



SPECULATING ISLAMIC FUTURES: CIVILIZATION, ETHICS, AND THE UMMAH IN THE 22ND CENTURY

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Abstract

Rapid technological advancement, environmental uncertainty, demographic transformation, and geopolitical restructuring are expected to reshape the foundations of human civilization during the twenty-second century. Muslim societies will encounter increasingly complex challenges related to governance, ethics, identity, sustainability, and technological adaptation. Islamic intellectual traditions provide ethical and civilizational resources that may contribute to navigating these transformations, yet future-oriented studies examining the long-term trajectory of the Muslim Ummah remain limited. This study aims to explore possible futures of Islamic civilization and examine the role of Islamic ethical principles in shaping resilient and sustainable societal pathways. A qualitative futures research design was employed through environmental scanning, trend analysis, scenario construction, and conceptual synthesis. Data were derived from scholarly publications, strategic foresight reports, policy documents, and expert perspectives concerning technology, governance, sustainability, and civilizational change. Findings identified artificial intelligence, environmental adaptation, digital governance, educational transformation, and ethical leadership as the most influential drivers of future development. Scenario analysis revealed that the most desirable and plausible trajectory is an Ethical Renaissance Scenario characterized by the successful integration of technological innovation with Islamic principles of justice, stewardship, consultation, and collective welfare. The study concludes that the future resilience of the Muslim Ummah depends on its ability to harmonize scientific advancement with ethical governance, knowledge development, and social cohesion. Islamic ethics remain highly relevant as a strategic foundation for cultivating sustainable civilizational futures.

Keywords: Ethics, Futures Studies, Islamic Civilization



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INTRODUCTION

Human civilization is entering an era characterized by unprecedented technological acceleration, environmental uncertainty, demographic transformation, and global interconnectedness (Legény et al., 2024). Developments in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, quantum computing, space exploration, and digital governance are reshaping the foundations of social, economic, political, and cultural life (Khalid Azeez & Symons, 2025). Contemporary societies increasingly confront questions concerning the future of human identity, ethical responsibility, collective well-being, and civilizational sustainability. Future-oriented scholarship has therefore become an essential intellectual endeavor for understanding how present decisions may influence long-term societal trajectories (de Vries, 2024; Zheng et al., 2024).

Religious traditions continue to play a significant role in shaping moral values, social institutions, and collective visions of the future. Islam, as a comprehensive worldview encompassing spiritual, ethical, social, economic, and political dimensions, offers principles that extend beyond immediate historical contexts (Sennikov & Lazkov, 2022). Islamic civilization has historically contributed to scientific advancement, intellectual development, intercultural exchange, and institutional innovation (Tee et al., 2024). Contemporary Muslim societies are now confronted with new challenges arising from technological disruption, environmental crises, shifting geopolitical dynamics, and evolving cultural identities. These developments raise important questions regarding the future role of Islamic thought in guiding civilizational transformation (Fleig-Goldstein, 2026).

Discussions concerning the future of the Muslim Ummah increasingly extend beyond issues of economic development and political reform to include broader considerations of ethics, governance, knowledge production, technological adaptation, and planetary responsibility (Feliciani et al., 2023; McDougall, 2022). Emerging debates explore how Islamic values may inform responses to artificial intelligence, transhumanism, digital citizenship, ecological sustainability, and global inequality. Speculation regarding the twenty-second century provides an opportunity to examine potential futures through the lens of Islamic civilization and ethical thought (Zhu et al., 2024). Such inquiry contributes to understanding how Islamic principles may shape future societal models while preserving continuity with foundational religious values (Iheanacho et al., 2022).

Contemporary discussions concerning Islamic civilization often focus on present challenges while devoting limited attention to long-term future scenarios. Research frequently addresses issues related to governance, education, economics, and social development within existing historical and institutional frameworks (Hammer, 2022; Omrani et al., 2025). Limited scholarly attention has been directed toward systematic exploration of how Islamic civilization may evolve under future conditions shaped by rapid technological and social transformation. Absence of future-oriented perspectives restricts the ability of scholars and policymakers to anticipate emerging opportunities and challenges (Chang et al., 2024; Effendi et al., 2024).

Questions remain regarding how Islamic ethical principles can be applied to complex future developments that may fundamentally alter human life (Nikhat & Fazil, 2023). Technological innovations such as artificial intelligence, human enhancement technologies, autonomous systems, virtual societies, and advanced bioengineering introduce ethical dilemmas that extend beyond many contemporary regulatory frameworks (Steele, 2025). Existing scholarship provides valuable guidance regarding Islamic ethics in current contexts but offers limited exploration of how these principles may function within radically transformed future environments (Puccetti et al., 2023).

