Ecology in Islamic Culture: A Selected Critical Bibliography

By: The Editorial Team

The studies on the Islamic view of environment protection and the links between Islamic classical culture and ecology knew recently a notable progress, testified by numerous valuable publications in various languages. The following is a critical bibliography, organised alphabetically, that we conceived of as a guide for the interested reader. It includes references to works published recently in different languages, including Arabic. The publications in Arabic are particularly valuable, as they are hardly known by Western scholars, although some of them deserve to be known.

FSTC Research Team

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1. Introduction
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Figure 1: Diagram showing the interaction between ecology, society, and economy. (Source: Al-fiqhah al-b'at.)

Figure 2: Diagram showing the interaction between ecology, society, and economy. (Source: Al-fiqhah al-b'at.)

Figure 3: Illustration of a model of environment. (Source: Al-fiqhah al-b'at.)

Foltz briefly outlines the scriptural foundation for an Islamic environmentalism and traces the development of Islamic attitudes towards animals over the centuries and confronts environmental crises associated with modernity. Part two distills all of the major world religions' approaches to environment and development. The final section integrates Islamic ethical thought with the environmental movement, providing a concrete example of the benefit of examining development in the context of values and culture.


Goodman's thorough introduction to this translation shows how contemporary concepts in Q'ur'anic law authenticate the age-old Islamic tradition of protection for the environment and living beings. This is an anthology of spiritual perspectives on nature and the environment, highlighting the interrelationship of nature, thereby providing potential solutions to the ecological crisis.

Nasr argues that Islam has served as an intermediary between Western and Eastern philosophical traditions. Nasr stresses that studying across religious frontiers has the potential to reawaken religious thought and revitalize science. Nasr provides a history of the environmental crisis, its origins, and its impact on the environment. This is a unique, unflinching look at how the Western and Islamic traditions have responded to the environmental crisis and the possibilities for a future environmentally sustainable world.

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