulted from mosques and Friday Prayers. During the Islamic Awakening in the Middle East, we can obviously find out that beside mosques, the Friday Prayer has a vital role in enlightening people and mobilizing revolutionary forces in order to protest against dictators. This fact can be realized through paying attention to naming Fridays under different revolutionary titles in different phases of combat.

Key words: Islamic Awakening; Mosque; Friday Prayer; Islamic Revolution; Middle Eastern Countries

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