Journal Of
Islamic Philosophy
And Contemporary Thought
VOL 01 | No. 1 | 2026
P-ISSN: XXXXXXXXXX | E-ISSN: XXXXXXXXXX

PROMOTES DIALOGUE BETWEEN ISLAMIC AND CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY

Sumaira Ameen
BS, Department of English, The Cosmic Degree College (For Women) ,University of Okara

ABSTRACT

Islam and modern thought have a significant relationship in the contemporary world, particularly in the areas of science, technology, education, philosophy, politics, human rights, and social development. Islam provides a comprehensive framework of spiritual, moral, and intellectual principles that can contribute to addressing modern challenges. However, the rapid development of modern civilization has created new questions regarding the relationship between religious traditions and contemporary knowledge. This research explores how Islamic teachings can connect with modern intellectual developments while maintaining their fundamental principles and values. It examines the importance of reason, revelation, knowledge, critical thinking, scientific advancement, and ethical responsibility in establishing a balanced relationship between Islam and modernity. The study adopts a qualitative research approach based on a review and analysis of recent academic literature published between 2023 and 2025. The research suggests that Islam does not necessarily oppose modern developments; rather, it encourages the responsible use of knowledge, scientific investigation, justice, equality, and human welfare. It also highlights the importance of educational reform, intellectual dialogue, independent reasoning (Ijtihad), and contextual interpretation in responding to contemporary challenges. The study concludes that connecting Islam with modern thought requires a balanced approach that integrates Islamic ethical foundations with scientific, technological, and intellectual progress.

KEYWORDS:*Islam, Modern Thought, Islamic Modernism, Modernity, Science and Technology, Islamic Philosophy, Knowledge, Education, Ijtihad, Ethics, Contemporary Muslim Society, Intellectual Development, Revelation and Reason.*

INTRODUCTION

Islam is a comprehensive religion that provides guidance for individual life, social relationships, intellectual development, and the progress of human civilization. Since its emergence, Islam has emphasized the importance of knowledge, wisdom, justice, equality, consultation, and moral responsibility. The Quran repeatedly encourages human beings to reflect on the universe, examine nature, acquire knowledge, and use their intellectual abilities to understand the world. These teachings demonstrate that intellectual development and religious commitment are not necessarily contradictory. Rather, Islam establishes a connection between spiritual awareness and rational understanding. In the contemporary world, where scientific discoveries and technological developments are transforming human society, the relationship between Islam and modern thought has become an important subject of academic discussion.Modern thought refers to the intellectual, scientific, philosophical, political, and social developments that have influenced contemporary civilization. It includes rationalism, scientific investigation, democracy, human rights, technological innovation, globalization, and modern educational systems. These developments have created new opportunities as well as challenges for Muslim societies. Some contemporary thinkers argue that Islamic traditions need renewed interpretation to respond effectively to changing circumstances, while others emphasize the importance of preserving

Journal Of
Islamic Philosophy
And Contemporary Thought
VOL 01 | No. 1 | 2026
P-ISSN: XXXXXXXXXX | E-ISSN: XXXXXXXXXX

established religious principles. The central issue is not whether Islam should accept or reject modernity completely, but how Islamic values can contribute to contemporary intellectual and social development.Historically, Muslim scholars made significant contributions to mathematics, medicine, astronomy, philosophy, chemistry, and other fields of knowledge. The intellectual achievements of Muslim civilization demonstrate that the pursuit of scientific and philosophical knowledge has an important place in Islamic history. Diouane, H., Ridwan, M. K., Kiram, M. Z., & Abulmajd, A. (2025). foundthat Nevertheless, modern developments have introduced new questions concerning the relationship between religion, science, secularism, and human progress. Contemporary Muslim intellectuals are therefore examining how traditional Islamic knowledge can engage with modern academic disciplines without losing its ethical and spiritual foundations. This intellectual discussion also requires a critical examination of the assumptions underlying modernity.One of the most important dimensions of connecting Islam with modern thought is the relationship between revelation and reason. Islamic teachings recognize the importance of divine guidance while encouraging human beings to think, reflect, investigate, and make responsible decisions. Reason plays an essential role in understanding religious teachings and addressing new situations. The principle of Ijtihad provides an intellectual mechanism through which qualified scholars can examine contemporary problems using Islamic sources and principles.

