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**The Influence of Identity Politics in Contemporary Islam**

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**Abstract:** *The study investigates the significant impact of identity politics in contemporary Islam on political and social stability, considering the crucial role of media and communication in such dynamics. This study uses a literature study method that involves an integrative and comprehensive analysis of literature to collect, review, and analyze various sources of relevant information. The study results stated that identity politics in contemporary Islam is central to shaping political and social dynamics worldwide. By influencing the perceptions and actions of individuals and groups, identity politics in Islam can significantly impact political and social stability within a country, especially in intergroup tensions. In addition, the role of media and communication has also proved crucial in shaping the image and narrative of Islamic identity politics, both positively and negatively. Therefore, a deep understanding of the complexities of identity politics in Islam and concerted efforts to promote mutual understanding, dialogue, and peace are key to confronting the challenges of identity politics in contemporary Islam.*

**Keywords:** *Political Dynamics, Identity Politics, Contemporary Islam.*

## A. Introduction

Islam, one of the world's largest religions, has a widespread following in various countries with diverse cultural, economic, and political backgrounds.<sup>1</sup> This diversity reflects the complex diversity within the Muslim world, rich in diverse religious traditions, schools of thought, and interpretations. Identity politics is a prominent phenomenon in the development of contemporary Islam, which has been a critical factor in driving political, social, and economic dynamics in many countries with significant Muslim populations.

Within the framework of contemporary Islam, identity politics appears in the form of various movements and groups that seek to define their Muslim identity in particular.<sup>2</sup> Some groups may emphasize Sunni identity, while others focus more on Shia identity. In addition, some groups emphasize more ethnic aspects of Muslim identity, such as Arab, Persian, or Kurdish ethnic groups. This difference in identity politics illustrates the plurality in contemporary Islamic discourse and practice. In addition, the relevance of identity politics in Islam is also strongly felt in the context of countries with a majority Muslim population. Some countries base Islamic religious identity as an integral part of their constitutions. However, even within these countries, there are various approaches to applying identity politics. Some countries may be more inclined to adopt a strict interpretation of Islam, while others are more open to religious understandings and practice variations.<sup>3</sup> This variability reflects the complexity of identity politics in Islam nationally.

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<sup>1</sup> Pippa Norris and Ronald F Inglehart, "Muslim Integration into Western Cultures: Between Origins and Destinations," *Political Studies* 60, no. 2 (2012): 228–251, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9248.2012.00951.x>; See also Suud Sarim Karimullah, Mu'adil Faizin, and Aufa Islami, "Internalization of Islamic Moderation Values in Building a Civilization of Love and Tolerance," *Al-Insyiroh: Jurnal Studi Keislaman* 9, no. 1 (2023): 94–125, <https://doi.org/10.35309/alinsyiroh.v9i1.6345>.

<sup>2</sup> Hotmatua Paralihan, "Hubungan antara Islam dan Demokrasi: Menguatnya Politik Identitas Ancaman Kemanusiaan di Indonesia," *Aqlania* 10, no. 1 (June 22, 2019): 63–83, <https://doi.org/10.32678/aqlania.v10i01.2109>.

<sup>3</sup> Suki Sian *et.al.*, "Negotiating Constraints in International Audit Firms in Saudi Arabia: Exploring the Interaction of Gender, Politics and Religion," *Accounting, Organizations and Society* 84 (2020): 101103, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aos.2020.101103>; See also Thomas B Pepinsky, R William Liddle, and Saiful Mujani, "Testing Islam's Political Advantage: Evidence from Indonesia," *American Journal of Political Science* 56, no. 3 (2012): 584–600, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540-5907.2011.00570.x>.

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Identity politics in contemporary Islam is also closely linked to global issues such as extremism, terrorism, and radicalization.<sup>4</sup> Some individuals or groups who feel their Islamic identity is threatened may respond with extreme measures. Therefore, an in-depth understanding of how identity politics affects individual and group behavior in an Islamic context is critical to analyzing and addressing these challenges. However, it is also important to remember that identity politics in contemporary Islam does not only have a negative impact. Many social and political movements are fighting for the rights and interests of Muslims, who are marginalized. They use their identity as a tool to fight for more just and inclusive social change. In this case, identity politics becomes a means of promoting justice and equality, reflecting the positive side of this phenomenon.

The digital context of this era also plays a significant role in the dynamics of identity politics in Islam. Information can be quickly disseminated and communicated worldwide through social media and information technology. Groups seeking to influence Islamic identity can use these digital platforms to reach a wider audience and amplify their narratives. In addition, information technology also allows more in-depth monitoring and analysis of identity politics movements in Islam. With data from online platforms, research can uncover emerging trends in identity politics, including the role of extremist groups or outside influence.

Previous studies have attempted to uncover the impact and dynamics of identity politics in Islam. Several studies examine the effects of identity politics in Islam on the process of radicalization and terrorism.<sup>5</sup> On the other hand, several studies explore the role of

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<sup>4</sup> Jon Abbink, "Religious Freedom and the Political Order: The Ethiopian 'Secular State' and the Containment of Muslim Identity Politics," *Journal of Eastern African Studies* 8, no. 3 (2014): 346–365; See also Tahir Abbas, "Ethnicity and Politics in Contextualising Far Right and Islamist Extremism," *Perspectives on Terrorism* 11, no. 3 (2017): 54–61; See also Choirul Mahfud *et.al.*, "Religious Radicalism, Global Terrorism and Islamic Challenges in Contemporary Indonesia," *Jurnal Sosial Humaniora (JSH)* 11, no. 1 (2018): 8–18, <https://doi.org/10.12962/j24433527.v11i1.3550>.

<sup>5</sup> Rasul Bakhsh Rais, "Identity Politics and Minorities in Pakistan," *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 30, no. 1 (2007): 111–125, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00856400701264050>; See also Elizabeth Pearson, "The Case of Roshonara Choudhry: Implications for Theory on Online Radicalization, ISIS Women, and the Gendered Jihad," *Policy & Internet* 8, no. 1 (2016): 5–33,

social media in identity politics used by extremist groups to promote their messages.<sup>6</sup> The results of these studies illustrate how important social media is in disseminating identity politics messages and mobilizing the masses in the context of radical Islam.

In addition, previous studies have also noted that in an increasingly connected world, Muslim individuals and groups can feel changes in how they identify and interact with the outside world. Historical, social, and political factors also influence the development of Islamic identity in Muslim-majority countries.<sup>7</sup> Such studies are relevant for understanding variations in Islamic identity politics across national contexts. Through this appropriate literature review, studying identity politics in contemporary Islam can build a strong foundation for further investigating the worldwide impact, change, and variation in Islamic identity politics. By combining previous research with sophisticated methodology, this study has the potential to provide a deeper insight into issues related to identity politics in contemporary Islam.

In an academic context, it is essential to note that studying identity politics in contemporary Islam requires a multidisciplinary approach. This involves political science, sociology, anthropology, religious studies, media analysis, and Information Technology. Combining these approaches allows us to understand identity politics

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<https://doi.org/10.1002/poi3.101>; See also Stefan Malthaner, "Radicalization: The Evolution of an Analytical Paradigm," *European Journal of Sociology/Archives Européennes de Sociologie* 58, no. 3 (2017): 369–401, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003975617000182>.

<sup>6</sup> Laura Huey, "This Is Not Your Mother's Terrorism: Social Media, Online Radicalization and the Practice of Political Jamming," *Journal of Terrorism Research* 6, no. 2 (2015): 1–16, <https://doi.org/10.15664/jtr.1159>; See also Jytte Klausen, "Tweeting the Jihad: Social Media Networks of Western Foreign Fighters in Syria and Iraq," *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 38, no. 1 (2015): 1–22, <https://doi.org/10.1080/1057610X.2014.974948>; See also Abdul Noury and Gerard Roland, "Identity Politics and Populism in Europe," *Annual Review of Political Science* 23 (2020): 421–439, <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-050718-033542>.

<sup>7</sup> Lawrence Pintak, "Islam, Identity and Professional Values: A Study of Journalists in Three Muslim-Majority Regions," *Journalism* 15, no. 4 (2014): 482–503, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1464884913490269>; See also Samiul Hasan, "People in the Muslim Majority Countries: History, Composition, and Issues," *The Muslim World in the 21st Century: Space, Power, and Human Development*, (2012), 115–130, [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-2633-8\\_6](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-2633-8_6).

in Islam holistically and deeply. In addition, several significant findings in the literature enrich the understanding of identity politics in Islam. Several previous studies have shown that identity politics in Islam has influenced the process of radicalization.<sup>8</sup> They reveal how individuals who feel marginalized or threatened in their identity can engage in acts of terrorism in response to the political and social conflicts they experience. These studies provide insight into the role of identity politics in fomenting conflict and violence in the Muslim world.

In continuing research on identity politics in contemporary Islam, it is essential to adopt a solution-focused approach. This includes identifying more effective strategies to address the negative impacts of identity politics, such as radicalization and terrorism. In addition, this study gives greater attention to the role of social media and Information Technology in understanding identity politics in Islam. This allows the development of more innovative strategies to deal with the challenges in this digital age.

