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Islam and Modernity. One challenge – different answers

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We do not exaggerate if we say that all Islamic problems can be reduced to the challenge of Islam and modernity. Indeed we can trace the idea of modernity in any kind of debate which currently has engaged Muslim intellectuals and policymakers alike. For more than two hundred years, Muslim thinkers have dealt with the concept of modernity, trying to answer the question of the relation between it and Islam. While some Muslim thinkers claim that modernity is borrowed from Islamic intellectual tradition, others see it as

a western evil and part of a post-imperialist project to invade Muslim countries. Hence, some call to embrace modernity and welcome it and others oppose it harshly. To understand this opposing views we have to bear in mind that there is not a unique notion of modernity nor Islam itself. We can talk of "Islams" instead. In my short talk, I will try to give an overview of this challenge and the answers to it.

Zur Person: Prof. Eslami is an Iranian theologian and ethicist. He studied Islamic philosophy, theology, and jurisprudence at Qom Seminary, and philosophy of religion at the State University of Qom, Iran. Currently, he is Professor of Philosophy of Religion and Ethics at the University of Religions and Denominations in Qom. He has authored many articles and some books in diverse areas, including *Commanding right and forbidding wrong* (2018), *Human Cloning in Catholic and Islamic Perspectives* (2007), *The Ethics of Criticism* (2003) and *On Expedient Lies: Meaning and Examples* (2003).