

**ANALYSIS OF THE CONCEPT OF SOCIAL CHANGE IN ISLAM AND THE  
THEORY OF SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE MODERN ERA**

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<b>Keywords</b>	<b>Abstract</b>
social change, Islam, social change theory, modernization, globalization	Social change in modern times is inevitable, resulting in increasingly complex global problems, such as economic inequality, climate change, and political and other tensions, which prompts the need for a new understanding of how social change can be achieved. In Islamic teachings, a Muslim is required to integrate religious values in facing the challenges of social change in today's digital and global era, because Islam has its own perspective and approach to dealing with social change. The purpose of this research is to explore the contribution of Islam in responding to contemporary social challenges, with a focus on the values of justice, welfare, and brotherhood. The method used is a qualitative descriptive analytical approach with a comparative literature study to compare the concept of social change in Islam and modern theories such as modernization and conflict. The results of the study show that social change in Islam does not only involve structural dimensions but also moral and spiritual, which begins with individual changes (tazkiyah) which then affect society (islah). In contrast, modern theories emphasize external changes due to economic, political, and technological factors. This research provides insight that these two perspectives complement each other, with Muslim societies integrating technology and modernization without abandoning religious principles. The conclusion of this study is that the ideal social change must combine the two to create a society that is not only economically advanced, but also just and prosperous socially and morally.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Social change is an inevitable phenomenon in every society in the world. In the global context, these changes not only occur naturally, but are also influenced by various complex factors such as technological developments, politics, economics, and cultural dynamics that

continue to evolve (Nurlela et al., 2024). In an increasingly connected world, social change can now happen very quickly and have far-reaching impacts. This process of change requires us to understand how societies adapt to new challenges, as well as how the concept of social change is understood in various traditions of thought, including in the perspective of religion and modern social theories.

Islam, as the religion with the second largest number of followers in the world, has its own view of social change. In Islamic teachings, social change is often seen as part of God's destiny that governs the course of mankind (Apriliani et al., 2024). However, Islam also emphasizes the importance of human efforts to contribute to creating positive change through the application of the values of justice, equality, and welfare. The understanding of social change in Islam is not only limited to theory, but is also manifested in the practice of daily life related to social, economic, and political interactions (Hapsah et al., 2024).

On the other hand, the theory of social change in the modern social world has developed rapidly along with the ideas that have emerged from social scientists. These theories seek to explain how certain factors can affect the social and cultural structure of society. One of the prominent theories is the theory of modernization which sees change as a linear process towards better development. In addition, there are also conflict theories that view change as a result of tensions between social classes, as well as structural theories of functionalism that see change as an adjustment in a social system to achieve equilibrium (Hidir & Malik, 2024; Maliki, 2018).

The various global events that have occurred in this modern era also provide a real picture of the social changes that are taking place. One of them was the Arab Spring phenomenon that occurred in the early 2010s, which showed how social and political change could occur quickly through popular movements that wanted a change in the system of government that was more democratic (Abushouk, 2016). The movement shows that although these countries have strong religious roots, modern social and political factors have created conditions that trigger major changes. A similar phenomenon is also seen in the MeToo movement which involves resistance to gender inequality in various countries. These social changes are not only triggered by economic or political factors, but also by the social values that develop in society (Ansar et al., 2024).

Technological developments and globalization also affect social dynamics around the world. For example, rapidly increasing digitalization affects many aspects of social and economic life, including in Muslim-majority developing countries (Anderiyansyah et al., 2024). Indonesia, for example, despite having a majority Muslim population, has also undergone significant social transformation in the areas of digital economy and information technology. This requires a deeper understanding of how these social changes can be addressed by communities in the context of their local religious, cultural, and traditional. In addition, global social change can also be seen in environmental issues that increasingly dominate the international agenda, such as climate change and sustainability (Permatasari & Putra, 2024). These issues affect not only developed countries, but also developing countries, including in the Islamic world. The issue of climate change, for example, has invited debate about the role of religion in encouraging people to be responsible for the earth. Some Islamic organizations, such as The Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change, have proposed concepts of social change based on religious teachings to solve the problem of climate change.

Social change in Muslim societies is often influenced by deep religious understanding, but it is inseparable from increasingly complex global challenges (Sakdiyah et al., 2024). In this context, the main issue that needs to be addressed is how the understanding of the concept of social change in Islam interacts with the modern theories of social change developed in the Western world. On the one hand, Islamic teachings provide profound moral and ethical guidance for better social change, but on the other hand, modern social theories often ignore the role of local religion and culture in understanding such change (Rustandi, 2020). This raises questions about the extent to which such theories can be applied in the context of Muslim societies that have strong social structures and religious values.

