



The Evolution of Islamic Diplomacy in the Modern Era And its Implications for Global Governance and International Relations

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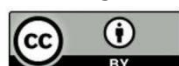
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Abstract

This study investigates the evolution of Islamic diplomacy in the modern era and its implications for global governance and international relations. It notes the increasing influence of Muslim-majority countries in global affairs, signifying a paradigm shift where Islamic values—such as justice, equality, and compassion—are integrated into diplomatic practices. Utilizing a qualitative methodology grounded in Constructivism and Realism, the research analyzes how ideas, norms, and power dynamics influence state behavior. Data was collected through an extensive literature review and examination of primary religious texts (Quran and Hadith), alongside institutional documents from organizations like the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). The findings highlight significant transformations in Islamic diplomacy, tracing its evolution from historical treaties like the Treaty of Hudaibiyah to contemporary multilateral engagement in international organizations. Key modern trends are identified, including a shift toward economic diplomacy, enhanced South-South cooperation, and collaborative efforts in counter-terrorism. While Islamic diplomacy presents opportunities for promoting cultural dialogue, good governance, and addressing global challenges such as climate change and poverty, it also confronts several challenges. These encompass value disparities with Western nations, the destabilizing influence of extremist groups, and the complexities of asymmetrical power dynamics in an anarchic international system. The study concludes that Islamic diplomacy is a crucial element of modern international relations, with the potential to foster a more inclusive, equitable, and peaceful world order. It advocates for open dialogue between Western nations and Muslim-majority countries, encourages Track II diplomacy, and suggests the adoption of nuanced, country-specific strategies to build mutual trust and enhance global stability.

Keywords: Islamic Diplomacy; Global Governance; International Relations; Multilateralism; Constructivism; Realism.

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INTRODUCTION

The rise of Islamic diplomacy has reshaped the global diplomatic landscape, necessitating careful analysis of its effects on international relations and global governance (Khan, 2019). As a distinct approach, Islamic diplomacy has expanded significantly in recent decades, driven by the increasing influence of Muslim-majority countries (Esposito, 2018). This expansion is characterized by the growing influence of Islamic values, principles, and norms on the diplomatic behavior of these countries, as well as the emergence of new actors and platforms promoting Islamic interests globally (Acharya, 2018). The complexities of Islamic diplomacy involve the role of Islamic values in shaping diplomatic behavior, the challenges and opportunities it faces, and its implications for global governance and international relations (Kamali, 2017). Understanding these dynamics is crucial in our changing world (Hunter, 2019).

The study of Islamic diplomacy offers valuable insights into the intersection of culture, politics, and international relations, providing a unique perspective on global governance challenges (Telhami, 2018). Its consequences for global security, economic cooperation, and cultural exchange make it an important area of study for researchers and policymakers alike (Ayoob, 2018). Recent events, such as the Arab Spring, the rise of extremist groups, and the increasing global power of Muslim-majority countries, have all impacted Islamic diplomacy. The growing importance of multilateralism and global governance has also influenced its development, with Muslim-majority countries playing a more active role in international institutions (Woodward, 2018). In an increasingly interconnected world, understanding the nuances of Islamic diplomacy is essential for fostering global cooperation and addressing shared concerns.

This work aims to contribute to the existing knowledge of Islamic diplomacy by providing a thorough examination of its evolution, consequences, and future possibilities, thereby enhancing our understanding of this vital aspect of international relations (Esposito, 2018). Through a comprehensive investigation, this study seeks to illuminate the complexities of Muslim-majority countries' diplomatic behavior and interactions with the global community (Acharya, 2018). By exploring the historical context and contemporary dynamics of Islamic diplomacy, this analysis will shed light on the opportunities and challenges it presents. Furthermore, this study will examine the impact of Islamic diplomacy on global governance and international relations, focusing on its consequences for regional and global stability (Gause, 2017). The findings will contribute to the development of more effective diplomatic strategies and policies that consider the intricacies of Islamic diplomacy (Telhami, 2018), ultimately advancing our understanding of its role in shaping the future of international relations (Stiglitz, 2019).