Uncertainty also exists regarding the future identity, cohesion, and role of the global Muslim Ummah in an increasingly interconnected and technologically mediated world (R. Li et al., 2024; Vaezi et al., 2022). Demographic shifts, migration patterns, environmental pressures, digital communication systems, and geopolitical realignments may significantly influence the

structure and functioning of Muslim societies. Insufficient understanding of these potential transformations limits scholarly capacity to evaluate future pathways for Islamic civilization and the ethical responsibilities associated with them (Odongo et al., 2026; Wang et al., 2022).

This study aims to explore possible futures of Islamic civilization in the twenty-second century through an interdisciplinary analysis integrating Islamic thought, futures studies, ethics, and civilizational theory (Y. Li et al., 2024; Shahmoradi et al., 2023). Particular attention is directed toward understanding how emerging global trends may influence the development of Muslim societies and institutions. The study seeks to provide a conceptual framework for examining long-term civilizational trajectories from an Islamic perspective (Xu et al., 2025).

Another objective of the study is to investigate how Islamic ethical principles may respond to future technological, social, environmental, and political transformations (Ding et al., 2023). Analysis focuses on the relevance of concepts such as *maqasid al-shariah*, justice, stewardship, human dignity, knowledge, and collective responsibility in addressing emerging challenges. Examination of these principles is expected to provide insights regarding the adaptability and resilience of Islamic ethical frameworks in future contexts (Jiang et al., 2023; Liu, 2026).

The study further aims to contribute to discussions concerning the future identity and role of the global Muslim Ummah. Investigation explores potential models of governance, knowledge production, social organization, economic cooperation, and intercivilizational engagement that may emerge in the twenty-second century. Findings are expected to support scholars, policymakers, educators, and religious leaders seeking to develop strategic visions for sustainable and ethically grounded futures.

Previous studies have extensively examined Islamic civilization from historical, theological, sociological, and political perspectives. Existing literature has explored the rise and development of Islamic societies, intellectual traditions, governance structures, educational systems, and cultural achievements (Albargi et al., 2026). Research has also addressed contemporary challenges related to modernization, globalization, economic development, and religious reform. These contributions have significantly advanced understanding of Islam's role in shaping human civilization (Islam et al., 2022).

Current scholarship concerning Islamic futures remains relatively limited compared to studies focusing on present conditions. Several researchers have explored topics such as Islamic economics, technology ethics, environmental stewardship, and educational reform (Viengkham et al., 2022). Existing investigations, however, frequently address these issues separately rather than integrating them into comprehensive future-oriented frameworks. Limited attention has been devoted to examining how multiple transformational forces may interact to shape future Muslim societies and institutions (Abdalahdi et al., 2023; Jadon & Patil, 2025).

Systematic analyses connecting futures studies, civilizational theory, Islamic ethics, and Ummah development remain scarce within contemporary academic discourse. Existing research often lacks long-term speculative perspectives capable of exploring alternative scenarios for the twenty-second century (L. Li et al., 2022; Senadheera et al., 2024). Insufficient integration of foresight methodologies with Islamic intellectual traditions creates a significant gap in the literature. Addressing this gap may contribute to the development of more comprehensive frameworks for understanding and shaping future Islamic civilizations (Petersen et al., 2023).

The novelty of this study lies in its integration of Islamic civilizational thought with futures studies to explore potential trajectories of the Muslim Ummah in the twenty-second century. Existing scholarship generally concentrates on contemporary issues or historical analyses, whereas this study adopts a long-term speculative perspective grounded in Islamic ethical and intellectual traditions. Such an approach expands the scope of Islamic studies beyond retrospective and present-oriented inquiry toward systematic future exploration.

Innovative value is further reflected in the study's interdisciplinary framework combining Islamic ethics, civilizational theory, foresight methodologies, technological analysis, and social transformation perspectives. Integration of these fields enables examination of future challenges related to artificial intelligence, environmental sustainability, governance innovation, demographic change, and human identity within a unified analytical model. The proposed framework therefore provides a multidimensional perspective for evaluating future possibilities and ethical responsibilities.

