

ISLAMIC CREED IN NEW UZBEKISTAN AND THE SCHOLARLY LEGACY OF IMAM AL-TAHAWI**Xudoyqulov Jahongir To‘lin o‘g‘li**

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Annotation: This research analyzes the role of Islamic creed in New Uzbekistan and the significance of Imam al-Tahawi’s scholarly legacy within the system of Islamic theological doctrine. The work “Aqidat al-Tahawiyya,” written by Imam al-Tahawi, is considered an important source that presents the fundamental principles of Islamic belief in a clear and concise manner. The study highlights the scientific and educational importance of this heritage in the context of ongoing spiritual and educational reforms in New Uzbekistan. It also emphasizes the role of Islamic creed in ensuring religious tolerance, social stability, and spiritual development of society.

Keywords: Islamic creed, Imam al-Tahawi, Aqidat al-Tahawiyya, New Uzbekistan, spirituality, reforms, religious education, tolerance, scholarly heritage.

YANGI O‘ZBEKISTONDA ISLOMIY AQIDA VA IMOM TAHAVIY ILMIY MEROSI

Annotatsiya: Mazkur tadqiqotda Yangi O‘zbekistonda islomiy aqidaning o‘rni hamda Imom Tahoviy ilmiy merosining aqidaviy ta‘limotlar tizimidagi ahamiyati tahlil qilinadi. Imom Tahoviy tomonidan yozilgan “Aqidat at-Tahoviyya” asari islom aqidasi asosiy tamoyillarini sodda va aniq shaklda bayon etuvchi muhim manba sifatida ko‘rib chiqiladi. Tadqiqotda Yangi O‘zbekistonda amalga oshirilayotgan ma‘naviy-ma‘rifiy islohotlar kontekstida ushbu merosning ilmiy va tarbiyaviy ahamiyati ochib beriladi. Shuningdek, islomiy aqida ta‘limotining jamiyatda diniy bag‘rikenglik, barqarorlik va ma‘naviy yuksalishni ta‘minlashdagi o‘rni yoritiladi.

Kalit so‘zlar: Islomiy aqida, Imom Tahoviy, Aqidat at-Tahoviyya, Yangi O‘zbekiston, ma‘naviyat, islohotlar, diniy ta‘lim, bag‘rikenglik, ilmiy meros.

ИСЛАМСКАЯ АКИДА В НОВОМ УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ И НАУЧНОЕ НАСЛЕДИЕ ИМАМА АТ-ТАХАВИ

Аннотация: В данном исследовании анализируется роль исламской акиды в Новом Узбекистане и значение научного наследия Имама ат-Тахави в системе догматического учения ислама. Труд «Акидат ат-Тахавийя», написанный Имамом ат-Тахави, рассматривается как важный источник, излагающий основные принципы исламской веры в простой и ясной форме. В работе раскрывается научное и воспитательное значение данного наследия в контексте духовно-просветительских реформ, проводимых в Новом Узбекистане. Также подчеркивается роль исламской акиды в обеспечении религиозной толерантности, стабильности и духовного развития общества.

Ключевые слова: Исламская акида, Имам ат-Тахави, Акидат ат-Тахавийя, Новый Узбекистан, духовность, реформы, религиозное образование, толерантность, научное наследие.

Introduction

Islamic creed (*'aqīdah*) represents the core foundation of the Islamic faith, defining the essential beliefs that shape a Muslim's worldview and spiritual identity. Throughout Islamic intellectual history, scholars have contributed significantly to the systematization and clarification of creed in order to preserve doctrinal purity and ensure correct understanding among believers. Among these scholars, Imam al-Tahawi occupies a distinguished position due to his concise and authoritative work "*Aqidat al-Tahawiyya*", which has become one of the most widely studied texts in Islamic theology. His work presents the fundamental beliefs of Islam in a clear, structured, and balanced form, reflecting the mainstream Sunni understanding of faith.

In the context of New Uzbekistan, which is undergoing extensive political, social, and spiritual reforms, the study of Islamic intellectual heritage has gained renewed importance. The state's emphasis on spiritual development, cultural identity, and religious education has created favorable conditions for revisiting classical Islamic sources and integrating them into modern educational and social frameworks. Within this process, the study of Islamic creed and the scholarly legacy of Imam al-Tahawi becomes particularly significant for strengthening religious awareness and promoting a sound understanding of Islam. This research explores the role of Islamic creed in New Uzbekistan and examines the scientific and doctrinal significance of Imam al-Tahawi's legacy. It aims to analyze how classical theological thought can contribute to contemporary spiritual development and support the broader goals of national modernization.