In addition, the development of globalization and technology in the modern era demands faster social change and often leads to the transformation of traditional values (Polnaya et al., 2023). Issues such as gender inequality, poverty, and climate change have created tensions between the traditional social values held by Islamic societies and the demands of modernity (Abdullah, 2020). This phenomenon demands a more in-depth study of how the concepts of social change in Islam can provide alternative solutions to global problems, while adapting to the ever-evolving modern social dynamics.

The urgency of this research lies in the profound need to understand how the concept of social change in Islam can play a role in responding to increasingly complex global challenges, especially related to technological developments, social change, and globalization. Despite the development of many modern social theories, it is often the role of religion in shaping social change in Muslim-majority countries that have not received enough attention. Therefore, this research is important to bridge these gaps and provide a new perspective in looking at the relationship between religion and social change theory in the modern era.

The Theory of Modernization, put forward by thinkers such as Walt Rostow and Talcott Parsons, provides the view that social change is a linear process towards progress and development (Badruddin et al., 2024). This theory assesses that society develops through certain stages towards a more modern and rational society. This research will examine whether modernization theories that focus on economic and technological development can be applied in Muslim societies that prioritize religious values in every aspect of their lives, as well as whether these developments can be aligned with Islamic principles of sustainable social change. In addition, the Theory of Social Change in Islam is also very relevant for this research. The Islamic perspective on social change emphasizes the role of religious values in creating just and sustainable social change. Social change in Islam is not only seen as God's destiny or will, but also involves the active efforts of humanity to achieve it by prioritizing the principles of justice, well-being, and balance (Duryat & Alphan, 2021). The teachings in the Qur'an and Hadith encourage the ummah to improve themselves and their social environment and think progressively in overcoming existing social problems. Therefore, this theory is very relevant in understanding how Muslim societies can integrate Islamic values with the social changes that are taking place in the context of globalization.

Some previous research relevant to this topic includes research by Miftahul Huda, (2015) which examines the dynamics of social change in the context of Islam and democracy, Farasi et al., (2023) which analyzes the role of religion in driving social change in Muslim countries, as well as Pakarti et al., (2023) which discusses theories of social change and their relevance to contemporary Muslim society. These studies provide an important basis, but not

many have specifically compared the concept of social change in Islam with modern social theories that are developing, especially in relation to global developments and technology.

The approach used in this study combines the concept of social change in Islam with modern social change theories in the context of the digital era and globalization. This research not only discusses existing theories, but also looks at how Islam contributes to creating more just and balanced social change in the midst of global challenges. Focusing on contemporary issues such as gender inequality, climate change, and the impact of digitalization is an added value in this study. The purpose of this study is to analyze the comparison between the concept of social change in Islam and the theory of modern social change, as well as to explore how both can be applied in dealing with social problems in the era of globalization. This research also aims to provide a deeper understanding of the role of religion in facing contemporary social challenges. The benefits of this research are expected to make a theoretical contribution to the study of social change, as well as practical for policymakers and society in designing social change that is more inclusive and based on acceptable religious values in a global context.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This research is a qualitative study with an analytical descriptive approach, which aims to explore and analyze the concepts of social change in Islam and the theory of modern social change through a literature review. This approach was chosen because the focus of the study is to understand the existing theories and evolving concepts of social change in Islam and compare them with modern theories of social change. The collected literature will be analyzed to provide a deeper understanding of the relevance of these theories in facing increasingly complex social challenges in the era of globalization.

The design of this research is a comparative literature study, which aims to compare and analyze the concept of social change in Islam with the modern theories of social change that are developing in the Western world. This study will focus on two main points, namely: (1) The concept of social change in Islam, which includes the religious view of change and the efforts of humanity to achieve it, and (2) Modern social change theories, such as modernization theory, conflict theory, and structural theory of functionalism. In this study, the data collected will be analyzed to see the similarities and differences between the two perspectives.

### **Data Collection Techniques**

The data collected in this study uses several techniques, including:

#### 1. Documentation Studies

Collect data from the literature that includes scientific books, journal articles, research reports, and other documents relevant to the research topic. This research will focus on sources that discuss the concept of social change in Islam and the theories of social change developed by modern social scientists.

#### 2. Literature Review

Sort, select and analyze from relevant literature on modern social change theories and concepts of social change in Islam. This research will explore the key arguments and theories that develop around this topic, by reviewing key sources that can provide in-depth insights.

