



GLOBALIZATION'S EFFECTS ON ISLAMIC CULTURAL IDENTITY: ANALYTICAL STUDY

Ali Mohammed Abd

The Islamic University in Najaf, Iraq

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Abstract:

This study is an attempt to highlight the effect of globalization on Islamic cultural identity during the contemporary technological developments. This study investigates the concept of globalization and its effects on Islamic cultural identity in light of contemporary intellectual challenges. It defines Islamic identity, presents contemporary intellectual challenges, and examines their effects on Islamic identity. The study identifies Islamic identity as based on belief, language, values, history, and divinity. Contemporary intellectual challenges, such as materialism, utilitarianism, complexity, nihilism, and western centralism, have negatively impacted Islamic identity. These challenges exploit various means, such as states, international organizations, lobbies, social media platforms, foreign schools, universities, and the media, leading to the absence of spiritual and faith dimension, weakening Arabic language, family disintegration, and obstructing Islamic message. To reduce these influences, it is essential to understand reality, strengthen Islam, enhance Arabic language, and intensify communication and social solidarity among Muslims.

1. Introduction:

Globalization is a complicated and multidimensional process that has an impact on many facets of human life. As a result, the modern world is undergoing significant changes. The effect of globalization on Islamic cultural identity becomes a crucial topic that demands research and analysis in the midst of these changes. With its rich diversity, ancient history, and deeply ingrained ideals, Islamic cultural identity faces both fresh opportunities and difficulties in a world growing more interconnected by the day. The goal of this research is to present a thorough and in-depth analysis of how globalization has affected Islamic cultural identity.

It also examines the many viewpoints on this topic within the Islamic community and the function of community, religious, and educational institutions in preserving identity. In order to gain a thorough grasp of this complicated issue, this study analyses a range of scholarly sources. Its goal is to give scholars, researchers, and anyone else interested in Islamic and cultural affairs a comprehensive understanding of this modern dynamic.

2. The Concept of Globalization:

A historical phenomenon brought about by technical advancement and human ingenuity, globalization is the term used to describe the growing economic integration of nations, especially through the cross-border flow of capital, goods, and services. The movement of people (labour) and knowledge (technology) across international borders may also be included in the phrase. The 1980s saw the rise in use of the word "globalization," which reflected technology advancements that sped up and eased international trade and financial flows. The same market forces that have governed human economic activity at different levels for ages are being extended across national boundaries [1]. The process of growing interconnection and integration of the economies, markets, societies, and cultures of many nations worldwide is known as globalization, according to a more general academic definition. This has been made possible by the development of transportation, the liberalization of money flows, the reduction of trade obstacles, and the advancement of information and communications technology. Globalization is directly related to social and cultural forces and is not only about economics [2]. Globalization, according to some modern social theorists, refers to fundamental shifts in the temporal and spatial dimensions of social existence, where the idea of the importance of place or territory is evolving as a result of the dramatic acceleration of the temporal dimensions of important human activities. A common way to assess the geographical dimension is in terms of time. The dimension is compressed or "annihilated" as the amount of time needed to connect various locations decreases [3].

3. The Impact of Globalization:

Globalization, a process of integrating the world economically, politically, socially, and culturally through technology, transportation, and communication, has both positive and negative effects. It has increased productivity, competitiveness, and living standards, but has also led to an imbalanced distribution of benefits and losses, especially in developing countries, particularly African ones, resulting in polarization. Nnoli highlights the challenges of democracy in Africa due to economic privation and wealth inequalities. Globalization has impacted African societies, particularly in areas where state-sponsored social welfare policies were cancelled. This has led to liberal democracy and democratization of political and governance systems, with both negative and positive effects. (Nnoli, 2000 p.174)

Globalization has brought wealth but also marginalized countries with lack of technological connectivity. Mobile phones and the internet have bridging the communication divide, while the "global village" connects victims of conflict and natural disasters. Globalization increases awareness of health risks and multiplies them, as seen in Ebola, HSN1, and HIV/AIDS epidemics. Global consumer culture, like English, gradually eradicates local dialects, impacting finance, markets, trade, migration, and media.

4. Islamic Cultural Identity:

A collection of elements and traits that set Muslims apart from other people in every sphere of their existence is known as Islamic cultural identity. According to Muhammad Amara, it is "the characteristics, traits, and behaviors that distinguish the Islamic community from other communities [4].

The fundamental elements of Islamic cultural identity are faith (including all beliefs, laws, and rulings outlined in the Qur'an and the Sunnah), Arabic (as the language of the Qur'an), values (such as honesty, justice, mercy, and humility), a shared history (including the biography of the Prophet Muhammad and significant events in Islamic history), and geography (including the symbolic dimension of Mecca and Medina, and the virtual geography of the era of globalization). This identity is not just an identity card or passport; rather, it is a deeply ingrained aspect of someone's being that both influences and is influenced by other identities [4]. There is a wide range of Islamic cultural expressions worldwide as a result of the formation and development of Islamic cultural identity in various social and geographic situations, as well as interactions with other civilizations and local influences [5].

4.1 Language: Challenges and Transformations in the Use of Arabic

One of the biggest issues affecting Arabic in the age of globalization is the proliferation of English and Western media. English is making a strong linguistic impact as the primary worldwide language in commerce, media, science, and technology. As a result, Arabic is being used less frequently in various circumstances, particularly among young people [6]. The "God lexicon," a diverse set of religious terms that make up a distinctive aspect of the Arabic language, is in danger of disappearing as a result of this [7]. Through the creation of cutting-edge educational programs that make use of contemporary technology and the introduction of cultural initiatives meant to increase awareness of the significance of the Arabic language and its civilizational value, considerable efforts are being made to preserve and promote the Arabic language in the face of these obstacles [8]. Since many Muslims worldwide find it simpler to communicate and express themselves in English, particularly in Western societies, bilingualism and the use of other languages, particularly English, to convey Islamic identity are also common [9].