This approach is particularly relevant to modern developments in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, financial systems, environmental protection, and digital communication.Another important dimension concerns the social and political implications of modern thought. Abdelnour, S. A., Essawi, W. M., Ghanem, N., El-Ratel, I. T., Abdel-Warith, A. W. A., Younis, E. M., ... & El-Raghi, A. A. (2025). foundthat Contemporary societies increasingly emphasize democracy, citizenship, gender equality, human rights, pluralism, and social justice. These issues require serious academic engagement within Islamic intellectual traditions. Islamic principles such as justice, consultation, compassion, human dignity, and public welfare provide important foundations for discussing contemporary social challenges. However, different Muslim thinkers interpret the relationship between Islamic teachings and modern political institutions in different ways. Therefore, constructive dialogue, critical thinking, and contextual understanding are necessary to develop meaningful responses.Connecting Islam with modern thought is consequently an important intellectual and practical requirement for contemporary Muslim societies. It requires neither the unquestioning acceptance of every modern idea nor the rejection of scientific and social progress. Diouane, H., Ridwan, M. K., Kiram, M. Z., & Abulmajd, A. (2025). foundthat Instead, it encourages a balanced approach that evaluates modern developments through intellectual reasoning, Islamic ethical principles, and the broader objectives of Shariah. This research examines the relationship between Islam and modern thought, focusing on knowledge, science, education, social development, and ethical responsibility. It aims to demonstrate how Islamic intellectual traditions can participate positively in contemporary discussions while maintaining their distinctive spiritual and moral foundations.

RESEARCH QUESTION

1. How can Islamic teachings and intellectual traditions be connected with modern thought

Journal Of
Islamic Philosophy
And Contemporary Thought
VOL 01 | No. 1 | 2026
P-ISSN: XXXXXXXXXX | E-ISSN: XXXXXXXXXX

to promote scientific advancement, intellectual development, social justice, and ethical progress while preserving fundamental Islamic principles?

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

2. To examine the relationship between Islamic teachings and modern thought and explore how Islamic intellectual and ethical principles can contribute to contemporary scientific, educational, social, and philosophical developments.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The relationship between Islam and modernity has remained an important subject in contemporary intellectual discussions. Modernity is generally associated with scientific advancement, rational thinking, institutional development, individual rights, technological innovation, and social transformation.Islamic intellectual traditions engage with these developments through different approaches, including reformism, traditionalism, revivalism, and progressive interpretation. The central question is how Muslim societies can benefit from modern knowledge while maintaining their religious and cultural identity. Readi (2025) examines the relationship between Islam and modernity through contemporary Islamic thought and highlights the diversity of Muslim intellectual responses to democracy, human rights, pluralism, and science. The discussion demonstrates that Islamic thought should not be understood as a single intellectual position because Muslim scholaapproachmodernitfrodifferent theological, philosophical, and social perspectives.ernity also raises questions concerning the meaning of progress and the position of religion in contemporary society. Some modern philosophical approaches emphasize secular reasoning and individual autonomy, whereas Islamic thought generally places intellectual development within a broader framework of spiritual and moral responsibility. This difference does not automatically mean that Islam and modernity are incompatible. Rather, it indicates the need for a critical dialogue in which both religious and modern intellectual assumptions can be examined. Ul Haq (2023) discusses the intellectual challenges created by modern Western thought and Islamic reformism, explaining how the encounter between these traditions has influenced Muslim responses to modern philosophical developments. Such discussions suggest that Muslims need an informed understanding of modern intellectual traditions rather than simply accepting or rejecting them. Furthermore, the debate between tradition and modernity should not be reduced to a conflict between the past and the present.