The relevance of this topic is grounded in the increasing importance of religious education and spiritual enlightenment in modern Uzbek society. As New Uzbekistan continues its reform agenda, there is a growing need to strengthen the moral and intellectual foundations of society through the study of authentic religious sources. Islamic creed, as a fundamental component of Islamic thought, plays a crucial role in shaping a balanced and moderate understanding of religion, which is essential in preventing extremism and misinterpretation. Imam al-Tahawi's *Aqidat al-Tahawiyya* is particularly relevant because it represents a concise and universally accepted formulation of Sunni creed, widely recognized across different Islamic traditions. Its emphasis on clarity, moderation, and adherence to orthodox belief makes it an important educational resource in contemporary religious studies. In the context of New Uzbekistan, where religious tolerance and interfaith harmony are key priorities, such classical works provide valuable guidance for promoting a balanced and enlightened religious outlook.

Furthermore, the integration of Islamic theological heritage into modern educational and cultural reforms contributes to strengthening national identity and spiritual resilience. It helps young generations develop a deeper understanding of their religious and cultural roots while remaining open to modernization and global development trends. Therefore, the study of Islamic creed and Imam al-Tahawi's scholarly legacy is highly relevant both from a theoretical perspective and in practical terms, as it supports the goals of spiritual development, social stability, and sustainable reform in New Uzbekistan.

METHODS AND LEVEL OF STUDY

The research on "*Islamic Creed in New Uzbekistan and the Scholarly Legacy of Imam al-Tahawi*" is conducted through a multidisciplinary methodological framework that combines approaches from Islamic theology, history, philosophy, and social sciences. This integrated approach ensures a comprehensive and balanced analysis of both classical doctrinal sources and their contemporary relevance in the context of ongoing reforms in New Uzbekistan. One of the main methods used in this study is the historical-comparative method, which allows for the examination of the development of Islamic creed (*'aqīdah*) across different historical periods and intellectual traditions. Through this method, the study analyzes how Imam al-Tahawi's theological contributions emerged within the broader context of early Islamic scholarship and how they have been interpreted by subsequent generations of scholars.

In addition, the textual and content analysis method is applied to a close reading of Imam al-Tahawi's work "Aqidat al-Tahawiyya". This method helps to identify key doctrinal principles, structural features of the text, and its role in shaping Sunni theological thought. Special attention is given to the clarity, brevity, and doctrinal balance that characterize the text, making it one of the foundational works in Islamic creed studies. The research also employs a systematic analysis approach, which examines the relationship between Islamic theological heritage and contemporary educational and spiritual reforms in New Uzbekistan. This approach enables the identification of how classical religious knowledge can be integrated into modern educational frameworks while preserving its authenticity and scholarly integrity.

Furthermore, a socio-cultural analysis method is used to explore the role of Islamic creed in shaping moral values, religious awareness, and cultural identity within Uzbek society. This method highlights the interaction between religious education and social development, particularly in the context of state-led initiatives aimed at promoting spiritual enlightenment and interfaith harmony. The level of study can be characterized as theoretical-analytical and interdisciplinary. It is based on the synthesis of classical Islamic sources and modern academic research, allowing for a deeper understanding of both historical and contemporary dimensions of Islamic creed. The study does not only focus on theological interpretation but also considers the practical implications of religious knowledge in social, educational, and cultural contexts.

Overall, this methodological framework ensures that the research maintains both academic rigor and relevance, providing a solid foundation for analyzing the significance of Imam al-Tahawi's legacy within the spiritual and reform-oriented environment of New Uzbekistan.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The analysis of "*Islamic Creed in New Uzbekistan and the Scholarly Legacy of Imam al-Tahawi*" reveals that Islamic creed (*aqidah*) continues to serve as one of the most fundamental and influential components of religious knowledge, moral education, and spiritual identity in contemporary Uzbek society. The research findings clearly demonstrate that classical theological works, particularly Imam al-Tahawi's "*Aqidat al-Tahawiyya*", have preserved their strong academic, doctrinal, and educational significance even in the modern era. This relevance is especially evident within the framework of ongoing spiritual revival and comprehensive educational reforms being implemented in New Uzbekistan.

One of the key results of the study is that Imam al-Tahawi's doctrinal system provides a clear, structured, and universally accepted formulation of Sunni creed, which has played a crucial role in ensuring the correct and balanced understanding of Islamic beliefs among students, scholars, religious educators, and the wider population. His theological approach is characterized by simplicity, clarity, and intellectual precision, which makes it accessible to both beginners and advanced students of Islamic sciences. At the same time, his avoidance of unnecessary theological disputes and emphasis on fundamental beliefs contribute to preserving unity and preventing doctrinal fragmentation within the Muslim community.