This study is organized sequentially to provide a comprehensive analysis of Islamic diplomacy. First, it defines the concepts of Islamic diplomacy and the theoretical frameworks that inform our understanding, establishing a foundation for further exploration. Next, it examines the history of Islamic diplomacy, tracing its development over time, before discussing its implications for global governance and international relations. Finally, the study analyzes the contemporary challenges and opportunities facing Islamic diplomacy, concluding with a summary of key findings and recommendations for future approaches. This analysis seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the complexities of Islamic diplomacy and its impact on the modern world.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a qualitative research design to explore the evolution and contemporary implications of Islamic diplomacy, integrating historical context with theoretical perspectives to enhance our understanding of international relations. The research methodology follows a sequential, descriptive-analytical approach, proceeding in distinct phases. First, the study clarifies

key terms such as "diplomacy" and "Islamic diplomacy," drawing upon both classical and modern scholarly sources. Second, it traces the historical evolution of diplomatic practices from the early Islamic period and the Rashidun Caliphate to the establishment of modern nation-states. Third, it thematically evaluates modern diplomatic trends, examining multilateralism within the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), as well as the increasing emphasis on economic diplomacy.

The analysis utilizes a dual-theoretical framework, incorporating Constructivism to explore how Islamic norms and values (such as justice and equality) shape the diplomatic behaviors of Muslim-majority states, and Realism to evaluate how these states operate within an anarchic international system to maximize power and protect national interests. The research relies on secondary data from a thorough literature review, including works by experts in international relations and Islamic studies, such as Esposito, Acharya, and Kamali. It also consults documents from international organizations like the OIC and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), as well as primary religious texts, including the Quran and Hadith, to provide ethical and legal principles for Islamic diplomacy. The thematic analysis of the collected data identifies both opportunities (such as cultural dialogue and reform) and challenges (for instance, extremism and value conflicts) associated with Islamic diplomacy, facilitating a critical evaluation of its influence on the current and future international order. This comprehensive approach emphasizes the significance of Islamic diplomacy in shaping global governance.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

The understanding of diplomacy, on the one hand, will enhance the knowledge of Islamic diplomacy. According to Satow (1917), diplomacy is "the application of intelligence and tact to the conduct of official relations between governments of independent states". He emphasised the significance of diplomats understanding the history, culture, and politics of the countries they work with. Kissinger views diplomacy as a means of achieving national interests through negotiation and compromise (Kissinger, 1994). He emphasises the significance of understanding other nations' motivations and interests, as well as employing diplomacy to control conflict and maintain stability. Berridge conceives diplomacy as "the conduct of international relations by negotiation, mediation, and other peaceful means" (Berridge, 2015). He emphasises the need for diplomats to be adept in negotiation, communication, and problem resolution. Diplomacy, according to Nye, is an important component of soft power, which he defines as the ability to achieve desired results through attraction and influence rather than coercion (Nye, 2004). He claims that effective diplomacy necessitates a thorough awareness of the cultural, economic, and political contexts of other countries. Diplomacy is a crucial tool for states to advance their interests, foster partnerships, and tackle global difficulties (Núñez, 2017).

Islamic diplomacy, also known as *Al-Siyasa Al-Dawliya Al-Islamiya* in Arabic, refers to diplomatic methods and principles based on Islamic values, principles, and standards (Kamali, 2017). Islamic diplomacy is based on the Quran and Hadith (the Prophet Muhammad's sayings and actions), which emphasise the significance of justice, compassion, and peaceful international relations (Qur'an 4:135, 5:8). The word "Islamic diplomacy" combines the adjective "Islamic," which refers to the Islamic faith, with the noun "diplomacy," which refers to the practice of international relations (Esposito, 2018). Khadduri (1956) describes Islamic diplomacy as "the application of Islamic principles and rules to the conduct of international relations" (p.23). He emphasises the role of Islamic law (Sharia) in determining diplomatic procedures. According to AbuSulayman (1987), Islamic diplomacy serves to promote peace and understanding between Muslim and non-Muslim states while preserving Islamic principles and values (p. 123). According

