

The Pact of Medina

Monthly Taleem Focus Slides
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Overview

- The Prophet Muhammad (saw) migrated to Medina in 622 A.D.
- In Medina there were many tribes of Muslims, Jews, and Pagans.
- The Prophet Muhammad (saw) became the political leader of Medina
- After arrival, the Prophet (saw) drafted the “Pact of Medina”
- In many respects – this is considered the first written constitution of the world
- The pact consists of 50 points
 - We shall go over the more significant of these in the next few slides.
 - You can read all of the other articles here:

http://www.alislam.org/library/browse/book/Life_of_Muhammad/#page/80/mode/1up

Article 2- A constitutional agreement

(This shall be a pact) between the Muslims of Quraysh, the people of Yathrib (the Citizens of Madina) and those who shall follow them and become attached to them (politically) and fight along with them. (All these communities shall be the constitutional subjects of the state.)

Article 20 – Equality of all citizens

A Jew, who obeys us(the state) shall enjoys the same right of life protection(as the believers do), so long as they (the believers) are not wronged by him (the Jews), and he does not help (others) against them.

Article 25 – No fraternizing with the enemy

No idolater (or any non-believer among the clans of Madina) shall give protection for property and life to (any of the) Quraysh (because of their being hostile to the state of Madina) nor shall intervene on his behalf against any believer.

Article 30 – Religious Freedom for all

The Jews (non-Muslim minorities) shall be considered a community along with the believers. They shall be guaranteed the right of religious freedom along with the Muslims. The right shall be conferred on their associates as well as themselves except those who are guilty of oppression or the violators of treaties. They will bring evil only on themselves and their family.

Article 41 – The Prophet is Commander in Chief

Verily, none among the allies shall advance (on a military expedition) without the prior permission of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon them) (in whom vests the final command and authority).

Article 45 – Allies will help each other if attacked

There shall be mutual help between one another against those engage in war with the allies of this document.

Article 49 – No killing allowed in Medina

The valley of Yathrib is sacred and there shall be prohibition of fighting and bloodshed among the various communities of the state.

Article 50 – Equality for all inhabitants

A person given constitutional shelter shall be granted an equal right of life protection as long as he commits no harm and does not act treacherously.

Article 54 – Allied against common enemies

The Muslims and the Jews shall be jointly responsible to defend (the state of) Madina against any outside attack.

Article 55 – Peace treaties must be accepted

It shall be incumbent upon the Jews to observe and adhere to any peace treaty they are invited to participate in . Likewise, it shall also be incumbent upon the Muslims to observe and adhere to any peace treaty, they are invited to.

Article 57 – Protect your side of town

Every party to the treaty shall be responsible for the measures and arrangements of the defense of its facing direction.

Article 59 – All communities must adhere to the contents of the constitution

No party shall have the right to violate the constitution. Every person who is guilty of a crime shall be held responsible for his act alone.

Conclusion

- Pact of Medina is considered to be first written comprehensive constitution in the world, much earlier than Magna Carta in 1215
- As one can see, these articles are very similar to those that are found in present day constitutions and are in stark contrast to the views ISIS and other so-called Islamic governments hold.
- Freedom of religion was guaranteed to everyone and all inhabitants were subjected to the same law – without exception.