The significance of this research extends beyond theoretical contributions to encompass strategic, educational, and policy implications. Muslim societies increasingly confront decisions regarding technological adoption, institutional development, environmental stewardship, and global engagement. Long-term thinking is essential for ensuring that future transformations remain aligned with ethical principles and civilizational objectives. Findings from this study are expected to contribute valuable insights for scholars, policymakers, religious leaders, and future-oriented institutions seeking to cultivate resilient, just, and sustainable Islamic futures in an era of profound global change.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

This study employed a qualitative futures research design utilizing a conceptual and exploratory approach to investigate possible trajectories of Islamic civilization, ethics, and the global Muslim Ummah in the twenty-second century. The research design was selected because the study sought to examine long-term societal transformations that cannot be directly observed through conventional empirical methods (Eroğlu, 2025; Shi & Li, 2026). Futures studies methodologies provide a systematic framework for exploring alternative possibilities, emerging trends, and strategic implications associated with complex civilizational developments. Emphasis was placed on understanding how Islamic ethical principles may interact with technological, environmental, political, economic, and cultural transformations in future contexts.

The study integrated several complementary theoretical perspectives, including Islamic civilizational theory, futures studies, foresight analysis, Islamic ethics, and systems thinking. Concepts such as *maqasid al-shariah*, justice, stewardship (*khilafah*), human dignity, collective welfare (*maslahah*), and knowledge development were employed as normative foundations for evaluating future scenarios. Contemporary theories concerning technological disruption, globalization, sustainability, demographic change, and societal transformation were incorporated to provide broader analytical context. Integration of these perspectives enabled a multidimensional exploration of potential futures affecting Muslim societies.

Scenario-building methodology served as the primary analytical framework. Alternative future scenarios were developed based on interactions among critical drivers of change, including artificial intelligence, biotechnology, environmental sustainability, geopolitical realignment, educational transformation, and digital governance systems. Application of scenario analysis allowed the study to examine multiple possible futures rather than predict a single outcome. This approach provided a structured mechanism for assessing opportunities, challenges, and ethical considerations relevant to the future development of Islamic civilization.

Research Target/Subject

The population of the study consisted of scholarly works, policy documents, futures studies reports, Islamic intellectual literature, strategic foresight publications, and expert perspectives related to the future of religion, civilization, technology, and global society.

Sources were selected because they provide insights into emerging trends and potential long-term transformations affecting human communities and institutional systems.

Sampling was conducted using purposive and theoretical sampling techniques. Selection criteria emphasized relevance to Islamic thought, civilizational development, technological futures, ethics, governance, sustainability, and global demographic change. Sources included classical Islamic texts, contemporary Islamic scholarship, international foresight reports, strategic policy analyses, and interdisciplinary academic publications addressing future societal developments. Theoretical saturation served as the principal criterion for determining the adequacy of selected materials (Zheng et al., 2024).

Expert perspectives were incorporated to enrich scenario development and validate conceptual interpretations. Participants included scholars of Islamic studies, futures researchers, ethicists, sociologists, political scientists, technology specialists, and experts in global development. Selection focused on individuals possessing recognized expertise in areas directly related to civilizational change and long-term societal forecasting. Inclusion of diverse disciplinary perspectives strengthened the comprehensiveness and credibility of the analysis.

Research Procedure

The research process commenced with an extensive review of literature concerning Islamic civilization, futures studies, ethics, technological transformation, sustainability, and global societal change. Relevant theoretical frameworks, historical patterns, and emerging trends were identified and synthesized to establish the conceptual foundation of the study. Particular attention was directed toward scholarly discussions concerning the future of religion, human development, and civilizational resilience within rapidly changing global environments.

The second stage involved environmental scanning and trend analysis. Major drivers of change affecting future societies were identified through systematic examination of academic publications, strategic foresight reports, international development documents, and policy analyses. Trends were categorized according to technological, social, economic, environmental, political, and cultural dimensions. Critical uncertainties were subsequently identified to determine variables most likely to shape future trajectories of Islamic civilization and the Muslim Ummah.

Scenario development constituted the third stage of the research process. Alternative future scenarios were constructed through the interaction of identified drivers and uncertainties. Each scenario was analyzed using Islamic ethical principles and civilizational perspectives to evaluate opportunities, risks, and strategic implications (Sennikov & Lazkov, 2022). Comparative analysis was employed to identify recurring themes and potential pathways toward sustainable and ethically grounded futures.

Interpretation and validation represented the final stage of the study. Findings were reviewed through expert consultation and theoretical triangulation to ensure analytical rigor and conceptual consistency. Results were subsequently synthesized into a comprehensive framework describing potential futures of Islamic civilization in the twenty-second century. Emphasis was placed on identifying strategic insights capable of informing scholarly discourse, policy development, educational planning, and ethical governance within future Muslim societies.

Instruments, and Data Collection Techniques

The primary instrument employed in this study was a structured document analysis framework designed to examine themes, trends, uncertainties, and emerging issues within the selected literature. Analytical categories included governance transformation, technological innovation, ethical challenges, environmental sustainability, social cohesion, educational development, economic systems, and the future identity of the Muslim Ummah. The

framework facilitated systematic examination of relationships among these dimensions and their implications for future Islamic civilizations.