This study uses a literature study method that involves an integrative and comprehensive literature analysis.<sup>9</sup> This method will allow researchers to collect, review, and analyze relevant information sources. This approach will enable the researcher to thoroughly and deeply understand different concepts, theories, and findings related to the research topic. By applying the Integrative literature study method,<sup>10</sup> the researcher will compile a summary and analysis of various literature sources, including books, scientific articles, conference papers, research reports, and other electronic sources. The researcher will look for different perspectives, innovative ideas, and significant findings related to identity politics in Islam. In addition, a

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<sup>8</sup> Muh Khamdan and Wiharyani Wiharyani, "Mobilisasi Politik Identitas dan Kontestasi Gerakan Fundamentalisme," *Al-Tahrir: Jurnal Pemikiran Islam* 18, no. 1 (May 31, 2018): 193–218, <https://doi.org/10.21154/altahrir.v18i1.1198>; See also Abd Muid N. Nawawi, "Dakwah Islam Moderat dan Realitas Politik Identitas dalam Masyarakat Meme," *Jurnal Bimas Islam* 12, no. 1 (December 27, 2019): 69–92, <https://doi.org/10.37302/jbi.v12i1.100>.

<sup>9</sup> Further explanation can be seen at: Restu *et al.*, *Metode Penelitian* (Sleman, Yogyakarta: Deepublish, 2021), 35.

<sup>10</sup> See further in Mila Sari *et al.*, *Penelitian Operasional* (Padang, Sumatera Barat: Global Eksekutif Teknologi, 2023), 42.

comprehensive literature analysis will enable researchers to identify key trends, changes over time, and relevant frameworks of thought in the academic study of identity politics in contemporary Islam. By combining these findings, researchers can better understand the complexity of identity politics in Islam worldwide.

## **B. Identity Politics in Islam**

Identity politics in Islam is a complex and highly relevant concept in today's world context. Islam, as one of the largest religions in the world, has millions of followers across the globe, spanning a wide range of cultural, economic, and social backgrounds. In recent decades, identity politics in Islam has become an increasingly important issue and plays a significant role in developing Muslim societies and the interaction between Muslim countries and the outside world.<sup>11</sup>

As a broad concept, identity politics in Islam can affect various aspects of life, from domestic politics to international relations. At the household level, identity politics can be essential in elections, social policies, and other political actions. Groups identifying themselves with various interpretations of Islam can mobilize their followers to achieve specific political goals. In addition, identity politics in Islam can also affect conflict and peace dynamics. The conflict between groups that differ in Islamic identity can sometimes lead to prolonged battles. On the other hand, a deep understanding of Islamic identity can also be used to promote interreligious dialogue and peace among various groups.

In international relations, identity politics in Islam also plays a significant role. Countries with a Muslim majority often formulate their foreign policy considering their religious identity. Factors such as Muslim solidarity, support for Islamic political movements, and issues related to Muslims in different parts of the world can influence

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<sup>11</sup> Salwa Ismail, "Being Muslim: Islam, Islamism and Identity Politics," *Government and Opposition* 39, no. 4 (2004): 614–631, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1477-7053.2004.00138.x>; See also Caroline Nagel, "Skilled Migration in Global Cities from 'Other' Perspectives: British Arabs, Identity Politics, and Local Embeddedness," *Geoforum* 36, no. 2 (2005): 197–210, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2003.06.003>.

the attitude of Muslim countries in international diplomacy. However, identity politics in Islam can also be a source of conflict in international relations. For example, religious interpretation and identity politics differences can lead to tensions between countries with Sunni and Shia majorities. Conflicts in the Middle East, such as the civil war in Syria and the Yemen conflict, reflect the role of identity politics in creating conflict and tension in the region.

In some cases, identity politics in Islam appears to preserve and strengthen traditional values and religious beliefs in the face of modernization and globalization.<sup>12</sup> Groups that feel foreign influences threaten their Islamic identity may be more active in identity politics as a form of resistance to such changes. It is important to note that identity politics in Islam can also positively impact Muslim societies. For example, some identity politics movements fight for the rights and interests of groups that may be marginalized or discriminated against. They can use their identity as a tool to mobilize the masses and fight for more just and inclusive social change. In this sense, identity politics can be a tool for advocating for human rights, justice, and positive social change.<sup>13</sup>

However, identity politics in Islam can also face challenges and controversies. Sometimes, groups that seek to promote identity politics in Islam can become extremist or engage in violence. This creates harmful societal impacts, both at the local and global levels. Therefore, understanding how identity politics in Islam can be moderated and directed positively is essential in addressing these challenges. In addition, a comprehensive approach to identity politics

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<sup>12</sup> Mikael Gravers, "Anti-Muslim Buddhist Nationalism in Burma and Sri Lanka: Religious Violence and Globalized Imaginaries of Endangered Identities," *Contemporary Buddhism* 16, no. 1 (2015): 1–27, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14639947.2015.1008090>; See also Robert J Lieber and Ruth E Weisberg, "Globalization, Culture, and Identities in Crisis," *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society* 16 (2002): 273–296, <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1020581114701>.

<sup>13</sup> Ignasius Liliék Senaharjanta, "Konstruksi Politik Identitas melalui Visual Fotografi (Studi Analisa Pesan Visual Paul Martin Lester pada Foto Deklarasi Kemenangan Joko Widodo dan KH Ma'ruf Amin)," *Specta: Journal of Photography, Arts, and Media* 4, no. 1 (December 16, 2020): 79, <https://doi.org/10.24821/specta.v4i1.3791>; See also Sri Astuti Buchari, *Kebangkitan Etnis Menuju Politik Identitas* (Jakarta: Yayasan Obor Indonesia, 2014), 20.

in Islam should also consider the role of social media and Information Technology. In this digital age, social media has become a powerful platform for spreading identity politics messages, both positive and destructive. Groups seeking to influence identity politics in Islam often use social media to reach a wider audience and reinforce their narratives. Therefore, the role of social media in shaping and influencing identity politics in Islam also needs to be taken seriously.

Identity politics in Islam also encompasses several vital issues relating to human rights and state governance. Some of these issues involve women and minority groups in the Muslim world. Women's struggle for greater freedoms, gender equality, and more active political participation is one aspect of the evolving identity politics in Islam. In some countries, Muslim women have struggled to reform patriarchal interpretations of Islam and express their Islamic identity through Islamic feminist movements. Similarly, minority groups within Muslim societies, such as Shia, Ahmadi, or non-Arab Muslims, often face challenges in maintaining and expressing their religious identity. Identity politics in Islam also considers how countries with Muslim majorities manage religious and cultural diversity within their borders.

It is essential to understand that identity politics in Islam also has a global dimension. Issues such as Islamophobia, anti-Muslim, and religious polarization worldwide are also part of identity politics in Islam.<sup>14</sup> Attacks on Islam and Muslim identity in some Western countries have sparked backlash and political mobilization in Muslim communities worldwide. In this context, international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) are becoming increasingly crucial in discussing identity politics in Islam globally. These organizations promote human rights, intercultural dialogue, and peace amid the emerging challenges of identity politics in Islam. In addition, identity politics in

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<sup>14</sup> Mohsin Hassan Khan *et.al.*, "Muslims' Representation in Donald Trump's Anti-Muslim-Islam Statement: A Critical Discourse Analysis," *Religions* 10, no. 2 (2019): 115, <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel10020115>; See also Christine Ogan *et.al.*, "The Rise of Anti-Muslim Prejudice: Media and Islamophobia in Europe and the United States," *International Communication Gazette* 76, no. 1 (2014): 27–46, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1748048513504048>.



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Islam also impacts the formation of state policy, law, and international policy. Countries with a Muslim majority are often faced with questions about accommodating religious identity in their political structures. It includes considerations about whether the state should have a religious character, such as an Islamic or secular state, and how the rights of religious minorities should be recognized and protected.

Identity politics in Islam is also inseparable from religious leaders' and institutions' roles and influence. Religious leaders, clerics, and clergy significantly influence the understanding and interpretation of identity politics in Islam. They often have the role of leading interpreters of Islamic teachings and can influence Muslim communities' political views and attitudes on specific issues. Therefore, in understanding identity politics in Islam, it is necessary to consider the role and influence of religious leaders and institutions in shaping and directing identity politics at the local and national levels. In addition, it is also essential to recognize that identity politics in Islam is not always conflict or tension. There are many instances where identity politics in Islam has been used to promote cooperation, dialogue, and reconciliation between cultures. Islamic groups often work together on social, humanitarian, and educational projects. The diversity of identity politics in Islam creates opportunities to build bridges between other groups and communities.

Identity politics in Islam can also be observed through unique regional dynamics. There are significant differences in how Islamic identity politics is interpreted and conducted in different regions. For example, Islamic identity politics in the Middle East often centers on issues such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Arab nationalism, and the struggle against authoritarian regimes.<sup>15</sup> In South Asia, religious

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<sup>15</sup> Virginia Tilley, "Safety, State and Peace Promotion in the Middle-East: Where Do We Begin?," *African Safety Promotion* 4, no. 2 (2006): 6–19; Wasisto Raharjo Jati, "Radicalism in the Perspective of Islamic-Populism: Trajectory of Political Islam in Indonesia," *Journal of Indonesian Islam* 7, no. 2 (2013): 268–287; Erik C Nisbet and Teresa A Myers, "Anti-American Sentiment as a Media Effect? Arab Media, Political Identity, and Public Opinion in the Middle East," *Communication Research* 38, no. 5 (2011): 684–709, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093650211405648>; Leila Farsakh, "The One-State Solution and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Palestinian Challenges and Prospects," *The Middle East Journal* 65, no. 1 (2011): 55–71, <https://doi.org/10.3751/65.1.13>.

identity is often mixed with ethnicity and nationalism. In Africa, Islamic identity politics is often tied to complex issues of race, tribe, and social change. In addition, it is essential to look at how identity politics in Islam also interacts with global politics. The development of identity politics in Islam is often associated with significant changes in global geopolitics, such as the invasion of Afghanistan by the United States, which provoked an increase in the activity of extremist groups. Global issues such as climate change, international trade, and regional conflicts can also influence identity politics in Islam and create complex tensions.

The great challenge in understanding identity politics in Islam is to avoid simplistic generalizations. Islamic identity is diverse, and its political views and practices vary widely. For example, although some extremist groups use Islamic identity for violent purposes, most Muslims reject such acts and adhere to the values of peace, tolerance, and interreligious harmony. Education, intercultural dialogue, and mutual understanding are essential in this context. Educating individuals and communities about the diversity of identity politics in Islam can help overcome harmful stereotypes and prejudices. Interreligious and Intergroup dialogue can also promote understanding and peace among different communities.

Identity politics in Islam also reflects several social and economic issues that need attention. In many Muslim societies, social and economic inequalities create tensions in identity politics. Groups that feel marginalized or do not have equal access to financial resources often seek solutions to their Islamic identity. Identity politics can be used to express dissatisfaction with these inequalities and mobilize greater social demands. In many cases, identity politics in Islam is also closely linked to issues of sovereignty and independence. In some Muslim countries, groups that promote identity politics may fight for autonomy or independence from a central government perceived as trying to control or suppress their identity. Examples like this are in various regions, ranging from Kashmir in South Asia to Aceh in Indonesia.

Meanwhile, identity politics in Islam can also play an essential role in social and cultural transformation. For example, Islamist

movements have sometimes tried to change society's social and legal order to better suit their interpretation of Islamic identity. This often creates tension between different social groups with different views on religion and politics. In addition, globalization has also had a significant impact on identity politics in Islam. The increasingly close interconnectedness of the world through information technology and social media has allowed ideas of identity politics to spread rapidly and create transnational movements. This can create challenges for the government and society in managing identity politics in Islam that come from abroad.

A balanced approach between the state, civil society, and the international community is essential in addressing the complex dynamics of identity politics in Islam. Countries need to maintain a balance between human rights, social justice, and sovereignty in formulating policies related to identity politics.<sup>16</sup> Civil society has a vital role in ensuring that the rights of individuals and groups are respected and that intercultural and Intergroup dialogue is encouraged. In addition, the international community also has a responsibility to support peace and stability in countries with significant Muslim populations. Development assistance, preventive diplomacy, and regional cooperation can help reduce tensions arising from identity politics in Islam. Only through joint efforts can effective solutions to issues related to identity politics in Islam be achieved in this increasingly connected world.

### **C. Impact of Identity Politics in Islam on Political and Social Stability**

Identity politics in Islam has significantly influenced political and social stability in various regions worldwide. This phenomenon reflects how Islamic religious identity forms political views, organizes groups, and forms political demands. The impact of identity politics in Islam can involve several aspects closely related to social and political stability. One of the most striking impacts is the

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<sup>16</sup> Suud Sarim Karimullah, "Religion and State in the Islamic Political Paradigm in Indonesia Perspective of Prof. Kamsi," *Analisis: Jurnal Studi Keislaman* 22, no. 1 (2022): 53–74, <https://doi.org/10.24042/ajsk.v22i1.12648>.

emergence of societal conflicts and tensions.<sup>17</sup> Identity politics in Islam can trigger disputes between groups with different political views or religious interpretations. This kind of conflict can range from local disputes at the community level to more extensive conflicts, such as conflicts between Sunni and Shia groups in different countries. These conflicts often undermine social and political stability, create divisions, and disrupt people's daily lives.

Identity politics in Islam can also affect political stability at the national level.<sup>18</sup> Groups that adhere to a strong identity political ideology can be essential players in national politics and influence state policy. This can create tension with the central government or other groups with different political views. Countries with large Muslim populations often face challenges in managing these political dynamics and maintaining political stability. In addition to conflict, identity politics in Islam can create human rights-related tensions. Especially in cases where identity politics groups are in control or have significant influence, the rights of individuals and religious minority groups are often threatened. This includes restrictions on religious freedom, discrimination against minorities, and other human rights violations. This can undermine social and political stability and create deep inequalities in society.

Identity politics in Islam also has an economic impact. Investment and economic development are often closely linked to political stability. Political conflicts and tensions can hinder foreign investment and economic growth. This can create economic instability that negatively affects people's lives, including unemployment and greater social inequality. Furthermore, identity politics in Islam also affects international relations and geopolitics. In

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<sup>17</sup> Wening Purbatin Palupi Soenjoto, "Eksplorasi Isu Politik Identitas terhadap Identitas Politik pada Generasi Milenial Indonesia di Era 4.0," *Journal of Islamic Studies and Humanities* 4, no. 2 (December 3, 2019): 187–217, <https://doi.org/10.21580/jish.42.5223>; See also I. Putu Sastra Wingarta *et al.*, "Pengaruh Politik Identitas Terhadap Demokrasi Di Indonesia," *Jurnal Lemhannas RI* 9, no. 4 (December 29, 2021): 117–124, <https://doi.org/10.55960/jlri.v9i4.419>.