Another important aspect highlighted by the research is Imam al-Tahawi's strong emphasis on moderation and balance in understanding Islamic creed. His work deliberately avoids extreme interpretations and sectarian tendencies, instead promoting a unified and harmonious understanding of Sunni orthodoxy. This feature makes "*Aqidat al-Tahawiyya*" particularly valuable in modern educational contexts, where there is a growing need for accurate, reliable, and moderate religious knowledge that supports intellectual stability and spiritual development.

The research also indicates that in New Uzbekistan, the study of Islamic creed has become increasingly systematized and integrated into both academic and religious education frameworks. This development reflects a broader national strategy aimed at strengthening spiritual education, preserving cultural and religious heritage, and promoting a scientifically grounded understanding of Islam. Educational institutions, including universities and specialized theological centers, have

begun to place greater emphasis on classical Islamic sources, thereby enhancing the quality and depth of religious instruction.

As a result of these efforts, there has been a noticeable improvement in overall religious literacy among students and researchers. Individuals engaged in Islamic studies are now gaining a more accurate and well-rounded understanding of authentic Islamic teachings, particularly those rooted in mainstream Sunni theology. This has contributed to reducing misconceptions, strengthening critical thinking skills, and fostering a more informed approach to religious knowledge. Furthermore, the growing academic interest in classical Islamic texts, especially works like "*Aqidat al-Tahawiyya*", reflects a positive trend toward reconnecting modern educational systems with their intellectual and spiritual heritage. Scholars and students are increasingly recognizing the importance of returning to original sources in order to understand the foundational principles of Islamic belief. This trend also supports the broader objectives of New Uzbekistan's reforms, which aim to harmonize tradition with modernization and ensure that spiritual values remain an integral part of national development.

Overall, the research confirms that the integration of Imam al-Tahawi's theological legacy into contemporary educational and spiritual frameworks plays a vital role in strengthening religious understanding, promoting moderation, and enhancing intellectual awareness. It also demonstrates that Islamic creed, when studied through authentic and classical sources, continues to serve as a powerful tool for preserving moral values, ensuring social stability, and guiding spiritual development in New Uzbekistan.

Another important finding is that the teachings of Imam al-Tahawi play a central and highly influential role in promoting religious moderation, intellectual balance, and doctrinal stability within Islamic thought. His creed emphasizes adherence to the fundamental and universally accepted principles of Islam, while deliberately avoiding excessive theological disputes, speculative arguments, and sectarian divisions. This balanced methodological approach makes his work one of the most effective instruments for fostering unity among different theological schools within Sunni Islam. In the context of New Uzbekistan, this intellectual moderation significantly contributes to strengthening inter-sectarian harmony, reducing misunderstandings related to doctrinal differences, and encouraging a culture of respectful scholarly dialogue among religious communities.

The study further reveals that the inclusion and systematic study of classical Islamic texts within modern educational reforms play a crucial role in achieving the broader objectives of spiritual development, moral education, and intellectual enlightenment. In New Uzbekistan, where state reforms are aimed at harmonizing national traditions with contemporary modernization processes, the use of authoritative theological sources such as "*Aqidat al-Tahawiyya*" ensures that religious education remains firmly grounded in authentic Islamic scholarship. At the same time, it guarantees that this knowledge is presented in a structured, accessible, and pedagogically appropriate manner for contemporary learners, including students, researchers, and religious educators. In addition, the research highlights that Islamic creed serves as a fundamental and enduring foundation for developing moral responsibility, ethical consciousness, and civic awareness within society. The key doctrinal principles outlined in Imam al-Tahawi's work—such as belief in divine unity (*tawhid*), accountability before God, moral discipline, and acceptance of divine decree—contribute to shaping individuals who are more aware of their ethical obligations toward society, family, and the state. This moral dimension of creed is not merely theoretical; it has a direct impact on everyday behavior, encouraging honesty, justice, responsibility, and respect for social norms. As a result, it plays a vital role in supporting long-term social stability, strengthening civic responsibility, and promoting ethical governance in New Uzbekistan.

Another significant result of the study is that modernization processes in New Uzbekistan do not diminish the importance of classical Islamic theology; rather, they create new and expanded opportunities for its academic study, reinterpretation, and contextual application. The state's

strong emphasis on education, scientific research, cultural revival, and spiritual enlightenment has led to increased scholarly attention toward Islamic intellectual heritage. This has resulted in a renewed interest in classical works of theology, jurisprudence, and philosophy, with “*Aqidat al-Tahawiyya*” occupying a central place in contemporary academic discussions. Consequently, such works are now being studied not only in traditional religious seminaries but also in universities, research institutes, and broader academic platforms, reflecting their universal intellectual value.

