

The Divergent Discourse of Political Islam: A Comparative Study of Indonesia and Pakistan

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Abstract : This paper pursues a systematic analysis of the broad range of theories and studies relevant to Islam and democracy, in general and as they have been developed from and applied to the Indonesian and Pakistani cases. The analysis finds that an Islamic society's potential to assimilate democratic political institutions is contingent on either an unconstrained 'political participation' or its ability to 'reinterpret' religious text. Drawing on a comparison of Indonesia and Pakistan, the present study favors a route that passes through the religious gates of theoretical reinterpretation. In doing so, the study brings Muslim reformation theory into focus by clarifying the mechanism by which reformation takes place.

Keywords : Islam, democratization, political Islam, reformation

Conference Title : ICID 2017 : International Conference on Islam and Democracy

Conference Location : Vancouver, Canada

Conference Dates : August 07-08, 2017