to Ayoob (2008), Islamic diplomacy is defined by the junction of Islamic values and international political realities, forcing Muslim-majority countries to strike a compromise between their devotion to Islamic principles and pragmatic considerations. Ehteshami (2007) emphasises the necessity of recognising the role of Islamic theology in affecting the diplomatic behaviour of Muslim-majority countries, notably in the Middle East (p. 102). Islamic diplomacy, as used in this study, refers to diplomatic procedures and principles based on Islamic values and standards in international relations. It includes a variety of actions such as negotiation, mediation, and representation, all aimed at establishing peaceful relations, resolving problems, and furthering the interests of Muslim-majority nations.

Islamic diplomacy emphasises the importance of peaceful coexistence among nations and communities, as reflected in the Quranic verse "God does not forbid you from being kind to those who have not fought you in [the matter of] religion nor driven you out of your homes - nor from being just towards them" (Qur'an 60:8-9). This idea encourages Muslim-majority countries to participate in diplomatic efforts to foster peaceful ties and mutual understanding with other nations. Peaceful coexistence is critical for developing collaboration and resolving national issues, and Islamic diplomacy aims to promote this value in international interactions. Islamic diplomacy, which prioritises peaceful cooperation, can serve to alleviate tensions and promote global stability.

Islamic diplomacy prioritises justice and fairness in international interactions, reflecting Islam's values of equality and compassion. The Quran emphasises the need of justice, saying, "O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it is against yourselves or your parents and relatives" (Qur'an 4:135). This principle directs Muslim-majority countries to promote justice and fairness in their diplomatic engagements, ensuring that all parties' rights are respected and protected. By supporting justice and fairness, Islamic diplomacy can contribute to increased trust and credibility in international interactions, resulting in more effective cooperation and conflict resolution.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This paper employs two theories for the analysis of the subject under consideration, namely: Constructivist Theory and Realist Theory. Scholars such as Peter Haas, Martha Finnemore, Emanuel Adler, and Alexander Wendt propounded constructivism, which emphasises the role of ideas and norms in constructing international relations (Adler 1997; Wendt 1999). It holds that international reality is socially produced, and that states' actions are impacted by common norms, values, and identities. According to constructivists, international relations are about more than simply material power; they are also about how that power is understood and interpreted. This viewpoint emphasises the significance of comprehending the social and cultural contexts of international relations. Constructivism also emphasises the impact of agents and structures on international relations. Constructivists can learn about the dynamics of international relations by investigating the development of norms and identities.

Constructivism is very effective for understanding how Islamic ideas and principles influence the behaviour of Muslim-majority countries. Islamic diplomacy is based on common Islamic ideals and concepts like justice, equality, and compassion (Adler, 1997). These beliefs impact Muslim-majority countries' diplomatic behaviour, influencing interactions with other governments and international organisations. Constructivism can help us understand how values are formed and understood in various circumstances. It can also shed light on the function of Islamic institutions and organisations in fostering collaboration and coordination among Muslim-majority nations. Constructivists can acquire a better understanding of the intricate dynamics of international relations by studying how Islamic diplomacy is built (Wendt, 1999).

In the context of Islamic diplomacy, constructivism can shed light on the role of ideas and norms in creating international relations. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is an excellent example of Islamic diplomacy in action. The OIC charter emphasises the role of Islamic values and principles in international affairs. Constructivism can help us understand how these values are created and perceived in international relations. It can also provide light on the OIC's role in promoting cooperation and coordination among Muslim-majority countries. In studying the development of Islamic diplomacy, constructivists can acquire a better grasp of the complex dynamics of international relations, as well as the importance of ideas and norms in moulding state behaviour. This can reveal important information about the future of international relations and the role of Islamic diplomacy in shaping global governance.

