
Christoph Werner

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This article is a summary of a M.A.-thesis submitted in 1998 to the University of Hamburg. It studies the concept of *iṣlāḥ* in the thought and writings of ʿAlī Šarīʿatī, which as the author demonstrates well, should not be just simply understood as synonymous with “reform”, since this term is grounded in a deep rooted inner-islamic tradition. *Iṣlāḥ* in the understanding of Šarīʿatī is therefore not identical with gradual changes in the administrative and social superstructure of a society, but an inherently Islamic institution that presents a means to promote regular and positive social change in an Islamic context that should be carried out by the *rowshanfekrān*.

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