### **Data Analysis Techniques**

In analyzing research data, the techniques used in this study include:

### 1. Thematic Analysis

Data collected through documentation studies and literature reviews will be analyzed using thematic analysis. In this technique, the main themes that emerge from the collected literature will be identified, both from the concept of social change in Islam and from modern theories of social change. Then, the researcher will compare and analyze the similarities and differences between the two perspectives.

### 2. Content Analysis

To enrich the analysis, this research will utilize content analysis on various relevant global events, such as the Arab Spring phenomenon, #MeToo movements, and other social change issues. This analysis technique aims to explore the application of theories of social change in the context of Muslim societies faced with the challenges of globalization and modernity.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A Conceptual Comparison of Social Change in Islam and Modern Theory

#### 1. The Concept of Social Change in Islam

Social change is a phenomenon that must occur in every society, including in Muslim society. However, social change in Islamic views has a distinctive foundation, which is different from the common view that exists in Western theories of social change. Islam has a very deep and comprehensive perspective on social change, which does not only include physical or structural aspects, but also includes moral, spiritual, and ethical dimensions. In Islam, social change is part of God's destiny, but it is highly dependent on the efforts and active role of individuals and communities in bringing it about (Syamsuddin et al., 2016).

Philosophically, Islam views social change as part of God's destiny that is inevitable and must be understood with wisdom (Scott, 2016). Change, in the Islamic view, does not just happen by chance or without a clear direction. Islam teaches that social change is part of the process of life that is regulated by God. Each individual and society is given the ability to respond to these changes in a way that is consistent with religious principles.

In many verses of the Qur'an, Allah reminds mankind that everything in this world is always changing. For example, Allah says in the Qur'an QS. Ar-Ra'd: 11 as follows:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنفُسِهِمْ ۗ

Meaning: *"Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change the condition of themselves."* (QS. Ar-Ra'd: 11).

This verse underlines that social change is not something that comes without effort. It is the result of the efforts of individuals and societies to improve themselves and improve the existing social structure.

#### 2. The Concept of *Tazkiyah* and Islah in Social Change

In Islam, social change does not only lead to physical or material change, but also to transformation moral and spiritual. Concept *Tazkiyah* (purification of the soul) and *islah* (improvement) play an important role in social change according to Islam. *Tazkiyah* is an effort to cleanse oneself of bad qualities and replace them with praiseworthy qualities that

are in accordance with religious teachings (Aisyah, 2023). It is a change that starts with the individual and continues into society. An individual who has purified his soul will become a better, more just, and more beneficial person to his society.

Islah, which means improvement, is an effort to improve all aspects of life, both in terms of morality, social, economic, and political. In the social context, islah focuses on the creation of a just, prosperous, and harmonious society. Islah in Islam does not only lead to structural changes, but also includes changes in the mindset and values embraced by society. Therefore, the concept of islah includes a more holistic improvement, involving all dimensions of human life.

One of the basic principles underlying social change in Islam is justice. In Islam, justice is the most fundamental values, both in the relationship between individuals and in the relationship between the individual and the Society (Taqiyuddin, 2019). The success of social change in Islam is highly dependent on the achievement of social justice. Allah emphasizes the importance of justice in many verses of the Qur'an, one of which is QS. An-Nisa: 58 following:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَنْ تُؤَدُّوا الْأَمَانَاتِ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهَا وَإِذَا حَكَمْتُمْ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ أَنْ تَحْكُمُوا بِالْعَدْلِ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ نِعِمَّا يَعِظُكُمْ بِهِ ۗ

It means: *"Indeed, Allah has commanded you to convey the mandate to its owner. When you establish the law among men, you shall establish it justly. Indeed, Allah has given you the best teaching."* (QS. An-Nisa: 58).

Justice in Islam refers not only to formal law, but also to the equal distribution of opportunities, the division of equitable resources, and equal treatment for all levels of society, regardless of social, ethnic, or gender status. In the context of social change, social justice in Islam must be reflected in various aspects of life, such as the distribution of wealth, access to education, and the provision of basic services for all members of society (Nurjanah, 2023). Social change in Islam must be able to overcome existing social inequalities, and create a balance between material wealth and spiritual wealth, between worldly and ukhrawi prosperity.

In addition to justice, two other important values that are the goals of social change in Islam are welfare and brotherhood (Dayusman et al., 2023). Islam teaches that the ultimate goal of any social change is the creation of a prosperous society, in which all individuals get their rights fairly and live in happiness and tranquility. Welfare in Islam does not only refer to material prosperity, but also includes spiritual well-being. Social welfare in Islam means creating a society free from injustice, poverty, social tension, and violence. This welfare will be achieved if the community can live in harmony and work together to achieve the common goal, which is to improve the quality of life of individuals and communities, both physically and spiritually. Brotherhood, or ukhuwah, is also an important value in Islamic social change. Islam teaches that all human beings are brothers, with the principle of brotherhood that crosses racial and ethnic boundaries, and the nation. As stated in the Qur'an Q.S. Al-Hujurat: 11/49 as follows:

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ ۗ

Meaning: *"Verily, the believers are brothers, so reconcile your two brothers (who are at war) and fear Allah so that you may be blessed."* (Q.S. Al-Hujurat: 11/49)

Brotherhood in Islam means that each individual is responsible for the welfare of his fellow man. In the context of social change, this principle of brotherhood leads to strong social solidarity, in which communities work together to achieve common prosperity and reduce gaps between groups. Social change in Islam is not only seen as an external change in the structure of society, but also as an internal change in the individual. Islam views that social change begins with individual changes, which will then affect society as a whole. This change is not something that happens instantly, but rather a long and continuous process. Islam teaches that every individual has a responsibility to improve himself, and through individual improvement, society will experience changes for the better.

The process of social change in Islam involves several important stages. The first stage is self-awareness, where the individual becomes aware of the existence of injustices or imbalances in society and seeks to correct them. The second stage is behavior change, in which individuals not only realize but also act to create change, both within themselves and in their society. The final stage is the application of Islamic values in daily life, which includes principles such as justice, brotherhood, and welfare (Hasbullah & Ahid, 2022).

Although the concept of social change in Islam is very clear and directed, its implementation in society often faces various challenges. One of the biggest challenges is resistance to change, both from within the individual himself and from society as a whole. Many people are reluctant to change their way of life, especially if the change goes against their long-standing habits.

Another challenge is the social inequality that still occurs in many Muslim communities. Economic, political, and social inequality is often an obstacle to just and equitable change. Although Islam teaches the importance of a fair distribution of wealth, the practice of economic injustice is frequent in various Muslim countries. Therefore, the application of Islamic social change values requires hard work from all parties, both individuals, society, and the state.

### 3. Modern Social Change Theory

Theories change The modern social sciences developed by Western social scientists such as Auguste Comte, Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Talcott Parsons have a different view of social change compared to Islam. Most modern theories see social change as the result of external factors, such as economic, political, technological, or change in social structure (Kasnawi & Asang, 2014)k.

#### a. History of Modernization Theory

The theory of modernization is one of the most influential theories of social change in the study of the social sciences in the 20th century. This theory was put forward by various thinkers such as Walt Rostow, Talcott Parsons, and Samuel Huntington, who assessed social change as a linear process towards development and progress. Modernization is seen as a series of stages that society goes through from a traditional state to a more advanced and rational state, along with economic, technological, and social developments.

Walt Rostow, in his famous work *The Stages of Economic Growth* (1990),

arguing that society goes through five stages of economic development: traditional society, pre-takeoff society, takeoff, towards maturity, and mass consumption society. This theory focuses on economic development as a major driver of social change. Meanwhile, Talcott Parsons, who is a major figure in structural functionalism, views that social change is the result of the adaptation and adjustment of the social system to achieve balance. Parsons argued that a more rationally advanced society would be more effective in creating social and economic progress, as well as a more just and stable system.

The history of modernization theory shows that at first it was heavily influenced by Eurocentric views, which considered the development of Western countries as the main model for developing countries. According to this view, modernization is considered a universal process followed by all societies to achieve progress similar to that achieved by Western countries. However, this theory has also been criticized, especially from postcolonial thinkers and critical sociologists, who argue that the modernization model cannot be applied in general, especially in countries with very different social, cultural, and religious conditions.

b. Assumptions of Modernization Theory

The theory of modernization contains several basic assumptions that are the basis for explaining process Social Change (Klinger & Klinger, 2019):

- 1) Change as a Linear Process: Modernization considers that social change is a linear process and takes place gradually. Society moves from traditional conditions to modern conditions through structured and predictable stages.
- 2) Economic Progress as a Key Driver: One of the key assumptions in modernization theory is that economic progress is a major driver of social change. A thriving economy will spark advances in the fields of technology, politics, education, and culture.
- 3) Unification of the Process of Change: This theory assumes that all societies will follow the same path to modernization, regardless of the cultural, religious, or historical differences of that society.
- 4) Rationalization and Institutionalization: This theory also assumes that modernization will create a more rational and organized system, with more efficient and democratic institutions.

c. The Relevance of Modernization Theory

In the context of this research, modernization theory is relevant to analyze how social change can occur in a Muslim society that prioritizes religious values. This study aims to test whether modernization theories that focus on economic and technological development can be applied in Muslim societies that have a different social and cultural structure from the Western model. For example, Muslim countries often have strong religious values that can act as a barrier or even a driver in the modernization process.

Muslim societies have a different approach to social change compared to more secular societies. Islam emphasizes that social change must be based on religious values that prioritize justice, welfare, and balance. Therefore, there needs to be a more flexible approach in applying modernization theory, which takes into account the existence of religious values that are inherent in the social structure of Muslim society. In this

context, this study will examine the extent to which modernization theory can be adapted and integrated with Islamic values in the process of sustainable social change.

d. Theory of Social Change in Islam

In contrast to modernization theories that prioritize economic and technological aspects, The theory of social change in Islam emphasizes more on religious and ethical values in realizing just and sustainable change. Islam views social change not only as a result of external factors, but also as an active effort by individuals and society to achieve better change by putting forward the moral and ethical principles that exist in Islamic teachings (Rivaldy et al., 2024). One of the important concepts in Islam related to social change is *Islah* (improvement) which aims to improve the condition of individuals and society, by prioritizing the principles of social justice, equality, and common welfare.

Social change in Islam begins with individual changes, which will then affect the social structure (Dianto, 2019). In the Islamic view, every individual has a responsibility to improve himself (*Tazkiyah*), in order to contribute to creating positive changes for society. By improving the morals and ethics of individuals, society as a whole will be better. In this regard, Islam emphasizes the importance of changes that are not only structural or material, but also moral and spiritual.

The theory of social change in Islam is particularly relevant to this research, as it provides a moral and spiritual foundation in facing the challenges of globalization and modernization. This research aims to explore how Muslim societies can integrate Islamic values with modern theories of social change in the context of increasingly complex globalization. Muslim society, despite being faced with economic and technological developments, must still uphold religious principles in implementing social change. Therefore, this study will examine how Muslim societies can utilize technology and economic progress to achieve social change that is not only materially developed, but also in accordance with the religious values that exist in Islam.

4. Similarities between the Concept of Social Change in Islam and Modern Theory

In discussing the similarities between the concept of social change in Islam and the theory of modern social change, this study will explore a number of points of similarity that underlie the two views on social change. Although they come from different backgrounds, namely Islam as a religious-based view of life and modern social change theories that are more secular and scientifically based, both share a view on the importance of change that leads to the improvement of society.

- a. The Imperative for Positive Change: Both in Islam and modern theories of social change, there is a consensus that social change should lead to improvement or progress. In Islam, social change aims to improve the quality of life of mankind in accordance with religious principles. Likewise, in modern theories such as modernization theory, social change is considered to be a process that leads to progress in various aspects of life, including economics, technology, and social structures.
- b. Internal and External Factors: Although Islam places more emphasis on internal (moral and spiritual) change, and modern theories focus more on structural or external changes (such as economic and political), both perspectives recognize that social change involves the interaction between internal and external factors. In Islam, individual

changes affect social changes, while in modern theories, changing social structures can affect individual values and behaviors.

- c. **The Role of the Individual in Change:** In both views, the individual has an important role to play in driving social change. In Islam, social change begins with individual changes which then contribute to societal changes. Likewise, in modern social change theory, individuals are considered agents of change who can influence social development through their actions, either directly or through participation in social movements or political change.

#### 5. Difference between the Concept of Social Change in Islam and Modern Theory

In discussing the differences between the concept of social change in Islam and modern theories of social change, this study aims to explore and analyze the fundamental differences in the way the two views view and manage social change. Although both focus on change in society, they have different approaches to understanding the source, purpose, and process of such change.

- a. **Views on the Source of Change:** In Islam, social change is seen as part of God's destiny that must be understood and accepted wisely. Human beings are given the freedom to try to create good change, but by prioritizing high religious and moral values. In contrast, in modernization theory or conflict theory, social change is more seen as the result of external factors such as economic developments, technology, or conflicts between social groups that have different powers. Changes in these theories are more mechanistic and materialistic, where change is often thought of as a result of structural pressures in society.
- b. **Goal of Social Change:** In Islam, the goal of social change is to achieve social justice, well-being, and balance in accordance with religious teachings. Change is not only seen as a structural shift or economic development, but also as a moral and spiritual improvement that improves man's relationship with God and others. On the other hand, modern theories, such as modernization and conflict theories, place more emphasis on material goals, such as economic progress or changes in the distribution of power, without paying much attention to moral or spiritual aspects.
- c. **Process of Change:** In Islam, social change is not considered a linear or automatic process. Although there is a principle that humanity should strive to improve itself, social change in Islam is more evolutionary, gradual, and grounded in religious principles. In contrast, in modern theories, such as modernization theory, social change is often seen as a gradual and linear process towards a more advanced and rational form of society, without much consideration of the underlying religious or moral values of that society.