In contrast, Hans Morgenthau, John Mearsheimer, and Kenneth Waltz advanced the realist theory. Realism emphasises the importance of power and interests in determining international relations (Morgenthau, 1948). It holds that states are the fundamental actors in international relations, acting in their own self-interest to maximise power and security (Waltz, 1979). The international system is anarchic, which means that there is no centralised authority to enforce laws or keep order. States are rational actors who put their own interests and security ahead of all else. In the context of Islamic diplomacy, realism can aid in understanding how Muslim-majority countries utilise diplomacy to achieve their national interests and safeguard their sovereignty. Islamic diplomacy is frequently utilised to advance economic and security objectives, as seen by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries' efforts to foster regional economic cooperation and security (Ulrichsen, 2017). According to realist theory, these countries are motivated to maximise their power and security in an anarchic international system.

Islamic ideals and beliefs, such as justice and compassion, may affect how Muslim-majority countries pursue their national goals, although realist theory holds that states will ultimately prioritise their own interests over all else. Islamic diplomacy can help Muslim-majority countries achieve their goals while also protecting their sovereignty in the face of global difficulties and threats. Realism can also help us comprehend relations between Muslim-majority countries and non-Muslim powers, especially in terms of security and economic interests. For example, the realist viewpoint suggests that Muslim-majority countries may join alliances or engage in diplomatic attempts to offset the influence of non-Muslim states and preserve their own interests.

HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF ISLAMIC DIPLOMACY

The origins of Islamic diplomacy can be traced back to the early Islamic period, when the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) established diplomatic connections with various tribes and nations on the Arabian Peninsula. During this time, Islamic diplomacy was governed by the Quranic and Hadithic ideals of justice, equality, and compassion (Islam, 2017). During the early Islamic period, diplomatic missions and treaties were established, such as the Treaty of Hudaibiyah, demonstrating the importance of diplomacy in Islamic foreign affairs. The Rashidun Caliphate and the Umayyad Caliphate advanced Islamic diplomacy by sending ambassadors and messengers to different locations to negotiate treaties and accords. During this time, Islamic diplomacy was characterised by a blend of pragmatism and idealism, with Muslim leaders seeking to advance the Islamic state's interests while adhering to Islamic values. Islamic diplomacy's historical evolution has been influenced by a variety of elements, including Islamic teachings, cultural interchange, and geopolitical realities.

The rise of nation-states, colonialism, and globalisation have all presented significant problems and opportunities for Islamic diplomacy in the contemporary age (Khan, 2018). Muslim-majority countries have had to negotiate these developments while prioritising national interests

and sticking to Islamic precepts. The formation of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in 1969 was a watershed moment in Islamic diplomacy, giving Muslim-majority countries a venue to coordinate their viewpoints and foster cooperation (OIC, 2020). Islamic diplomacy was also affected by the growth of Islamist movements and the Iranian Revolution, which challenged established concepts of diplomacy and international relations. Despite these problems, Islamic diplomacy is still an essential component of international relations, with Muslim-majority countries playing a substantial role in regional and global affairs. The historical evolution of Islamic diplomacy has been characterised by a complex interplay between Islamic precepts, national interests, and global realities.

The study of Islamic diplomacy provides unique insights into the complex dynamics of international relations, emphasising the need to understand the cultural, historical, and ideological backgrounds that influence state behaviour (Acharya, 2018). Islamic diplomacy is guided by a distinct set of beliefs and values, including the importance of justice, equality, and compassion. These ideals have influenced Muslim leaders and diplomats as they interact with other countries and international organisations. The historical evolution of Islamic diplomacy emphasises the significance of pragmatism and flexibility in international dealings, as Muslim-majority countries have had to negotiate complicated geopolitical circumstances while advancing their national interests. The study of Islamic diplomacy can teach policymakers and researchers how to foster greater understanding and cooperation among diverse cultures and nations. Examining the historical development of Islamic diplomacy allows us to obtain a clearer knowledge of the complex dynamics of international relations and the role of Islamic principles and values in moulding state behaviour.