4.2 How Conventional Islamic Values Are Affected by Western and Global Values:

Traditional Islamic values, which place a strong emphasis on collectivism, humility, and religiosity, are greatly influenced by globalization concepts like individualism, consumerism, and secularism [10]. In the context of globalization, this impact leads to an ongoing confrontation and interplay between Islamic and Western principles [11]. Muslims strive to balance these occasionally opposing ideals in their day-to-day lives, stressing the significance of Islamic principles as a source of direction and purpose in a world that is changing [12]. There are disagreements on whether Islam and secularism can coexist; some perceive secularism as a danger to moral and religious principles, while others see it as a potential compromise [13].

In spite of globalization, Muslim communities around the world continue to practice many of their traditions and customs, which vary and differ from one region to another. However, some of these traditions and customs change as a result of global influences, such as the impact of globalization on Islamic marriage and dress patterns. Religious and community institutions are crucial in maintaining Islamic cultural heritage by planning events and activities that are meant to revive traditions [14].

4.3 The Evolution of Islamic Arts and Their Impact on World Fashions:

Modern Islamic art forms that blend authenticity and modernity have emerged as a result of the influence of contemporary global art trends on traditional Islamic arts like calligraphy and decoration [15]. By combining traditional Islamic art aspects with modern techniques and materials, contemporary Muslim artists help to improve these art forms [16]. As interest in Islamic art rises in international galleries and museums and the global market for Islamic art expands, globalization contributes to the spread and appreciation of Islamic art around the world [17].

4.4 The Development of Western Media and Its Effect on Values and Perceptions:

4.4.1 The Role of Media and Technology in Creating Islamic Cultural Identity:

Western media, especially films, TV shows, music, and social media, propagate ideals and ways of life that might be at odds with Islamic cultural identity [18]. Young Muslims are especially impacted by this, as they might embrace some of these beliefs and ways of living, making it difficult to uphold traditional Islamic principles [19]. Muslims use their media to offer alternative Islamic content that upholds cultural identity and promotes Islamic ideals in an effort to offset these influences [20].

4.4.2 Technology as a Tool to Spread and Advance Islamic Culture:

In addition to offering forums for discussion and the expression of Islamic identity, the Internet and social media play a major role in the spread of Islamic knowledge, art, and culture [21]. Beyond geographic borders, technology is crucial in bringing Muslims together globally and promoting a sense of unity among the Islamic Ummah [22]. But there are also moral and theological issues with technology, such the dissemination of false information and the possibility of misrepresenting Islamic teachings, which call for a cautious and thoughtful response [23].

4.4.3 The Impact of Migration and Global Mobility on Islamic Cultural Identity:

4.4.3.1 Muslims' Interaction with Other Cultures and Its Impact on Their Identity.

In the diaspora, Muslims' interactions with Western cultures have varying effects on their identities; some embrace new lifestyles and ideals, while others uphold their fundamental Islamic beliefs [24]. The idea of a "hybrid identity," in which Muslims combine characteristics of their Islamic past with those of the society they live in, is the result of this interaction [25]. The fear of assimilation and the loss of linguistic and cultural legacy are two obstacles Muslims in these societies confront in maintaining their cultural identity [26].

4.4.3.2 Identity Preservation Issues in Multicultural Societies:

Muslims in multicultural cultures encounter several obstacles to maintaining their cultural identity, such as Islamophobia and discrimination, which affects their sense of identity and belonging [27]. In the diaspora, Islamic establishments like mosques and cultural centers are essential for maintaining identity and offering assistance [28]. Muslims make an effort to strike a balance between maintaining their cultural uniqueness and assimilating into a new community, stressing the value of creating resilient communities that can overcome obstacles [29].

4.4.3.3 Threats of Cultural Standardization and Decline of Identity:

Cultural standardization and the domination of particular ideals are threats associated with globalization, endangering Islamic cultural variety and causing local cultures to be replaced by Western culture. Growing global influences, such as the effect of international media that promote Western ideals and lifestyles that can be at odds with Islamic beliefs, raise the risk of losing

Islamic cultural distinctiveness [30]. In order to fend against these dangers and maintain a unique identity, Muslims must appreciate their culture, uphold fundamental Islamic principles, and cultivate the critical thinking and dedication necessary to face today's issues [31]. Opportunities for Global Communication and Cultural Exchange Despite the difficulties, globalization presents a wealth of opportunities for communication and cultural exchange between Muslims and non-Muslims, which helps to improve understanding of Islam and its culture globally [32]. These opportunities can be used to correct misconceptions and negative stereotypes about Islam and its culture, as well as to enrich Islamic cultural identity through interaction with other cultures and the sharing of ideas and knowledge, while highlighting the value of intercultural dialogue in fostering understanding and peaceful coexistence [33].

5. Conclusion:

The study explores the Islamic identity, a broad subject that encompasses faith, language, values, morals, history, and geography. It highlights the divine, religious, eschatological, collective, and moderation aspects of Islamic identity. Contemporary intellectual challenges, such as materialism, utilitarianism, absurdity, futility, and hostility, have negatively impacted Islamic identity, including the absence of spiritual and faith dimension, weakening of Arabic language, family disintegration, and dominance of individualism over collectivism. To mitigate these challenges, awareness of these challenges, strengthening of affiliation with Islam, strengthening of Arabic language without neglecting other languages and increased activity of the Islamic message are recommended. Additionally, communication and social solidarity should be intensified to further strengthen Islamic identity.

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