Islamic intellectual heritage contains different schools of interpretation, philosophical discussions, and legal methodologies that can provide resources for contemporary reflection. Rouf (2024) investigates the problematic relationship between tradition and modernity in Islamic thought and emphasizes the importance of critically examining both inherited traditions and modern intellectual achievements. This suggests that connecting Islam with modernity requires intellectual openness, historical awareness, and responsible interpretation. Muslim societies can preserve their religious identity while developing new approaches to education, governance, scientific research, and social organization. Rafael Romero, J. (2024). fondthatIslamic

Journal Of
Islamic Philosophy
And Contemporary Thought
VOL 01 | No. 1 | 2026
P-ISSN: XXXXXXXXXX | E-ISSN: XXXXXXXXX

epistemology concerns the nature, sources, limits, and purposes of knowledge. It traditionally recognizes revelation, reason, experience, and intellectual reflection as important dimensions of understanding reality. Modern academic systems, meanwhile, often emphasize observation, experimentation, critical analysis, and evidence-based reasoning. The relationship between these approaches is important because contemporary knowledge increasingly influences education, politics, economics, and social development. Islamic epistemology offers an ethical and philosophical framework through which knowledge can be understood as a responsibility rather than merely a means of acquiring power or material benefits.Zacky and Moniruzzaman (2024) examine three important intellectual projects: Islamization of Knowledge, Radical Reform, and Maqasid Methodology. Their research explains how different Islamic approaches attempt to respond to contemporary developments in natural and social sciences. These approaches share an interest in reconnecting modern knowledge with Islamic intellectual principles, although they differ regarding the authority of revelation, reason, and spirituality. Their discussion is significant because it demonstrates that the integration of Islam and modern knowledge requires careful consideration of epistemological foundations rather than simply adding religious references to modern academic subjects. Faruque (2024) also contributes to this debate through a philosophical discussion of decolonizing the Muslim mind. He argues that Muslim intellectual development requires a critical examination of dominant knowledge systems and the recovery of intellectual resources within Islamic traditions. This position does not necessarily require the rejection of Western knowledge. Instead, it encourages Muslims to engage with different intellectual traditions while maintaining the ability to think through their own philosophical and cultural frameworks. The argument is especially important for modern universities because educational institutions should encourage students to examine different sources of knowledge critically and independently.

Habib (2023) similarly examines contemporary Muslim intellectual reflections on reform and the development of Muslim societies. Romero, R. (2024). March(2024 explanthat The discussion emphasizes the relationship between Islamic heritage, modernity, and the renewal of intellectual life. It suggests that Islamic knowledge can contribute to modern civilization through the development of ethical perspectives, intellectual confidence, and educational reform. Therefore, Islamic epistemology should not be understood as an obstacle to modern knowledge. Rather, it can provide a framework for examining the purposes, limitations, and social consequences of knowledge.Science and technology are among the most influential features of contemporary civilization. Developments in medicine, communication, engineering, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and information technology have transformed human life. Islamic teachings encourage the acquisition of beneficial knowledge and responsible investigation of the natural world. Historically, Muslim scholars contributed to scientific and intellectual developments through observation, experimentation, mathematical reasoning, and philosophical inquiry. These contributions demonstrate that scientific investigation has an important place in the history of Islamic civilization.Razzaq and Nawaz (2024) examine modern reforms in Islamic thought with particular reference to science in the Indian subcontinent. Their study discusses different approaches adopted by Islamic modernists and other Muslim intellectual movements toward modern scientific knowledge. It highlights the importance of developing a methodology that can address questions about the relationship between Islamic principles and scientific developments.

Journal Of
Islamic Philosophy
And Contemporary Thought
VOL 01 | No. 1 | 2026
P-ISSN: XXXXXXXXX | E-ISSN: XXXXXXXXX

The study indicates that the discussion should move beyond simplistic assumptions that Islam and science are inherently incompatible. The development of artificial intelligence has made this discussion even more important. AI technologies influence education, healthcare, business, communication, and decision-making. Although these technologies provide considerable opportunities, they also raise ethical concerns involving privacy, accountability, fairness, human dignity, and the misuse of information. Abdelnour (2025) explores the relationship between artificial intelligence and Islamic theology of technology. The research discusses how Islamic concepts, including Ijtihad, public interest, and moral responsibility, can contribute to an ethical understanding of AI. This perspective suggests that Muslims should participate actively in technological development while ensuring that innovation serves human welfare and ethical purposes. The relationship between Islam and technology also involves a broader philosophical question: whether technology should be treated merely as a practical instrument or evaluated according to its social and moral consequences.