DISCUSSION

Modern Trends in Islamic Diplomacy

There are several trends in Islamic diplomacy as presented in the succeeding analysis. First and foremost, Muslim-majority countries have increased their participation in international organisations, raising their voices and interests on a global scale (Karns & Mingst, 2010). The United Nations, in particular, has become an important forum for these countries to engage in multilateral diplomacy and address serious global challenges (Smith, 2018). Furthermore, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has served as an important venue for Muslim-majority countries to coordinate their viewpoints and foster cooperation on issues such as counter-terrorism, economic development, and human rights (OIC, 2020). Furthermore, the Arab League has played an important role in encouraging regional stability and collaboration among its member states (Sharq, 2019). By joining these organisations, Muslim-majority countries have been able to use collective action and collaboration to address common concerns and advance their interests. This increasing engagement has also allowed for more conversation and collaboration between Muslim-majority countries and other nations, resulting in a more integrated and interdependent world. As a result, Muslim-majority countries have had a greater influence in creating global government and encouraging international collaboration. Furthermore, their membership in international organisations has provided them with opportunities for the interchange of ideas, knowledge, and resources.

Moreso, Islamic diplomacy has shifted its attention to economic cooperation and investment, recognising the importance of economic development in promoting stability and prosperity (Ulrichsen, 2017). The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has been at the vanguard of this effort, providing financing and technical assistance to Muslim-majority nations to promote economic development (IDB, 2020). Muslim-majority countries have been able to promote economic

cooperation and investment via the IDB and other organisations, resulting in greater economic integration and interdependence. This emphasis on economic diplomacy has also helped Muslim-majority countries diversify their economies and minimise reliance on oil exports. Furthermore, economic cooperation has eased the transfer of technology, experience, and resources, encouraging long-term development and economic prosperity. Prioritising economic diplomacy has enabled Muslim-majority countries to generate new chances for collaboration and growth while also fostering regional stability and prosperity. As a result, economic diplomacy has emerged as an important component of Islamic diplomacy, supplementing traditional diplomatic efforts and fostering a more holistic approach to international relations. Furthermore, this emphasis on economic cooperation has contributed to increased trust and confidence among states, producing a more conducive atmosphere for international collaboration.

Furthermore, Muslim-majority countries have collaborated with Western counterparts on counterterrorism efforts, recognising the importance of collective action in combating this global threat (Byman, 2018). This cooperation has taken several forms, such as intelligence sharing, joint training exercises, and capacity building (Hafez, 2017). However, Muslim-majority countries have raised worries about Islamophobia and terrorism-related labelling, which have the potential to increase tensions and impair collaboration (Abbas, 2019). To address these concerns, Western governments have emphasised the significance of distinguishing between Islam and terrorism while also encouraging interfaith discussion and understanding (Gerges, 2018). Muslim-majority countries have also attempted to take a more nuanced approach to counterterrorism, addressing the underlying roots of extremism while encouraging social and economic growth (Khan, 2020). This strategy has resulted in the creation of comprehensive counter-terrorism plans that balance security considerations with human rights and civil liberties. By fostering cooperation and understanding, Muslim-majority countries and their Western counterparts can effectively combat terrorism and improve global security.

Besides, Islamic diplomacy has improved links with other developing countries, encouraging South-South collaboration on global issues such as poverty, climate change, and pandemics (UNDP 2020). This collaboration has been fostered by developing countries' shared experiences and interests, which have tried to strengthen their collective voice and influence in global affairs (Najam, 2019). Muslim-majority nations have played an important part in this effort, using their economic and diplomatic resources to assist development projects and promote global solidarity (IDB, 2020). South-South cooperation has also allowed Muslim-majority nations to benefit from the experiences and expertise of other developing countries, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices (UNCTAD, 2019). Islamic diplomacy has contributed to global difficulties by encouraging collaboration and solidarity among developing countries, as well as creating a more equitable and sustainable world order. This collaboration has also contributed to a more balanced and inclusive approach to global governance, which takes into account developing countries' different needs and viewpoints. Furthermore, South-South cooperation has allowed Muslim-majority nations to capitalise on the potential of regional and global relationships, boosting their economic and diplomatic capabilities.