#### **Theoretical Analysis of the Values and Principles of Social Change in an Islamic Perspective**

In the Islamic perspective, social change is not only understood as a phenomenon that occurs naturally in life society, but also as a process that has a strong foundation of values and principles (Ali, 2020). Islam as a holistic system of life has set guidelines for humans in carrying out their social life, including in facing and directing social change.

One of the main values underlying social change in Islam is *monotheism*, which is the belief that only Allah has absolute power over all things. Tawhid is the basis for understanding

that all changes must be in line with His will and teachings. In Surah Ar-Ra'd verse 11, Allah says:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّى يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ ۗ

It means: "Surely Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change their own condition." (Q.S. ar-Ra'd: 11).

This verse emphasizes that social change must begin with changes in the individual and society itself. Social reform will not happen if individuals in society do not have the awareness to improve themselves and their environment.

In addition to monotheism, the value of justice (*al-adl*) is also the main principle in Islamic social change. Islam teaches that every aspect of life, including the social aspect, must be based on justice. Justice is not only in the legal aspect, but also in economic distribution, social policy, and interaction between individuals. Allah says in Surah An-Nahl verse 90:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

Meaning: "Indeed, Allah commands (you) to be just and to do good and to give to the relatives, and He forbids evil deeds, iniquity, and enmity." (Q.S. an-Nahl: 90)

This verse emphasizes the importance of justice as the main principle in building a harmonious and prosperous society.

Islam also emphasizes the value of deliberation (*shura*) in social change. The concept of deliberation ensures that every individual in society has the opportunity to contribute to the decision-making process. In Surah Ash-Shura verse 38, Allah says:

وَالَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا لِرَبِّهِمْ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَمْرُهُمْ شُورَىٰ بَيْنَهُمْ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ ۗ

"And for those who accept the call of their Lord and establish prayer, their affairs are decided by deliberation among them, and they give a portion of the sustenance that We have given them." (Q.S. as-Shura: 38)

This verse shows that in achieving sustainable social change, every decision must be based on consultation and mutual agreement.

The principles of freedom and responsibility are also an important part of the concept of social change in Islam. Islam does not restrict individual freedom of thought and action, as long as such freedom does not conflict with Islamic moral values and law. In Surah Al-Baqarah verse 256, Allah affirms:

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ ۚ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ ۚ

Meaning: "There is no compulsion in the religion (of Islam), in fact it is clear the right path from the wrong path." (Q.S. al-Baqarah:256)

This verse shows that Islam provides freedom for human beings to choose, but remains within the corridor of moral and social responsibility.

Social change in Islam must also be oriented towards the common good (*Maslahah*)

(Bukhaari, 2017). Islam emphasizes that any change that occurs must bring benefits to many people, not just to certain groups. The concept of *maslahah* is in line with *Maqashid Syariah* (the purpose of sharia), which is to protect religion, soul, intellect, descendants, and property. Social changes that do not consider the welfare aspect will lead to injustice and imbalance in society.

In addition, Islam also emphasizes the importance of science in encouraging social change. In Surah Al-Mujadilah verse 11, Allah says:

يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ

It means: "Allah will surely raise up the believers among you and those who are given knowledge of some degrees. Allah is Careful about what you do." (Q.S. al-Mujadilah: 11).

This shows that Islam encourages its people to seek knowledge and use that knowledge to bring about better changes in society. In the implementation of the values and principles of social change in Islam, the Prophet PBUH became the main example. He carried out a huge social transformation in Arab society which at that time was still filled with the practice of jahiliyah. The Prophet built a just society, abolished the caste system, upheld women's rights, and created a more harmonious and just social order. All changes made by the Prophet are always based on Islamic values, namely monotheism, justice, deliberation, responsible freedom, and the public good.

In the contemporary context, social change based on Islamic values has become very relevant in answering the challenges of the times. Globalization, technological developments, and socio-political dynamics require Muslim societies to continue to adapt and make changes that remain based on Islamic principles. Concept *ijtihad* (critical thinking in Islam) has become one of the main instruments in ensuring that social change remains in accordance with Islamic values without losing its relevance to the times (Hidayat et al., 2024; La Harris et al., 2024; MR & Erliyanto, 2024).