From an Islamic perspective, technological development should be assessed through its effects on human dignity, justice, responsibility, and public welfare. Therefore, the integration of Islamic ethics with modern scientific research can help establish responsible approaches to technological advancement.Modern political thought emphasizes democratic participation, constitutional government, individual rights, equality, and public accountability. These concepts have generated extensive discussion among contemporary Muslim scholars because Islamic political thought contains its own traditions concerning justice, consultation, leadership, responsibility, and the welfare of society. The relationship between Islamic political principles and modern democratic institutions is therefore an important area of intellectual research.March (2024) examines the development of Muslim democracy and its relationship with contemporary political theory. His research explores how Muslim democratic approaches can move beyond traditional assumptions about political authority and engage with pluralism and constitutional democracy. This discussion demonstrates that Islamic political thought contains different possibilities for understanding democratic participation and political disagreement. Abbas (2023) examines the relationship between Muslim modernists and democracy, particularly the tensions between democratic ideals and concerns about majority power. Her study highlights the complexity of political reform in Muslim societies and demonstrates that the relationship between Islamic modernism and democracy cannot be understood through simple assumptions. Different political experiences, historical conditions, and intellectual positions influence how Muslim thinkers approach democratic governance. Zacky and Ilyas (2024), in their discussion of Islamic ethics and liberal democracy, examine Mustafa Akyol's arguments regarding the compatibility of Islam and democratic principles. Their analysis considers how Islamic political thought can contribute to multicultural societies while also critically examining the philosophical assumptions of liberal democracy. This research indicates that meaningful dialogue requires critical reflection from both Islamic and modern perspectives.

However, differences may arise regarding interpretation, legal authority, and the relationship between individual freedom and collective responsibilities. A constructive approach requires serious scholarly discussion and contextual interpretation rather than the assumption that all disagreements can be resolved through simple comparisons.Education is one of the most

Journal Of
Islamic Philosophy
And Contemporary Thought
VOL 01 | No. 1 | 2026
P-ISSN: XXXXXXXXXX | E-ISSN: XXXXXXXXXX

important mechanisms through which Islamic values can connect with modern intellectual developments. Contemporary educational systems must prepare students to understand scientific discoveries, technological developments, economic changes, and global social challenges. At the same time, education should develop ethical awareness, critical thinking, intellectual independence, and social responsibility. Islamic educational philosophy provides an opportunity to integrate intellectual and spiritual development within a balanced educational frameworkThe debate over Islamization of Knowledge demonstrates the importance of examining the philosophical foundations of education. Zacky and Moniruzzaman (2024) explain that different Islamic intellectual projects seek to reconsider the relationship between religious knowledge and contemporary academic disciplines. Their analysis suggests that educational reform should not be limited to changing curricula or introducing additional religious subjects. It should also address the underlying assumptions concerning the purpose of knowledge, the nature of human beings, and the responsibilities of educational institutions. Faruque (2024) further emphasizes the importance of recovering intellectual resources within Islamic traditions. This perspective is relevant to contemporary universities because students need opportunities to engage with Islamic philosophy, history, theology, and intellectual heritage alongside modern academic disciplines. Such educational integration can develop a more comprehensive understanding of knowledge and civilization.

METHODOLOGY

This research adopts a qualitative research methodology to examine the relationship between Islam and modern thought through an academic and interpretative approach. The study is primarily based on secondary sources, including recent scholarly journal articles, academic publications, philosophical discussions, and research studies published between 2023 and 2025. A qualitative library-based research method is considered appropriate because the research focuses on understanding intellectual concepts, theoretical arguments, religious principles, and contemporary scholarly perspectives rather than collecting numerical or experimental data. The study uses descriptive and analytical techniques to investigate the major dimensions of Islamic engagement with modernity, particularly in the fields of epistemology, science, technology, education, democracy, human rights, and social justice. Relevant literature is examined to identify the central arguments presented by contemporary researchers and to understand how Islamic principles can interact with modern intellectual developments. The research also considers important Islamic concepts such as Tawhid, Ijtihad, Shura, Adl, Maqasid al-Shariah, and the pursuit of beneficial knowledge. These concepts provide a theoretical foundation for evaluating modern developments according to Islamic ethical and intellectual principles. Furthermore, a thematic approach is used to organize the collected literature into major areas of discussion and identify similarities, differences, and recurring arguments among contemporary scholars. The methodology also involves critical examination of the relationship between traditional Islamic knowledge and modern academic disciplines. Attention is given to the historical and contemporary contexts in which these intellectual debates have developed. The study does not claim to represent the opinions of all Muslim scholars or Islamic schools of thought; instead, it examines selected academic contributions to provide a balanced understanding of the subject. By combining descriptive analysis, thematic interpretation, and