Implications of Islamic Diplomacy for Global Governance and International Relations

The implications of Islamic diplomacy in the modern era for global governance and international relations are multifaceted. These implications or effects are analysed herein. To start with, Islamic diplomacy helps to encourage conversation and collaboration between Muslim-majority countries and the West, increasing mutual understanding and peaceful conflict resolution (Telhami, 2018). Muslim-majority countries and Western nations can create trust and confidence

through diplomatic initiatives, resulting in a more conducive environment for collaboration (Katz, 2017). Islamic diplomacy can promote conversation on subjects of mutual concern, such as counter-terrorism, economic development, and regional security (Hafez, 2019). This collaboration can also assist in dispelling myths and preconceptions, resulting in a more nuanced understanding of each other's perspectives and cultures. In addition, Islamic diplomacy can foster interpersonal diplomacy by sponsoring exchange programs, cultural activities, and educational efforts (Ramadan, 2020). Islamic diplomacy, by encouraging conversation and cooperation, can contribute to peace, stability, and understanding between Muslim-majority countries and the West. Effective diplomacy can also help to avoid problems and resolve them peacefully.

One key point is that Islamic diplomacy helps address global issues like poverty, climate change, and pandemics by encouraging cooperation and collective action (Sachs, 2015). Muslim-majority countries can collaborate with other countries to share information, experience, and resources, allowing them to better handle these difficulties (IDB, 2020). Islamic diplomacy can also encourage the exchange of best practices and technologies, thereby supporting sustainable development and environmental protection (UNEP, 2019). Furthermore, Islamic values like zakat (charity) and waqf (endowment) can be used to fund development projects and improve social welfare (Khan, 2018). Islamic development can assist address some of the world's most serious concerns by encouraging collaboration and collaborative action, resulting in a fairer and sustainable global order. Nations can work together to make the planet a more resilient and affluent place for future generations.

Another important consideration is that Islamic diplomacy has the potential to promote tolerance and respect for variety while also facilitating cultural interchange and understanding across different civilisations. Muslim-majority countries can enrich the global cultural landscape by promoting the flow of ideas, values, and civilisations via diplomatic initiatives (UNESCO, 2020). Islamic diplomacy can also foster educational exchanges, allowing students and scholars to benefit from one another's experiences and ideas. Furthermore, cultural exchange programs can serve to enhance people-to-people diplomacy, which fosters greater understanding and collaboration across nations (Kraidy, 2018). By encouraging cultural interchange and understanding, Islamic diplomacy can serve to bridge the gap between civilisations, resulting in a more harmonious and peaceful world. Furthermore, Islamic diplomacy can aid in the preservation of cultural legacy, thereby conserving the rich cultural diversity of Muslim-majority nations. Despite the above, there are some challenging implications of Islamic diplomacy for global governance and international relations.

Additionally, differences in values and interests between Muslim-majority countries and the West can lead to substantial tensions and confrontations, particularly over human rights, freedom of expression, and security (Pew Research Centre, 2019). These disparities can be traced to differing cultural, historical, and ideological circumstances that form national perceptions (Huntington, 1993). Muslim-majority countries may perceive Western emphasis on human rights and freedom of expression as an intrusion into their internal affairs or a danger to their cultural and religious identities (Khan, 2018). On the other hand, Western countries may regard some Muslim-majority countries' ideals and practices as incompatible with universal human rights and democratic principles (Donnelly, 2013). These competing values and interests can cause misunderstandings, mistrust, and conflict, jeopardising global cooperation and stability. As a result, it is critical to engage in communication and diplomacy to resolve these conflicts and find common ground. Nations may handle global concerns by developing mutual understanding and respect.

