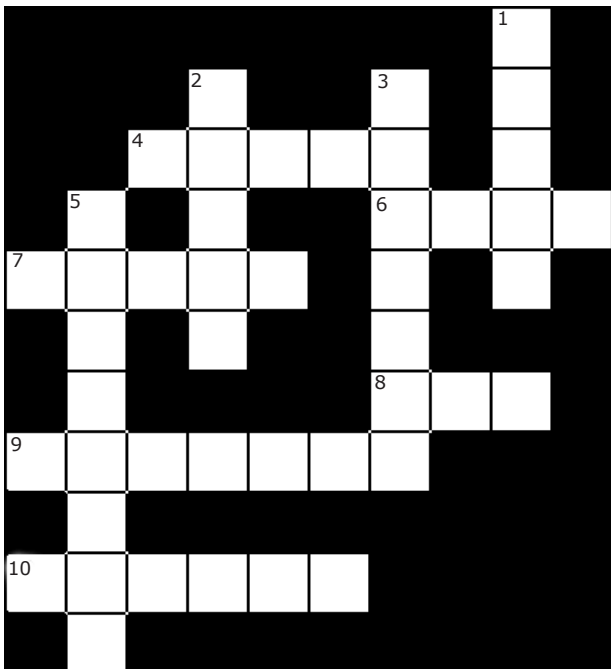


THE ARABIC CHALLENGE!

ARE YOU UP TO THE TASK?



ACROSS

4. A hukm (ruling), the presence of which nullifies a ruling or action.
6. An action rewarded if performed and punished if ignored.
7. An action with neither reward nor punishment attached to it.
8. A type of fard focused on the individual
9. An action rewarded if not done, no punishment if done.
10. An action punishable if performed and rewarded if intentionally not performed.

DOWN

1. A hukm, the absence of which nullifies a ruling or action
2. A hukm whose presence or absence means the presence or absence of an action
3. A type of fard focused on the action being done
5. An action that brings reward if performed, no punishment if left off.



LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS

ACROSS

4. Infitar
6. Taubah
7. Hajj
9. Tahrim
10. Noor

DOWN

1. Mumin
2. Zilzal
3. Kauthar
5. Lahab
8. Qamar

CITIZENSHIP IN ISLAM BREAKING THE BARRIERS

By Syed Muttaqin Reza

With the recent hysteria over citizenship in Europe, especially with the introduction of the passport and September 11th, citizenship has become restricted and exclusionary. In many European nations like France and Germany, foreigners are frowned upon and branded "second class citizens" or considered a so called threat to national security. There have been attempts by many right wing politicians, academics and large segments of the population to call for an end to immigration for fear of the "unknown". Many of them have opted to pass legislation in parliament in order to do so. Immigration is viewed as a threat to their cultural ideals and, as a result, the thriving multiculturalism is not accepted by large parts of the population.

Following the expeditions of Vasco de Gama, Christopher Columbus, and subsequent Imperial conquests, Western European states captured trade routes, and captured Muslim East Asian states. They started their invasion with Java in 1684, Transylvania and Hungary were stripped from Ottoman possession to Austria in 1699. The Ottomans also suffered defeat at the hands of the Russians in the Russo-Turkish war of 1768-74. This amounted to the complete dissolution of the Ottoman Empire by World War I and its division into colonies and protectorates. We find brutal conflicts and even genocide in many cases that have arisen from the paving of arbitrary borders by European states. Among them are Yoruba in Benin and Nigeria; the Hutu and Tutsi in Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire; and the Swazi in Swaziland and South Africa. Can the Islamic concept of citizenship solve these fatal disputes?

According to Islamic sources, citizenship is all-inclusive. Citizenship is not determined by place of birth or ethnicity. When one "sets foot on its territory with the intention of living there, [one] thus enjoys equal rights along with those who acquire its citizenship by birth." Under the Islamic state, the person becomes a citizen without being accorded the status of a second class citizen.

The Islamic constitution welcomes citizens from every avenue of the human race. In cases where a non-Muslims state oppresses its Muslims citizens, it is not permissible for an Islamic state to take reprisal against non-Muslims within its borders, even if the Muslims are massacred elsewhere. In chapter 60, verse 8 of the Quran, God instructs the Muslims to treat non-Muslims with kindness and justice so long as they observe it as well.

Over 1400 years ago, Islam included the following rights of citizenship: the Security of Life and Property, the Sanctity and Security of Private Life, the Security of Personal Freedom, the Right to protest against Tyranny, Freedom of Expression, Protection of Religious Sentiments, Protection from Arbitrary Imprisonment, the Right to Basic Necessities of Life, Equality before the Law, the Right to Avoid Sin, and the Right to Participate in the Affairs of the state.