





Along the East African littoral, Islam is typically the religion of discrete ethnic groups – people long excluded from the exercise of state power. In Kenya, Islam is a minority religion, while in Tanzania Islam is probably the largest religion. In each country, Muslims have faced attempts by state authorities either to marginalize them politically or to coerce them into the nexus of power at the state level. Such pressures have served to produce various forms of Muslim reactions. This paper is an attempt to provide a sharp understanding of the relationship between Islam, politics, and the State amongst Muslim in the east African countries of Kenya, and Tanzania by exploring how how Muslims in these countries respond to the challenges of modernity, globalization, and political change, while still preserving Islamic values in their governance systems.

Islam, Muslims and Governance in East Africa

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DATUM: donderdag 11 september 2025 TIJD: 15.00-17.00

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