

Book Review

Ideology of Pakistan
by Prof. Sharif al Mujahid
(Islamabad: Islamic Research Institute,
International Islamic University, 2001)
pp.212, HB Rs.300/-, PB Rs.250/-

The book was originally published in 1947 and was out of print for sometime. The Islamic Research Institute is to be lauded for publishing a largely revised, updated and enlarged version of the book.

The opening chapter discusses the relevance and importance of Islamic Ideology for Pakistan and supports the argument by pointing to the role of Christian concepts values and traditions in the west. Chapters two-three briefly trace the evolution of the two-nation concept and the role Islam played in creating a Muslim nationhood in India. Chapter four argues that the division of Pakistan and emergence of Bangladesh were not necessarily the denouement of the Islamic ideology or of the two-nation theory. All it showed was the gradual erosion of the cluster of shared values beliefs, attitudes and political orientation because the ruling elites failed to translate the Islamic Ideology into social action programs. Chapter five is exclusively devoted to defining the basic ingredients of the Islamic ideology.

The division of India on the basis of religion did not make much sense to the people in the west where secularism reigned supreme. Many in Pakistan also questioned the attempt to make Pakistan an Islamic state. It seems the book was written to answer their critics. It is an extensively researched and very well argued

book. Sharif al Mujahid's scholarship is impressive indeed as is evidenced by the large number and quality of sources drawn upon.

His citing of the references to Christianity in the constitutions of a number of western countries is not very convincing. He has failed to make a distinction between Christianity as culture and Christianity as faith. The western societies are secular in nature and the role of Christianity there is only symbolic.

One has no quarrel with the general argument of the book but pragmatically speaking one cannot point out the dismal failure of the Islamic ideology as a tool of nation building. In the fifth chapter, Sharif al Mujahid has rightly pointed out that the essential ingredients of Islamic ideology comprise both *huquq Allah* and *haquq-al-ibad*, i.e., duties owed to God and duties owed to fellowmen. Unfortunately in Pakistan the emphasis has been only on the former and the latter has been forgotten. This bifurcation of individual morality from social morality and the total disregard of the latter has been calamitous. According to Sharif al Mujahid, it is not the ideology that has failed the nation; it is the nation that has failed the ideology.

The value of the book has been greatly enhanced by a scholarly foreword contributed by Dr. Zafar Ishaq Ansari, four Appendices, a comprehensive Bibliography and an Index. The production values of the book are excellent.

Dr. Rais Ahmad Khan