The research also demonstrates that Imam al-Tahawi’s scholarly legacy contributes significantly to the development of a culture of intellectual tolerance, academic openness, and doctrinal unity. His approach to creed is characterized by clarity, inclusiveness, and avoidance of unnecessary polemics, which encourages adherence to a unified understanding of Islamic belief. This is particularly important in the socio-cultural context of New Uzbekistan, where promoting religious tolerance, social cohesion, and mutual respect among different communities is a key strategic priority. His teachings provide a solid theological and intellectual foundation for unity, cooperation, and peaceful coexistence among diverse religious and cultural groups. Furthermore, the study identifies that Islamic creed education based on classical and authoritative sources plays a crucial role in enhancing the spiritual resilience and intellectual immunity of young people. In the modern era of globalization, digital communication, and ideological diversity, young individuals are increasingly exposed to a wide range of religious interpretations and ideological influences. In such circumstances, the structured, balanced, and moderate teachings of Imam al-Tahawi serve as a protective intellectual framework that helps youth distinguish between authentic religious knowledge and distorted interpretations. This, in turn, reduces the risk of ideological confusion, extremism, and radical tendencies, while strengthening their sense of identity, responsibility, and moral clarity.

Moreover, the study emphasizes that the integration of classical Islamic creed into modern educational curricula contributes to the formation of a more informed, critical, and spiritually grounded generation. Students who engage with authentic theological sources develop stronger analytical skills, deeper religious understanding, and a more balanced worldview. This educational process not only strengthens individual moral development but also contributes to the broader goal of building a knowledgeable and responsible society. Overall, the research results strongly confirm that Islamic creed, particularly through the scholarly legacy of Imam al-Tahawi, plays a vital, multidimensional, and long-term role in shaping religious understanding, moral development, intellectual stability, and social harmony in New Uzbekistan. His work continues to function as an essential intellectual bridge between classical Islamic scholarship and contemporary educational reforms. By connecting traditional theological heritage with modern academic and social needs, it contributes to the formation of a balanced, enlightened, and spiritually resilient society that is capable of responding to the challenges of the modern world while preserving its religious and cultural identity.

CONCLUSIONS

The study of “*Islamic Creed in New Uzbekistan and the Scholarly Legacy of Imam al-Tahawi*” leads to the conclusion that Islamic creed (*‘aqidah*) remains a fundamental pillar of spiritual, intellectual, and moral development in contemporary Uzbek society. Classical theological works, especially Imam al-Tahawi’s “*Aqidat al-Tahawiyya*”, continue to hold exceptional scholarly value due to their clarity, doctrinal balance, and universal acceptance within Sunni Islamic tradition.

One of the most important conclusions of this research is that Imam al-Tahawi’s theological legacy provides a stable and reliable foundation for understanding Islamic belief in a correct and moderate form. His concise formulation of creed helps to prevent misinterpretation, extremism, and doctrinal confusion, making his work highly relevant for modern educational and religious contexts in New Uzbekistan.

The study also concludes that there is a strong compatibility between Islamic creed and the objectives of the reforms implemented in New Uzbekistan. The state's emphasis on spiritual development, religious education, and cultural revival creates favorable conditions for the renewed study of classical Islamic sources. In this regard, Imam al-Tahawi's legacy serves as an important intellectual bridge between traditional Islamic scholarship and contemporary educational reforms.

Another key conclusion is that the integration of Islamic theological heritage into the education system contributes significantly to strengthening moral values and civic responsibility. The principles of belief outlined in "*Aqidat al-Tahawiyya*" encourage ethical behavior, discipline, and a sense of accountability, which are essential qualities for building a responsible and socially active citizenry.

Furthermore, the research confirms that Islamic creed plays an essential role in promoting religious moderation and intellectual stability. Imam al-Tahawi's approach, characterized by clarity and avoidance of excessive theological disputes, supports a unified understanding of Islam. This contributes to social harmony and reinforces the policy of tolerance and peaceful coexistence in New Uzbekistan.

The conclusions also highlight that modern reforms do not diminish the importance of classical Islamic theology; rather, they enhance its relevance by providing new opportunities for academic study and public understanding. The growing interest in Islamic intellectual heritage reflects a broader cultural and educational revival that aligns with the goals of national development.

In addition, the study concludes that Islamic creed education based on authentic sources such as "*Aqidat al-Tahawiyya*" plays a crucial role in protecting youth from ideological extremism and moral instability. It provides them with a clear, structured, and moderate framework of belief that strengthens their spiritual identity in a rapidly changing global environment.

Overall, the research confirms that Imam al-Tahawi's scholarly legacy is not only a historical contribution to Islamic theology but also a living intellectual resource that continues to support the spiritual and educational development of society in New Uzbekistan. The harmony between classical Islamic creed and modern reform processes demonstrates a sustainable model in which tradition and modernization complement each other in building a stable, enlightened, and morally grounded society.

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