Belief System of Wahabi Doctrine in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

ABSTRACT

One important and most overwhelming issue in Muslim community is the dominance of the Wahabi doctrine in Saudi Arabia, which had been considered as the main religious ideology and the backbone of the Bedouin Arabs' unification in helping the politico-religious movement led by Sheikh Muhammad ibn Abdel Wahhab and Al-Saud family to form the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. By using the historical methods and qualitative-descriptive approaches, this paper examines the Wahabi doctrine and its influence; or in more specific way, to define the concept of the Wahabi doctrine, and how far it helped in establishing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as influencing several Islamic movements in other Muslim territories. The findings show that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is generally regarded as one of the earliest initiators of the Islamic reformation from as early as the 18th and 19th centuries, through the "Wahabiyah" movement. Besides that, the Wahabi doctrine also created several Islamic legal decisions or "fatwa" that for a few Muslim countries are not content with, such as rejecting a "fatwa" by most of the Sunni scholars that the Prophet Muhammad, after he died, can still intercede or "tawassul" with his God; rebuffing all "ijma" or consensus of the religious scholars after the death of the companions of the Prophet Muhammad; declaring other Muslim communities who do not accept the Wahabi doctrine to be infidel; and launching war against all innovations or "bid'ah" in Islam, being anti-modernization, and others