



## Woman in Development and Politics

### Interactions of the Ruler and Women in the Caliphate of Commander of the Faithful Ali Ibn Abitalib

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2. Corresponding Author, Professor, Department of Islamic Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran. E-mail: [y.bouzarinejad@ut.ac.ir](mailto:y.bouzarinejad@ut.ac.ir)

Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p><b>Article type:</b> Research Article</p> <p><b>Article history:</b> Received: 9 July 2024 Received in revised form: 17 August 2024 Accepted: 6 September 2024 Published online: 31 December 2024</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> <i>Women,</i> <i>Political Status of Women,</i> <i>Islamic</i> <i>Government,</i> <i>Alawi Government.</i></p>	<p><b>Introduction</b> The Prophet of Islam (PBUH) brought about a fundamental transformation in the status of women during his time of prophecy and governance, granting them a new dignity based on the teachings of the Quran. Women, who had been deprived of basic rights during the pre-Islamic era, entered various social, familial, and even political arenas under the guidance of Islamic teachings. However, following the passing of the Prophet (PBUH) and the rise of the three caliphs, this trend reversed, leading to the marginalization and weakening of women's status. During this period, some pre-Islamic traditions resurfaced within governmental behaviors, resulting in a decline in women's participation in social and political matters.</p> <p>With the advent of Imam Ali's (PBUH) caliphate, a reformative approach emerged in the political and social spheres. Imam Ali (PBUH) endeavored to restore the neglected status of women and, by abolishing the prevalent innovations of the previous caliphs, adopted a policy grounded in justice and human dignity toward women. Under the Alawi government, women took on active roles and supported the government in various situations, including civil wars. At the same time, some women posed challenges for this government with their incompatible behaviors, requiring Imam Ali's (PBUH) wise management.</p> <p>This research aims to analyze the interaction between the Alawi government and women from a political and social perspective. Its objective is to demonstrate how Alawi policies in the realm of women's rights and their participation in public affairs facilitated a new context for women's roles in the Islamic community.</p> <p><b>Methodology</b> This research employs a descriptive-analytical method, utilizing library resources. With a historical and political perspective, it aims to examine the interaction between women and the Alawi government during the caliphate of Imam Ali (PBUH). The primary question of the article is: how were the interactions between the government and women during the caliphate of the Commander of the Faithful, Ali (PBUH), and how did these policies impact the social and political presence of women? In this regard, the study seeks to analyze the behaviors and decisions of the Alawi government to explore the positive or negative roles of women during this period, as well as the consequences of these interactions.</p> <p><b>Results</b> The findings of this research indicate that Alawi policies, from the very beginning of Imam Ali's (PBUH) caliphate, were based on justice, dignity, and participation. The presence of women alongside the Alawi government, particularly during political and military crises, exemplifies the positive interaction between women and the government. Women played significant roles in the battles of Jamal and Siffin, both on the battlefield and in supportive roles. The Alawi government directly supported their participation and sought to strengthen the conditions for their engagement in social affairs through the establishment of equitable circumstances.</p> <p>1. Attention to the Right of Bay'ah and Political Participation of Women: Although historical sources do not explicitly mention the taking of allegiance from women at the beginning of Imam Ali's (PBUH) caliphate, there is evidence of their presence at the bay'ah ceremonies. This indicates that Imam Ali (PBUH), like the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), recognized the role of women in political matters.</p>

2. Participation of Women in Battles and Jihad Against the Enemies of Islam: In the battles of Jamal and Siffin, women not only served as supporters in the rear but also acted as advisors and spiritual inspirers. Their presence boosted the morale of Alawi forces and weakened the enemy front.

3. Opposition to Distortion Movements Led by Influential Women: Imam Ali (PBUH) acted with wisdom and justice against the attempts of certain women to create deviations within the Islamic community and oppose the government. For instance, in the case of the Jamal battle, he made considerable efforts to prevent conflict before it began and dealt wisely with the leaders of this sedition.

4. Support and Backing of the Government for Women: The Alawi government was sensitive to supporting women in the community, including the wives of martyrs. Imam Ali (PBUH) personally addressed their issues and was deeply troubled by any negligence in caring for the families of the martyrs.

5. Government Support from Women in Society: The popularity of Imam Ali (PBUH) among certain groups of women enabled them to play significant roles in political and military turning points by supporting the government. This support reached a point where, years after Imam Ali's (PBUH) martyrdom, Muawiya summoned some prominent women supporters of the Alawi government to Sham and reproached and punished them.

6. Establishment of a Legal System and Emphasis on Equality: Following Islamic teachings and the prophetic tradition, Imam Ali (PBUH) endeavored to restore women's rights in society. He implemented justice equally for all, regardless of gender, and even treated women who were hostile to the government with fairness and compassion.

### Conclusion

The interaction between women and the Alawi government began with the caliphate of Imam Ali (PBUH) and even before that. Although sources do not explicitly mention women's allegiance to him, evidence indicates that women welcomed the rise of Imam Ali (PBUH) and participated in the bay'ah ceremonies. This presence and interaction continued throughout his governance, prominently manifested during various crises, especially in the imposed wars.

Throughout his caliphate, Imam Ali (PBUH) was a supporter of women's rights, diligently pursuing justice for them just as he did for men. His treatment of women was characterized by fairness and prudence, even in instances where they openly opposed the government. A notable example of this is his behavior towards women involved in seditions; in such cases, Imam Ali (PBUH) maintained a focus on mercy and the interests of Islam.

The Alawi government served as a safe and secure refuge for women in society, enabling them to easily present their complaints and requests to the caliph. These supportive policies not only created social security but also strengthened positive interactions between the government and women. Ultimately, these interactions reinforced the foundations of the government and enhanced its social influence.

In summary, Imam Ali's (PBUH) policies regarding women present a clear model of just and humane governance that can inspire Islamic societies in all eras. The constructive and respectful interaction between the government and women during the Alawi period underscores the significance of justice and human dignity in Imam Ali's (PBUH) political thought.

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