Moreover, extremist groups' actions can seriously weaken Islamic diplomacy, posing difficulties to world governance and international relations (Byman, 2018). These groups

frequently use cultural and religious differences to spread hatred and violence (Stern, 2003). Extremist groups' indiscriminate use of violence can cause extensive human suffering, destabilise regions, and weaken trust in governments and institutions (Hafez, 2017). Furthermore, the acts of extremist groups can reinforce unfavourable stereotypes and Islamophobia, making it more difficult for Muslim-majority countries to engage in diplomatic initiatives. To combat extremism and terrorism, it is critical to address the underlying causes, such as poverty, injustice, and a lack of opportunities (Krause, 2017). Nations may collaborate to combat extremism and promote global peace and security by fostering economic development, social fairness, and human rights.

Nevertheless, power dynamics can restrict the impact of Islamic diplomacy, with some countries holding greater influence than others (Waltz, 1979). The allocation of power and influence in international affairs might impact Muslim-majority countries' ability to promote their interests and beliefs (Mearsheimer, 2001). Some countries may utilise their economic or military force to impose influence over others, reducing the effectiveness of Islamic diplomacy (Keohane 2005). Furthermore, Western nations' dominance in international institutions can hinder Muslim-majority countries' ability to speak up and exert influence. To address global difficulties, Muslim-majority countries must develop their economic and diplomatic capacities, encourage South-South cooperation, and take joint action. Nations can collaborate to promote global peace and security by advocating for a more balanced and equitable distribution of power.

Opportunities for Global Governance

Islamic diplomacy helps to promote reform and modernisation initiatives in Muslim-majority nations, strengthening good governance, human rights, and the rule of law (Khan, 2018). Via engaging in diplomatic initiatives, Muslim-majority countries can learn from the experiences of other countries and implement best practices in governance and human rights. Islamic diplomacy can allow the flow of ideas and skills, supporting reform and modernisation in fields such as education, economics, and politics (Esposito 2019). Furthermore, Islamic ideals and concepts can be used to promote social justice, equality, and human rights, therefore aiding reform and modernisation initiatives (An-Na'im, 2018). By promoting good governance and human rights, Islamic diplomacy can serve to establish trust and confidence in governments and institutions, hence ensuring stability and security. Effective reform and modernisation can also assist in addressing the core causes of extremism and terrorism, resulting in a more peaceful and stable world (UNDP 2017). Ultimately, Islamic diplomacy can help to create more just, egalitarian, and affluent civilisations.

Islamic diplomacy can help multilateral collaboration on global issues by encouraging collaborative action and problem-solving (Keohane, 2005). Nations can promote global peace and security by working together to confront common concerns like climate change, pandemics, and economic instability (IPCC, 2018). Islamic diplomacy can serve as a platform for Muslim-majority countries to engage with other nations, fostering cooperation and collaboration on topics of mutual concern (OIC, 2020). Similarly, Islamic ideas and principles can be used to encourage national solidarity and cooperation, promoting a feeling of global community and shared responsibility (Khan, 2018). Multilateral collaboration can also contribute to a more equitable and balanced global order by addressing all nations' needs and concerns (Stiglitz, 2017). Through encouraging communal action and problem-solving, Islamic diplomacy can help to establish more effective and long-term solutions to global concerns. Ultimately, multilateral collaboration can contribute to a more peaceful, stable, and affluent world.

Islamic diplomacy has the potential to foster cultural dialogue and understanding, hence bridging gaps across civilisations (Huntington, 1993). Nations can foster mutual understanding

and respect through cultural exchange and discussion, lowering the likelihood of war and promoting peace (UNESCO, 2020). Islamic diplomacy can enhance the sharing of ideas, values, and cultures, resulting in a more nuanced knowledge of various civilisations and cultures (Esposito 2019). Furthermore, cultural discussion can foster tolerance and acceptance, decrease the propagation of extreme ideology, and boost social cohesiveness (Kraidy, 2018). Through promoting cultural dialogue and understanding, Islamic diplomacy can help to create a more harmonious and peaceful world in which diverse cultures and civilisations can coexist and flourish. Effective cultural engagement can also contribute to people-to-people diplomacy, creating greater understanding and collaboration across nations (Nye, 2004). Ultimately, cultural exchange can contribute to a more peaceful and wealthier world.