<sup>18</sup> Ari Ganjar Herdiansah, Luthfi Hamzah Husin, and Hendra Hendra, "Religious Identity Politics on Social Media in Indonesia: A Discursive Analysis on Islamic Civil Societies," *Jurnal Studi Pemerintahan* 9, no. 2 (2018): 187–222, <https://doi.org/10.18196/jgp.2018.0186.187-222>.

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this context, extremism, terrorism, and regional conflicts are often closely linked to identity politics in Islam. Countries and the international community must work together to address these threats and promote peace and stability at the global level.

Identity politics in Islam can also long-term impact a country's social and political development. For example, in cases where Islamic identity political groups manage to dominate the government, there can be changes in the political and legal structure that reflect the interpretation of a particular religion. It can affect individual rights, civil liberties, and gender equality, affecting social and political stability in the long run. In addition, identity politics in Islam can also create polarization in society. When issues of identity politics are intensified, culture is often divided into groups with opposing political views. This creates internal tensions and conflicts that can undermine social stability. This polarization can also hinder people's ability to work together to address complex social and economic challenges.

The impact of identity politics in Islam can also be felt in Education. In some cases, education can be used to reinforce specific identity politics. Schools and curricula can be designed to promote clear political or religious views, which can lead to a narrow and exclusive understanding of Islam. This can affect the younger generation and create a more profound societal polarization. In addition to the negative impacts, it is also important to note that identity politics in Islam can have positive aspects. For example, Islamic groups often play an essential role in providing social and humanitarian services to the community. They can help address challenges such as poverty, disease, and inequality. However, the challenge with identity politics is to ensure that these services are inclusive and open to all, without discrimination.

In dealing with the impact of identity politics in Islam, there needs to be a holistic approach that considers various social, political, and economic aspects. Intergroup dialogue, inclusive education, and efforts to promote mutual understanding can help ease tensions and conflicts that may arise. It is also essential to ensure that human rights and democratic principles are respected and upheld in all contexts of

identity politics. In addition, it is necessary to realize that identity politics in Islam is a phenomenon that varies in different countries and regions. Each context has unique political dynamics, and the impact of identity politics can differ significantly from place to place. Therefore, an approach based on a deep understanding of the local context and inter-community cooperation is critical to effectively addressing the impact of identity politics in Islam.

It is also important to note that the impact of identity politics in Islam can have a long-term effect on the image of Islam and Muslims worldwide.<sup>19</sup> When issues of identity politics dominate international news, this can create negative stereotypes of Islam and Muslims in general. This could deepen tensions between Muslim and Western societies and damage international relations. In addressing the impact of identity politics in Islam, an inclusive approach, deep understanding, and efforts to promote interreligious and Intergroup dialogue are essential. Education that introduces a better understanding of diversity in Islam and educates about human rights and universal values can help ease tensions. In addition, cooperation between states, international organizations, and civil society in promoting peace, tolerance, and better understanding is crucial in dealing with the complex impact of identity politics in Islam.

The impact of identity politics in Islam on political and social stability also includes essential aspects of international relations. Conflicts related to identity politics in Islam can have significant regional and global impacts. Identity politics conflict in Islam often creates tension between Muslim-majority and Western countries. Events such as the war in Iraq, the conflict in Syria, and terrorism issues have affected international relations, created instability at the regional level, and fueled tensions between regional blocs and

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<sup>19</sup> Marta Marchlewska *et.al.*, “Populism as Identity Politics: Perceived in-Group Disadvantage, Collective Narcissism, and Support for Populism,” *Social Psychological and Personality Science* 9, no. 2 (2018): 151–162, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1948550617732393>; See also Marcus Mietzner, “Authoritarian Innovations in Indonesia: Electoral Narrowing, Identity Politics and Executive Illiberalism,” *Democratization* 27, no. 6 (2020): 1021–1036, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2019.1704266>.

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significant powers.<sup>20</sup> In addition, terrorist groups that adhere to the ideology of identity politics in Islam have become a global threat. Terrorist attacks such as the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States and other attacks in various countries have created global security instability and triggered a war on terrorism involving many countries.

Conflicts related to identity politics often result in large waves of refugees and migration. Countries that accept refugees must manage the social, economic, and political impacts of the arrival of new populations. This can create tensions with local communities and pose social and economic integration challenges. In addition, identity politics in Islam is often the target of foreign intervention, both in support of specific groups and in attempts to influence political dynamics within Muslim-majority countries. This kind of intervention can deepen conflicts and tensions in society. Furthermore, countries with significant Muslim populations affect international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The impact of their identity politics can be reflected in the policies they support at the global level.

