

SECULARISM AND ITS DEFINITION

The word secularism has a Latin root of "saeularis" and "saeculum" meaning the time or the material world. In the western political thinking it refers to this worldly and as opposed to the religious approach to life. In western thinking everything which is related to this world and separate from religious matters is called secular. After The Middle Ages in the West, and when the idea that church should not interfere with political affairs of the country by the middle class of the society, Secularism changed into a school which has as its basis the separation of the worldly matters like politics, economy, and living from religious matters. In this school, religion is something personal specific to the persons' individualistic life and it should not have any interference in politics. In this school, religion is only related to the personal and individualistic rituals and traditions and should not meddle with the politics. Another synonymous phrase used in this regard is Laicism, taken from the Greek root of "Laikos" and "Laos" which means people and it is used to the affairs related to the common people- as oppose to the men of science. It is a sort of political system in which the clergy have no role in it.

The School of secularism, like many other western thinking principles, on one hand is the product of astray Christianity, and on the other it is the result of the church wrong performances. Christianity, on one hand has a diverse and paradoxical approach toward the worlds and religion in an opposed approach in the way that whoever wants his this worldly prosperity should ignore the other world and those who are in search of the other world life should forget about this world. On the other hand, the church had a religious tyranny over the society and had a complete control over all aspects of life. The church and its teachings were the biggest supports of the Feudal system in the Middle Ages. When the trading middle class tried to put the feudal system aside and take hold of the power in the society, considered Catholic church as big barrier and proposed the principles of the separation of politics from religion which was compatible with

the Christian thought. This caused that church control over political, social, and economical affairs was cut. In addition to this the church system which was a barrier in way of the social development, caused the elite to emphasize on the separation of the politics from religion harshly.

What is the applied interpretation of secularism in social scenes?

Secularism is school which believes that religion has no right to interfere in the politics and the clergy have to keep aside from politics. The political system have to be non religious and should not be based on any specific belief or custom; also it is the duty of a secular government to limited religion is all aspects of personal life of the people. In this thought, no religion has to have any specific priority in the society. And the governments have to deal equally with all the religions and their followers. So that the followers of one religion should not try to interfere their religious thoughts in politics.

In summary it can be said that in Secularism the religion should be separate from politics, and society.

One of the basis premises of the Secularism id the tendency toward science. In this regard there is a reference to two important elements of Secularism. In here there is an emphasis that Secularism is not necessarily equivalent with lack of any religion. In Secularism, the two premises of science and reason have important roles to play. In Arabic language it it has synonym equally to tendency to science.

In another definition, the important criteria of Secularism is the emphasis on the science. Secularism is a school of thought, based on which the human being can be studied as the physical objects. Some others, in definition, have referred to Humanism as another base of Secularism. I this approach, the meaning of Secularism is wide and humanism is known as the human philosophy. The most important criteria for it is the separation of politics from religion, the emergence of nationalistic governments and the legislation by human being and the rejection of the divine laws and the substitution of natural laws. On the other hand, the proclaimer for the priority of democratic system to theocratic one is the transmission from subjectivity to objectivity and pragmatism and the rejection of the divine laws and the flourishing of experimental and legislative laws.

Some of the definitions of this word refer to the development and change in the meaning of secularism. Secularism is an ambiguous phrase, and we can consider the new world as the result of Secularism. In classic Christian language "Sekolom" means the time at which we are living and it has the meaning of eternity and divinity. So we can say it refers to anything which refers to this world. For along time, Secularism had a judicial interpretation meaning any the transmission of the church property to the common people. In this way for along time people talked bout the secular monasteries- taken from the church property. In the contemporary time, some authors started writing on the wider definitions of Secularization which lead to the new interpretation of it. There is another definition in this regard which rejects secularization and regards it as the release from religious obedience. In another definition, secularism is a systematic organization coming from Europe and tries to separate politics from religion. The independence of the government from the religion is a guarantee for the freedom of thought and belief, its prevents the government from letting religious leaders to inserts their ideas into society.

Another factors of Secularism is the spirit of easy taking and avoidance from exactness. This means that everybody can choose his own ideas and believes as he wishes. The founders of new civilization believe that the truth is not with any specific source not in the form that church claimed beforehand. The church used to claimed that it has a good access to the sources of truth, the truth is varied and diverse and everybody has a limited access to a some part of truth. In religious affairs, the freedom and being their own priest which was emphasized in the reformation movement is one of the premises of new civilization. In this way, religion and believes are regarded as individualistic and personal matter and the person is free in choosing his own religion.

Another parameters of Secularism is inclination on the reason. It is on the basis that humans can understand and solve all the problems using their reason. Secularism, based on this, regards all religious teachings as irrational. In other word, reason is the basis of firm foundations and can solve social problems independent from the revealed religion. Based on what was said before, the interpretation of Secularism from the view point of word was considered. From the view point of history, Secularism was a natural reaction to whatever which

happened before the enlightenment in Europe. Europeans put religion aside in the challenge between religion and science and regarded reason as the basis for the new thought and culture which was called Secularism. Gradually, Secularism was formed along with the enlightenment. Many things happened which caused the present state of affairs. And the common atmosphere in Europe was different from the past. God centeredness was replaced by human centeredness; and attention to reason and science and the rejection of traditions became the basis for the new culture. This article was an attempt for the evaluation and recognition of the Secularization.

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Սեկուլարիզմի նշանակությունը և սահմանումները

Հոդվածում ուսումնասիրվում է սեկուլարիզմի նշանակությունը որպես բառ և արտահայտություն, այնուհետև դրա սկզբնավորումը և զարգացումները պատմության ընթացքում: Սեկուլարիզմը միջին դարերում կաթոլիկ եկեղեցու գործունեության բնական ռեակցիան էր: Եվրոպայում տեղի ունեցած փոփոխությունները բերեցին նրան, որ եվրոպացիներն առանձնացրեցին գիտությունն ու բանականությունը կրոնից: Վերջինս էլ իր հերթին բերեց սեկուլարիզմի առաջացման: Այս հոդվածում անդրադարձ է կատարվում սեկուլարիզմի տարբեր իմաստներին և արմատներին: