

# THE DYNAMICS OF ISLAMIC CULTURAL IDENTITY IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION<sup>§</sup>

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## Abstract

*Islamic cultural identity is a unique and dynamic process, primarily shaped by religious value system of Islam. However, it is being threatened by cultural globalization as a way of importing Western cultural products into Muslim societies. This paper explores the construction and structure of Islamic cultural identity, and its dynamism in the rapidly globalized twenty-first century. It begins with a brief analysis of the debated concepts of 'culture' and 'identity'. Subsequently, a theoretical model on the formation of Islamic cultural identity has been illustrated based on Tawhidic paradigm. The discussion follows with an appraisal of the contemporary situation of Muslim societies in the identity vacillation process between that of sacred and secular culture. It has been observed that majority of the Muslims tend to adopt and consume the cultural products coming from the secular West. This study also offers a comparison between Islamic and secular cultural identities, and the root causes of Ummatic identity crisis. Finally, it provides recommendations for reinforcement and revitalization of Islamic cultural identity in the Muslim societies.*

**Keywords:** Islamic culture, cultural identity, identity crisis, globalization, postmodernism.

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