Journal Of
Islamic Philosophy
And Contemporary Thought
VOL 01 | No. 1 | 2026
P-ISSN: XXXXXXXXXX | E-ISSN: XXXXXXXXXX

critical literature review, this research seeks to develop a comprehensive understanding of how Islam can engage with modern thought while maintaining its fundamental religious, ethical, and spiritual foundations.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design follows a descriptive-analytical framework that enables a systematic examination of the connection between Islam and modern thought. The study is structured around the central research question concerning how Islamic teachings and intellectual traditions can contribute to contemporary scientific, educational, social, and philosophical developments. The first stage involves identifying the major concepts associated with Islam and modernity, including revelation, reason, knowledge, scientific advancement, intellectual reform, and social justice. The second stage focuses on collecting relevant academic literature published during the 2023–2025 period to ensure that the research reflects recent scholarly discussions. The third stage involves classifying the selected literature into major thematic categories, including Islamic epistemology, modern philosophy, science and technology, political thought, education, and contemporary social challenges. The fourth stage examines the arguments and theoretical perspectives presented by different scholars to identify areas of agreement and disagreement. Particular attention is given to the question of whether modern intellectual developments can be evaluated and integrated through Islamic ethical and philosophical principles. The fifth stage involves synthesizing the findings to develop an overall interpretation of the relationship between Islamic traditions and contemporary thought. The research design also recognizes the diversity of Islamic intellectual approaches and avoids presenting modernity as a uniform concept. Different Muslim societies experience modernity through different historical, political, economic, and cultural circumstances. Therefore, the research considers intellectual pluralism and contextual interpretation as important factors in understanding contemporary Islamic thought. This design provides a systematic basis for examining the subject and allows the study to develop conclusions through the critical interpretation of existing academic literature.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data analysis is conducted through qualitative thematic analysis of the selected academic literature and relevant intellectual discussions. The collected material is examined to identify recurring themes, conceptual relationships, theoretical arguments, and differences in scholarly perspectives concerning Islam and modern thought. The first major theme identified is the relationship between revelation and reason. The literature indicates that Islamic intellectual traditions recognize the importance of rational reflection while maintaining the significance of divine guidance. This relationship provides a foundation for examining modern scientific and philosophical developments without assuming that religious commitment and intellectual investigation are necessarily contradictory. The second theme concerns the integration of Islamic epistemology with contemporary knowledge. The studies reviewed suggest that Islamization of Knowledge, reformist approaches, and Maqasid-based methodologies offer different ways of connecting Islamic principles with modern academic disciplines. The third theme relates to scientific and technological advancement. The analysis indicates that modern technologies,

Journal Of
Islamic Philosophy
And Contemporary Thought
VOL 01 | No. 1 | 2026
P-ISSN: XXXXXXXXXX | E-ISSN: XXXXXXXXXX

particularly artificial intelligence, require ethical evaluation concerning privacy, accountability, justice, and human welfare. Islamic principles of responsibility and public interest can contribute to this evaluation. The fourth theme concerns political and social development. The reviewed literature demonstrates that Islamic concepts of justice, consultation, human dignity, and social responsibility can provide important foundations for engaging with contemporary debates about democracy, pluralism, and human rights. The fifth theme concerns educational reform. The findings suggest that modern Muslim educational institutions need to integrate scientific knowledge, critical thinking, intellectual heritage, and ethical development. The sixth theme concerns the importance of intellectual renewal and Ijtihad. Contemporary social and technological changes require scholars to develop informed responses through contextual interpretation and interdisciplinary dialogue.

