



TRANSITION TO SECULAR THOUGHT IN EUROPE

LESSONS FOR MUSLIMS

A PRELIMINARY STUDY IN THE LIGHT OF ISLAMIC SOURCES

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A B S T R A C T

Europe's loss of faith in God and Christianity, referred to as the "Death of God" by Nietzsche, as per Eurocentric narrative, occurred due to the emergence of rational and scientific ways of thinking, and rejection of superstition. A careful study of historical factors, however, ranks this narrative to be superficial. The Protestant Reformation—the most momentous event in European history—set the chain of events in motion which eventually led to the secular modern European societies. It was not rational thought, but the abuse of power, and the ruthless fratricidal wars, that led to loss of faith. Examining the step-by-step details of this historical transition, leads to a large number of lessons for Muslims. This paper attempts to highlight certain ingredients of this transition which are especially important to Muslims in the struggle to resist the encroachment of secular thought into Islamic societies. In particular, it will stress on those teachings of Islam which can possibly create barriers against the replication of the European history which led to the loss of faith.

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