

## **Abstract**

The issue of political authority in the contemporary Shia political thought is still a debatable one, there are many questions that related to the dialectic relation between the reality and the fiqh texts which produce the theories of political authority, at the core of that debate there are attempts for rooting the existing theories and seeking new approaches within that it.

The theory of Wilayat al Faqih is not the only theory that forms the framework of contemporary Shia political thought, there are numbers of theories that produced by grand Shia Jurists as the theory of Wilayat al Uma. the significance of that theories lays in its transferring the debate about Shia political thought from a specific area that focuses on individual worship to the areas that related to contemporary problems of life.

In order to exit from that limited area-that focus on individual worship- of Islamic Fiqh, the two theories of Wilayat al Faqih and Wilayat al Uma considered as a model of the vitality of Shia political thought in its contributing in The Islamic political thought, through their involvement in the issues of the legitimacy of the political system that based on Islamic principles.

This study aims to shed light deeply on the most two important theories in contemporary Shia Islamic political thought (wilayat al faqih and wilayat al Uma). The two theories have contributed in transferring the political theory of Shia from "waiting " attitude in the age of the hidden Imam to the practical field of politics. It tries to introduce and

discuss mainly the opinions of some Shia jurists about political authority as rooting of wilayat al faqih of Imam Khomeini and theory wilayat al Uma of both Sheikh Naini and Sheikh Muhammed Mahdi Shams al-Din.