Philosophical Study on Two Contemporary Iranian Muslim Intellectual Responses to Modern Science and Technology

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ABSTRACT

Iranian modern thinkers in either of the two categories: Western-minded and religious. The most prominent aspect of Western minded thinkers is their emphasis on separation of tradition and modernity. On the other hand, religious thinkers look forward to combining the two. The Western-minded thinkers believe that the most important burden on development in Islamic countries is in the Islamic culture itself. Therefore, they try to minimize the impact of religion on culture and society. The other group which is more religious put the emphasis on encountering the negative responses to modernity by the religious society. They also have the concern for maintaining the religious identity and at the same time pushing the society toward development. The rise of such religious thinkers was also simultaneous with the Persian Constitutional Revolution. In this article I will discuss in detail the views of Murteza Mutahhari and Mehdi Golshani on modern science and technology.

KEYWORDS

Muslim Intellectual, Murteza Mutahhari, Mehdi Golshani, Modern Science, Technology

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Introduction

Being formed around a century ago, modern intellectual thinking has been divided into religious and pro-Western modern thinking. Perhaps the most distinctive aspect of the pro-Western thinking in Iran is the belief in separation between religion and politics [secularism]. The religious thinkers on the other hand are trying to draw a connecting line between the two. One can say that the pro-Western thinkers assume that the most important reason behind the maladies of the Islamic world in fact is the Islamic and local traditions of such

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