### **Evaluation of the Driving Factors of Social Change in the Modern Era**

Social change in the modern era is influenced by various factors, both internal and external, that interact with each other to form social dynamics in contemporary society. In this case, it will be explained the main factors that drive social change in the modern context, both internal (originating from within society) and external (driven by external factors).

#### **1. Internal Factors Influencing Social Change**

##### **a. Value and Lifestyle Changes**

One of the most significant internal factors in social change in the modern era is the change in values and lifestyles. Contemporary society is undergoing a shift in values influenced by globalization, technological developments, and other social changes (Bimas & West, 2023). In many countries, including Muslim-majority countries, we are seeing a shift in traditional values being replaced by new values that are more open to technological advancement, individual freedom, and pluralism. For example, changes in gender roles are increasingly encouraging women to actively participate in the world of work and education.

This change is also reflected in consumption patterns, where modern society prefers digital-based and global-based consumption over local or traditional

consumption. These changes in values affect various aspects of life, including family relationships, work structures, and social organizations.

b. Changes in Family Structure and Social Relationships

The family structure that was previously more patriarchal is now starting to shift towards a more egalitarian structure, where women and men have more equal roles. In addition, traditional families consisting of extended families have also shifted to the nuclear family, where interactions between family members tend to be more individualistic and separate.

Social relationships in modern society are also undergoing a shift, with the increase in the use of social media affecting interactions between individuals. Social media accelerates the exchange of information and ideas, but it also creates greater emotional distance between individuals, even though they are digitally connected.

c. Changes in Employment Patterns and the Economy

Changes in the world of work are also internal factors that affect social change. In the modern era, there is a shift from an industrial-based economy to a knowledge and information-based economy (Sasmita et al., 2023). This is changing employment patterns, with more and more jobs being technology-based, leading to an increased demand for digital skills.

On the other hand, phenomena such as freelance work or the increasingly popular freelancers show a shift in the way people view work and financial security. This work model leads to a new social dynamic where flexibility becomes more valued compared to long-term job stability.

2. External Factors Influencing Social Change

a. Technology Advancement and Digital Innovation

Technology, especially in the field of information and communication, has had a huge impact on social change in the modern era. The internet, social media, and digital devices have changed the way people interact, work, learn, and access information. Digitalization has broken down geographical boundaries, allowing people around the world to connect and share information instantly.

In addition, technological advancements such as artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and robotics, not only affect the economy, but also change social dynamics. Jobs previously performed by humans are now largely replaced by machines or algorithms, leading to new problems such as technological unemployment and digital inequality between those who have access to technology and those who do not.

b. Globalization and Intercultural Interaction

Globalization is one of the external factors that plays a major role in modern social change. The process of globalization accelerates the exchange of goods, services, information, and culture between different countries and regions. Globalization opens up opportunities for developing countries to develop rapidly, but it also introduces new challenges, such as dependence on global markets and widespread economic inequality.

One of the impacts of globalization is the adoption of foreign values and cultures, which can affect local culture. In this context, the shift in cultural values has become very real, with the rise of global pop culture influencing young generations

around the world. In Muslim countries, for example, shifting social values related to religious freedom, women's rights, and Western cultural influences are increasingly being felt, leading to a conflict between modernity and tradition (Abdullah, 2020).

c. Political Changes and State Policies

Another external factor that influences social change is changes in political policies and governance. A change in political leadership or a social revolution, such as the one that occurred in the Arab Spring phenomenon, can create significant social changes in a short period of time (Lubis, 2014; Rahma et al., 2024). Governments that introduce more progressive policies, such as human rights and gender equality, can accelerate social change by influencing norms and rules in society.

Government policies in the fields of education, health, and wealth distribution also affect the social structure and relationships between individuals in society. For example, policies that support access to education for all groups of people can improve social mobility and reduce inequality.

3. Interaction between Internal and External Factors

Social change in the modern era is often the result of complex interactions between internal and external factors (Ridwan & Maryati, 2024). Technological advances and globalization are influenced not only by economic and political factors, but also by changes in social and cultural values in society. For example, while technology can accelerate access to information and increase economic opportunities, it also fuels digital inequality and creates inequality of access among people.

In addition, internal factors such as changes in social values in society, especially related to human rights and gender equality, can encourage a more progressive political response from governments, which in turn affects social dynamics. On the other hand, conservative or reactionary political policies can slow down social change or even hinder the process.

### **Implications and Impacts of Social Change on Contemporary Society**

The social changes that have occurred in contemporary society, both influenced by Islamic values and modern theories, have had a significant impact on social structures and dynamics. These social changes, although they have different roots, contributed to shaping a new social order in the global society, including Muslim societies.

