

The Political Philosophy of Sikhism as a Resistance to Autocratic Regimes

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Abstract : Sikhism is one of the youngest religions which came into existence only 550 years ago with Guru Nanak Dev. Guru Nanak and his successors not only gave religious sermons but also made bold commentaries on the politico-social situations of their times. Sikhism has consistently stood against autocratic regimes and societal polarization. The Sikh Gurus envisioned a political system based on equality, brotherhood, freedom of conscience, justice, and secularism where there was no discrimination and human rights of all were protected. The Sikh Gurus visualized a society based on an amalgamation of politics and religion without compromising morality and resisting any form of oppression and tyranny. The fifth guru of the Sikhs, Guru Arjan Dev, compiled the verses of his predecessors and many other saints belonging to different religions and castes in the form of Adi Granth, highlighting the egalitarian and secular foundations of Sikhism. Later tenth guru, Guru Gobind Singh, gave a concrete shape to the concepts of the earlier gurus written in Adi Granth and created an openly political and sovereign community known as Khalsa Panth with a distinct identity. This paper will use the qualitative historical approach to highlight Sikhism's enduring commitment to fight oppression and tyranny, and it also examines how Sikhism offers solutions to contemporary issues of authoritarianism and polarization.

Keywords : sikhism, Gurus, political thought, equality, scriptures

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