

A summation of Hizb ut-Tahrir's Foreign Affairs
By Bo Perrin

This section is the final section of Hizb ut-Tahrir's Draft Constitution. It begins by defining politics. (Article 176) The State performs politics to take care of a nation's affairs. In the Caliphate it is forbidden for an individual, party, group or association with another state. (Article 177) Only the Caliphate State can have a relationship with a foreign country because the people have contracted the Caliph to take care of their national affairs and no one else.

Political means, Hizb declares, must not contradict political methods. (Article 178) Duty (waajib) and the permitted (mubaaH) cannot be justified by using something forbidden (Haraam) to achieve them. Yet, it is permissible for the State to conceal its aims while disclosing its acts. (Article 179) If so, then what makes the Caliph any different from a Western government? Remember, Mohammad stated that war is deceit.

The Caliphate is permitted to reveal the so-called crimes of other states. (Article 180). It is permissible to point out erroneous politics, harmful conspiracies and be involved in character assassination. On the other hand, the Caliphate must manifest the so-called "greatness of Islamic thoughts" comparing these thoughts with the immoral Western political theories. (Article 181)

Islam is the political cause. (Article 182) It is the might of the Caliphate whose purpose is to Da'wah humanity to embrace Islam. Foreign policy revolves around the Da'wah. (Article 183) The relationship the Caliphate can build with a foreign government is dependent upon that government's acceptance of the Da'wah. There are four considerations which determine the Caliphate's relationship with other states. (Article 184)

First, all Islamic states are considered to be a part of the Ummah and therefore, do not fall under Foreign Affairs. Second, all other states are to be treated according to the treaties. The economic and commercial treaties cannot include anything which might strengthen non-Muslims states. An individual from a non-Muslim state may enter the Caliphate only if the treaty allows otherwise, it seems, no non-Muslim will be allowed to enter any state which composes the Caliphate. Third, the Caliphate cannot establish diplomatic relations with any state deemed to be potentially belligerent. Their subjects can enter the Caliphate via a passport or visa specific to each individual and purpose of visit. Fourth, if the Caliphate deems a nation to be belligerent, like Israel, a state of war exists and the Caliph will not allow their citizens access into the Caliphate.

Finally, military and political treaties which cover military-related articles are forbidden. (Article 185) So-called good neighboring, economic, commercial, financial, cultural and armistice treaties are permissible. In addition, the Caliphate is forbidden to belong to any organization if that organization is not built on Islam or Islamic rules like the United Nations or the Arab league. This is haraam.