1. Social Change in Islamic Perspective

In the Islamic view, social change is seen as part of God's destiny that must be actively responded to by humanity. Islam teaches that change is not only material or structural, but also touches on moral and spiritual dimensions. This change begins with an effort to improve oneself through the concepts of *tazkiyah* (purification of the soul) and *islah* (improvement), which ultimately affect society as a whole. In this regard, justice, welfare, and fraternity are the main values that direct social change in Islam.

The impact of this approach to Islamic social change is very visible in the structure of Muslim societies that focus on social justice and common well-being. Islam promotes equality in the distribution of resources, abolishes economic injustice, and fights for equal rights for all levels of society, including women and minorities. This principle of justice requires each individual to contribute to positive change, which leads not only to material well-being, but also to spiritual and social well-being. However, the implementation of

these values in society is often faced with challenges in the form of social inequality and resistance to change.

## 2. Social Change in Modern Theory

Modern theories of social change, such as modernization theory, conflict theory, and structural theory of functionalism, view social change as a process influenced by external factors, such as economic development, technology, and conflicts between social classes. In this view, social change is understood as a linear process that leads towards progress and rationality, where economic factors are often considered the main drivers.

Modernization as a theory of social change assumes that society will move towards a more advanced condition through structured stages. This theory, although it has been criticized for focusing on the development of Western countries as a universal model, is still influential in analyzing the social changes that occur in developing countries, including in Muslim countries. On the other hand, conflict theory sees change as a result of tensions and inequalities between social classes, which drive shifts in social structures to create new balances.

The impact of this modernization theory in contemporary society can be seen in the social transformation that is happening rapidly, especially those influenced by technology and globalization. These changes encourage increased access to education, health, and the economy, although it is not uncommon to cause disruption to traditional values and create tensions between older generations and younger generations who are more open to modernity.

## 3. The Interaction between Islamic Values and Modern Theory

In contemporary society, the social changes that occur are often the result of the interaction between Islamic values and modern theories of social change. On the one hand, Islam provides a strong moral guide on how society should transform towards common prosperity and social justice. On the other hand, modern theories provide a more systematic framework for understanding how economic, political, and technological changes can affect social structures.

The impact of these interactions is especially noticeable in Muslim societies that are increasingly adopting technology and modernization without neglecting religious values. For example, the use of technology in the world of education and economics is becoming more widespread, but it remains within a framework that prioritizes the principles of social justice and Islamic morality. Despite the challenges associated with shifting traditional values, many Muslim societies are finding ways to align Islamic principles with social dynamics influenced by globalization and technology.

## 4. Implications of Social Change on the Structure and Dynamics of Society

Social changes inspired by Islamic values and modern theories affect the structure of contemporary society in complex ways. On the one hand, we see a growing social gap due to the unequal distribution of wealth and access to technology. On the other hand, there are also social movements that lead to changes in the social structure, such as human rights and gender equality movements, which are gaining increasing attention in many Muslim countries.

This transformation has the potential to lead society towards a more inclusive and equitable social order, where technology and economics are used to support social welfare.

However, the biggest challenge is how to bridge the gap between traditional values and the demands of modernity that are getting stronger. Therefore, ideal social change must be able to combine these two perspectives to create a society that is not only economically prosperous, but also socially and morally just and prosperous.

Thus, social change in contemporary society is influenced by Islamic values that emphasize justice, welfare, and fraternity, as well as by modern theories that focus on economic and technological advancement. These two perspectives complement each other, with Islam providing a moral and ethical basis, while modern theory offers a systematic framework for understanding change. Although the challenges of integration of both exist, ideal social change requires a balance between religious principles and the demands of economic and technological progress to create a just and prosperous society.

### CONCLUSION

This study shows that social change in society, both from an Islamic perspective and modern theories of social change, is influenced by a variety of complex internal and external factors. In Islam, social change is not only related to physical or structural changes, but also involves moral, spiritual, and ethical dimensions, with values such as justice, welfare, and brotherhood being the main principles. The process of change begins with the individual improving himself (*tazkiyah*) and continues to society as a whole (*islah*).

Meanwhile, modern social change theories, such as modernization theory and conflict theory, see change as a result of external factors such as economic, political, and technological developments. Although there are differences in approach and goals between the two, these two perspectives emphasize the importance of change that leads to the betterment of society. The interplay between Islamic values and modern theories creates complex social dynamics, in which Muslim societies adopt technology and modernization while maintaining religious principles. Ideal social change must be able to integrate these two perspectives to create a society that is not only economically thriving, but also socially and morally just and prosperous.

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