To address the impact of identity politics in Islam in the context of international relations, it is essential to promote preventive diplomacy, conflict mediation, and cross-border cooperation. States and international organizations must work to facilitate dialogue between the various parties involved in the conflict, both at the regional and global levels. In addition, the enforcement of international law and adherence to human rights principles should be promoted as part of the solution to conflicts related to identity politics in Islam. Furthermore, the role of civil society and non-governmental organizations in mediating conflict and promoting peace is also vital.

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<sup>20</sup> Mehran Kamrava, "Multipolarity and Instability in the Middle East," *Orbis* 62, no. 4 (2018): 598–616, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.orbis.2018.08.003>; See also Aglaya Snetkov and Marc Lanteigne, "'The Loud Dissenter and Its Cautious Partner'—Russia, China, Global Governance and Humanitarian Intervention," *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* 15, no. 1 (2015): 113–146, <https://doi.org/10.1093/irap/lcu018>.

They can serve as agents of change that promote dialogue, tolerance, and mutual understanding at the local and international levels.

It is important to remember that the impact of identity politics in Islam is complex and closely related to local and global contexts. Each conflict has unique characteristics, and a practical approach to addressing these impacts should consider the diversity of situations. Only through joint efforts, intelligent diplomacy, and strong international cooperation can we overcome the effects of identity politics in Islam and achieve peace, stability, and justice at the global level.

#### **D. The Role of Media and Communication in Contemporary Islamic Identity Politics**

The role of media and communication in contemporary Islamic identity politics is significant, and it has shaped political and social dynamics worldwide. Media and communication are both a means to convey information and a tool to shape views, identities, and public opinion on issues of identity politics in Islam. In the era of globalization and increasingly sophisticated information technology, media, and communication have a more significant influence than ever in shaping and influencing the development of identity politics in Islam. One of the most significant impacts of the media's role in Islamic identity politics is fueling polarization and conflict.<sup>21</sup>

Identity politics groups often use the Media to reinforce their views and demean the opinions of other groups.<sup>22</sup> This can create deeper tensions between groups, especially in the ongoing Sunni-Shia conflict. In this case, social media has become a powerful vessel for disseminating intense identity politics narratives. In addition, media

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<sup>21</sup> Yusril Fahmi Adam, "Islam dan Politik Identitas: Konflik pada Gerakan 212 dalam Perspektif Sejarah Indonesia," *Nalar: Jurnal Peradaban dan Pemikiran Islam* 6, no. 2 (September 7, 2022): 88–103, <https://doi.org/10.23971/njppi.v6i2.4395>.

<sup>22</sup> Michael D Slater, "Reinforcing Spirals: The Mutual Influence of Media Selectivity and Media Effects and Their Impact on Individual Behavior and Social Identity," *Communication Theory* 17, no. 3 (2007): 281–303, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2885.2007.00296.x>; See also John Erik Fossum, "Identity-politics in the European Union," *Journal of European Integration* 23, no. 4 (2001): 373–406, <https://doi.org/10.1080/07036330108429109>.



and communication can also influence how the world views Islam and Muslims as a whole. News often influenced by stereotypical views or biased tendencies can worsen the image of Islam. Terrorism associated with Islamic identity politics, especially well-known terrorist attacks such as September 11, 2001, have created negative narratives that can affect global perceptions of Islam and Muslims.<sup>23</sup> This creates a significant challenge in understanding the political dynamics of Islamic identity more profoundly and objectively.

However, media and communication also have the potential to facilitate dialogue and mutual understanding. They can be used to promote tolerance, inclusiveness, and peace. Several independent media initiatives and organizations focus on improving the image of Islam and Muslims and promoting a better understanding of actual Islamic values. This creates an opportunity for people to look at the dynamics of identity politics in Islam from different points of view. It is essential to recognize that the role of media and communication in Islamic identity politics is not just limited to news reporting. Entertainment, including films and television shows, has also significantly influenced perceptions and understanding of Islam and identity politics within Islam. Entertainment productions that portray Islam and Muslims in an accurate and balanced way can help break stereotypes and create a more constructive dialogue.

Amid the complexity of the role of media and communication in Islamic identity politics, a holistic and well-informed approach is essential. Smart media Regulation, better media literacy, and community engagement in media can help address the negative impacts and maximize the positive effects of media in Islamic identity politics. In addition, cooperation between countries, media organizations, and civil society groups in promoting a better understanding of Islamic identity politics and Islam is crucial in addressing this challenge in the evolving information age.

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<sup>23</sup> John Sides and Kimberly Gross, "Stereotypes of Muslims and Support for the War on Terror," *The Journal of Politics* 75, no. 3 (2013): 583–98, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022381613000388>; See also Muhammad Safer Awan, "Global Terror and the Rise of Xenophobia/Islamophobia: An Analysis of American Cultural Production since September 11," *Islamic Studies* 49, no. 4 (2010): 11, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/41581122>.