Challenges for International Relations

There are several challenges that Islamic diplomacy poses to international relations. For example, managing disparities in beliefs and interests between Muslim-majority countries and the West will continue to be a key challenge in international affairs, necessitating diplomatic efforts and communication to foster mutual understanding and respect (Huntington, 1993). These distinctions can cause misunderstandings, mistrust, and conflict, damaging global cooperation and stability (Telhami, 2018). Promoting people-to-people diplomacy, cultural exchange programs, and educational initiatives will be key to effectively managing these differences (Nye, 2004). Muslim-majority countries and Western nations must communicate openly and honestly, addressing shared concerns and establishing common ground (Esposito, 2019). This can include establishing agreements and treaties that reflect the interests and values of all parties concerned (Khan, 2018). Nations can foster trust and collaboration by efficiently managing their differences, resulting in a more peaceful and stable world. Furthermore, increasing mutual understanding and respect might help to avoid misconceptions and misinterpretations, lowering the risk of conflict (Kraidy, 2018). Finally, resolving conflicts will necessitate a long-term commitment to diplomacy and cooperation.

In addition, to combat extremism and terrorism, the international community will need to work together and take a comprehensive, multifaceted approach (Byman, 2018). These events endanger world peace and security by generating extensive human misery and destabilising regions (Hafez, 2017). To combat extremism, governments must collaborate to share intelligence, coordinate law enforcement activities, and promote social and economic growth (Krause, 2017). Addressing the underlying causes of extremism, such as poverty, inequality, and a lack of opportunities, would be critical (UNDP, 2017). Nations can build effective counter-extremism and terrorist tactics by encouraging cooperation and collective action, resulting in a more peaceful and stable world (IPCC 2018). Likewise, encouraging mutual understanding and tolerance among diverse cultures and civilisations can contribute in the prevention of extremist beliefs (Kraidy, 2018). Finally, combating extremism will necessitate a continuous commitment to collaboration and collective action. Effective counter-terrorism plans will also include strengthening human rights and the rule of law (UN, 2020).

CONCLUSION

This study explores the evolution of Islamic diplomacy and its impact on global governance and international relations. It begins by tracing its origins in early practices, such as the Treaty of Hudaibiyah, and then examines its modern manifestations through active participation in multilateral organizations like the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations. A key development is the growing importance of economic diplomacy, driven by

institutions like the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), which focuses on economic cooperation and investment to foster regional stability and development.

Islamic diplomacy has far-reaching implications, facilitating dialogue and cultural exchange while simultaneously confronting challenges posed by extremist actions, power disparities, and differing values with Western nations. This study employs both Constructivist and Realist theoretical frameworks. Constructivism elucidates how religious and cultural norms, such as justice (\$adl\$) and compassion, shape state identities and diplomatic conduct. Conversely, Realism demonstrates how Muslim-majority states strategically use diplomacy to navigate the anarchic international system, safeguarding their sovereignty and pursuing their national interests.

To harness the potential of Islamic diplomacy for a more inclusive and peaceful world, this study proposes several policy recommendations. These include promoting consistent dialogue and cultural exchanges between Muslim-majority states and the West to foster trust and counter misunderstandings. Policymakers should also recognize the internal diversity within Muslim-majority countries, avoiding broad generalizations. Furthermore, the study advocates for supporting Track II initiatives, which engage academics and civil society in informal diplomatic processes, and strengthening institutional mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of diplomatic efforts in promoting peace and economic prosperity. A nuanced understanding of Islamic diplomacy is essential for fostering global cooperation and addressing shared global challenges in an increasingly interconnected world.

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