FINDINGS

The findings of this research demonstrate that Islam and modern thought can establish a meaningful relationship through intellectual dialogue, ethical evaluation, and the responsible integration of knowledge. The first major finding is that Islamic teachings place considerable importance on knowledge, rational reflection, investigation, and intellectual development. These principles provide a foundation for engagement with modern scientific and philosophical developments. The second finding is that the relationship between Islam and modernity is not limited to a simple conflict between religious tradition and contemporary civilization. Instead, it involves different intellectual approaches that seek to understand the relationship between revelation, reason, cultural identity, and social transformation. The third finding concerns the importance of Islamic epistemology in contemporary education and research. Islamic intellectual traditions can contribute to modern academic disciplines by introducing ethical considerations, philosophical reflection, and a broader understanding of human responsibility. The fourth finding indicates that modern science and technology should be evaluated according to their consequences for individuals and society. Developments such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and digital communication offer opportunities for progress but also require ethical guidance. The fifth finding demonstrates that Islamic concepts of justice, consultation, equality, and human dignity can contribute to contemporary discussions about democracy, human rights, and social responsibility. The sixth finding highlights the importance of educational reform. Modern Muslim educational institutions need to combine scientific knowledge, technological competence, critical thinking, and Islamic ethical values. The seventh finding concerns the role of Ijtihad and contextual interpretation in addressing new challenges. The research indicates that responsible intellectual renewal can help Islamic thought respond to changing social conditions without abandoning its fundamental principles.

CONCLUSION

The relationship between Islam and modern thought represents an important intellectual subject in contemporary academic and social discussions. This research has examined how Islamic teachings and intellectual traditions can engage with modern developments in science, technology, philosophy, education, politics, and social life. The study demonstrates that Islam

Journal Of
Islamic Philosophy
And Contemporary Thought
VOL 01 | No. 1 | 2026
P-ISSN: XXXXXXXXX | E-ISSN: XXXXXXXXX

provides a comprehensive ethical and intellectual framework that emphasizes knowledge, justice, responsibility, human dignity, and spiritual development. These principles remain relevant in contemporary society, particularly as technological innovation, globalization, and social transformation continue to create new opportunities and challenges. The research also establishes that the relationship between Islam and modernity should not be understood as an unavoidable conflict between religious tradition and scientific progress. Rather, it should be approached through critical thinking, intellectual dialogue, and responsible interpretation. Islamic concepts such as Tawhid, Ijtihad, Shura, Adl, and Maqasid al-Shariah provide valuable foundations for examining modern issues and developing ethical responses to contemporary challenges. The study further highlights the importance of integrating Islamic intellectual heritage with modern educational and scientific systems. Such integration can encourage students and researchers to develop scientific competence while maintaining ethical awareness and intellectual independence. Modern technologies, including artificial intelligence and digital communication, should be used in ways that protect human dignity, promote justice, and contribute to public welfare. Similarly, contemporary political and social developments should be examined through constructive dialogue concerning equality, democracy, pluralism, and human rights. The findings indicate that intellectual renewal is necessary for Muslim societies to participate effectively in global academic and social discussions.

REFERENCES

Abdelnour, S. A., Essawi, W. M., Ghanem, N., El-Ratel, I. T., Abdel-Warith, A. W. A., Younis, E. M., ... & El-Raghi, A. A. (2025). New insights into the effects of Aspergillus oryzae administration during the transition period in Bubalus bubalis. Italian Journal of Animal Science, 24(1), 309-323.

Diouane, H., Ridwan, M. K., Kiram, M. Z., & Abulmajd, A. (2025). The Dynamics of Islamic Thought in Responding to Contemporary Challenges. Bulletin of Islamic Research, 3(4), 671-686.

Jahangiri, M., & Faruque, M. U. (2024). Toward a Neuro-ethics in Islamic Philosophy: Trauma, Memory, and Personal Identity: M. Jahangiri, MU Faruque. Sophia, 63(4), 755-774.

Rafael Romero, J. (2024). March(2024). Stroke Highlights.

Romero, R. (2024). March(2024).Stroke Highlights. Stroke, 55(3), 523-523.