In today's digital age, the role of media and communication in Islamic identity politics is increasingly complex and significantly impacts society. The Media is not only a transmitter of information but also shapes individuals' and groups' views, attitudes, and political identities.<sup>24</sup> One of the impacts that should be observed is the spread of fake news (hoaxes) and disinformation through social media and digital platforms.<sup>25</sup> This can lead to tension and conflict, especially in Islamic identity politics. Fake news that incites and denigrates certain religious groups can create severe social and political instability. Therefore, it is essential to understand how digital media allows fake news to spread and develop strategies to combat disinformation.

Social Media has also become a place where Islamic identity politics groups can organize and coordinate political actions. They can use these platforms to gather the masses, spread political messages, and mobilize supporters. This gives them greater access to political influence than ever before. On the other hand, media and communication can also be essential tools for promoting interreligious and Intergroup dialogue to build mutual understanding and tolerance. Television shows, movies, and online media that bring different religious and cultural groups closer together can help defuse conflict and strengthen inclusive values in society. In addition, media and communication can also potentially influence public policy regarding Islamic identity politics. When issues of identity politics are widely reported and receive public attention, this can affect government policy and political approaches to those issues. In a democracy, public opinion influenced by the media can be an important factor in political decision-making.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Misni Astuti, "Konstruksi Sosial Media terhadap Kekuatan Personal Branding Tri Risma Maharani dalam Proses Komunikasi Politik Kontemporer (Analisis Framing Pemberitaan di Media Online *Republika.co.id* dan *Tempo.com*)," *Jurnal Dakwah Dan Komunikasi* 1, no. 1 (2016): 1–20, <https://doi.org/10.29240/jdk.v1i1.75>.

<sup>25</sup> Andi Najemi, Tri Imam Munandar, and Aga Hanum Prayudi, "Bahaya Penyampaian Berita Bohong melalui Media Sosial," *Jurnal Karya Abdi Masyarakat* 5, no. 3 (December 31, 2021): 575–582, <https://doi.org/10.22437/jkam.v5i3.16646>.

<sup>26</sup> Raden Mas Jerry Indrawan, "Dampak Komunikasi Politik dan Opini Publik terhadap Perilaku Masyarakat," *Wacana: Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Komunikasi* 16, no. 2 (December 13, 2017): 171–179, <https://doi.org/10.32509/wacana.v16i2.14>.

## **The Influence of Identity Politics in Contemporary Islam**

In the face of media challenges in Islamic identity politics, an effort must be made to promote independent and balanced media. Press freedom and media diversity are essential factors in ensuring that different points of view and narratives of identity politics can be given fair space in the media. Governments, media organizations, and civil society are essential in maintaining freedom and supporting independent media. Media literacy should also be improved. Media education that allows people to develop critical skills in consuming information can help reduce the negative impact of disinformation and fake news.

The Media plays a significant role in providing coverage of conflicts or political events occurring within Muslim-majority countries. News that tends to be biased or sensational can create negative views or deepen stereotypes. Conversely, the media also has the potential to bring the world's attention to important issues within Muslim countries, including the struggle for human rights, democracy, and sustainable economic development. In addition, media and communication play a role in facilitating international diplomacy and cooperation. Countries with Muslim majorities may use the media to promote their foreign policy, establish diplomatic relations, or facilitate dialogue between nations. In the digital age, public diplomacy through social media and online platforms is becoming increasingly important in influencing global opinion.

However, the role of the media in Islamic identity politics also raises questions about responsibility. The Media must operate within a framework of high ethics and professionalism. News that degrades or provokes conflict not only impacts domestic stability but can also affect global stability and world peace. The importance of media literacy applies not only to the general public but also to policymakers, diplomats, and state leaders. They must understand the role of the media in Islamic identity politics and how their decision-making can affect global perceptions of Muslim countries. In addition, cooperation between governments and international organizations in addressing the impact of the media on Islamic identity politics is essential. In addition, in the face of the role of media and communication in Islamic identity politics, it is necessary

to put forward a balanced approach. Freedom of the press and expression must be respected, but rules must also govern the spread of false news and harmful disinformation. Only through joint efforts between the media, governments, civil society, and international actors can it positively manage the impact of media and communication in Islamic identity politics and promote peace, stability, and better understanding at the local and global levels..

## **E. Conclusion**

Identity politics in contemporary Islam plays a vital role in shaping social and political dynamics in Muslim societies, with impacts that include political and social stability and being the focus of media and communication attention. Identity politics in Islam reflects the complex dynamics among religious and cultural groups that seek to understand and interpret Islamic teachings in changing political and social contexts. In this context, the impact of identity politics in Islam on political and social stability is particularly relevant, as tensions and conflicts often arise due to competition between groups with different political views. In addition, the role of media and communication in contemporary Islamic identity politics is essential in shaping public perception and defusing or deepening tensions through disseminating diverse information and narratives. Therefore, a deep understanding of identity politics in Islam, its impact on stability, and the influence of the media is critical to addressing challenges and promoting dialogue and peace in an increasingly connected and complex society.

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