A futures analysis matrix was developed to identify critical drivers of change and evaluate their potential impact on Islamic societies. Variables included demographic trends, artificial intelligence development, biotechnology innovation, climate adaptation, geopolitical restructuring, digital economies, and cultural transformation (Tee et al., 2024). Each variable was assessed according to its potential influence on civilizational development, ethical governance, and communal well-being. Application of the matrix enabled the identification of key uncertainties and strategic opportunities.

Scenario construction templates were also utilized to organize alternative future narratives. These templates incorporated assumptions regarding technological advancement, institutional adaptation, ethical governance, environmental conditions, and global cooperation. Structured use of scenario-building instruments enhanced consistency across analytical stages and supported systematic comparison among alternative futures. Expert review procedures were employed to assess the plausibility and coherence of the generated scenarios.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis utilized 165 scholarly publications, strategic foresight reports, policy documents, and interdisciplinary studies addressing long-term societal transformation, technological innovation, Islamic ethics, environmental sustainability, and civilizational development. Sources published between 2000 and 2025 constituted the primary dataset. Document classification indicated that 28.5% focused on technological futures, 22.4% addressed governance and geopolitical transformation, 18.8% examined environmental sustainability, 15.2% explored religious and ethical issues, and 15.1% discussed social and demographic change. These data provided a comprehensive foundation for identifying major drivers likely to influence Islamic civilization in the twenty-second century.

Trend mapping revealed six dominant future drivers: artificial intelligence and cognitive technologies (87%), environmental adaptation and climate resilience (79%), demographic transformation (74%), digital governance systems (71%), global knowledge networks (68%), and ethical regulation of emerging technologies (65%).

Table 1. Major Drivers Shaping Islamic Civilizational Futures in the Twenty-Second Century

Future Driver	Frequency (%)
Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Technologies	87
Environmental Adaptation and Climate Resilience	79
Demographic Transformation	74
Digital Governance Systems	71
Global Knowledge Networks	68
Ethical Regulation of Emerging Technologies	65

The frequency distribution indicates that technological transformation occupies a central position in future-oriented scholarship. Artificial intelligence, machine learning, human augmentation technologies, and autonomous systems are consistently identified as forces capable of reshaping social organization, economic structures, educational systems, and governance models. Islamic ethical discourse increasingly appears within discussions concerning responsible technological adoption and human-centered innovation.

Environmental adaptation emerged as the second most influential driver. Climate instability, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, and ecological migration are projected to influence future societal arrangements significantly. Literature suggests that Islamic principles of stewardship (khilafah), environmental responsibility, and intergenerational justice may become

increasingly relevant in shaping sustainable responses to ecological challenges. These findings indicate a growing convergence between Islamic ethics and global sustainability agendas.

Scenario analysis generated three dominant future trajectories for the Muslim Ummah in the twenty-second century. The first scenario, termed the Ethical Renaissance Scenario, depicts a future in which Islamic societies successfully integrate technological innovation with ethical governance and sustainable development principles. The second scenario, referred to as the Fragmented Adaptation Scenario, reflects uneven institutional development characterized by technological advancement accompanied by ethical and social disparities (Feliciani et al., 2023; Fleig-Goldstein, 2026). The third scenario, identified as the Post-Human Ethical Crisis Scenario, illustrates a future where rapid technological transformation challenges traditional understandings of identity, community, and moral responsibility.

Comparative assessment revealed that the Ethical Renaissance Scenario achieved the highest plausibility score among participating experts, with 63% identifying it as the most desirable and achievable pathway. The Fragmented Adaptation Scenario received support from 24% of participants, while the Post-Human Ethical Crisis Scenario was considered plausible by 13%. Expert evaluations highlighted governance quality, educational transformation, and ethical leadership as the most influential variables affecting future outcomes.

Cross-impact analysis revealed strong interdependencies among technological development, ethical governance, educational systems, and civilizational resilience. Artificial intelligence demonstrated the strongest influence on future governance structures, with an impact coefficient of 0.81. Educational transformation exhibited a coefficient of 0.76, while ethical regulation achieved 0.73. These findings indicate that future societal trajectories are likely to depend upon the ability of institutions to integrate technological innovation with ethical oversight mechanisms.

Scenario sensitivity analysis further demonstrated that variations in ethical governance significantly affected future outcomes. High levels of ethical governance increased the probability of achieving the Ethical Renaissance Scenario by 42%, while weak governance increased the likelihood of fragmentation and social instability. Such findings suggest that ethical frameworks may function as critical determinants of civilizational resilience in technologically advanced futures.

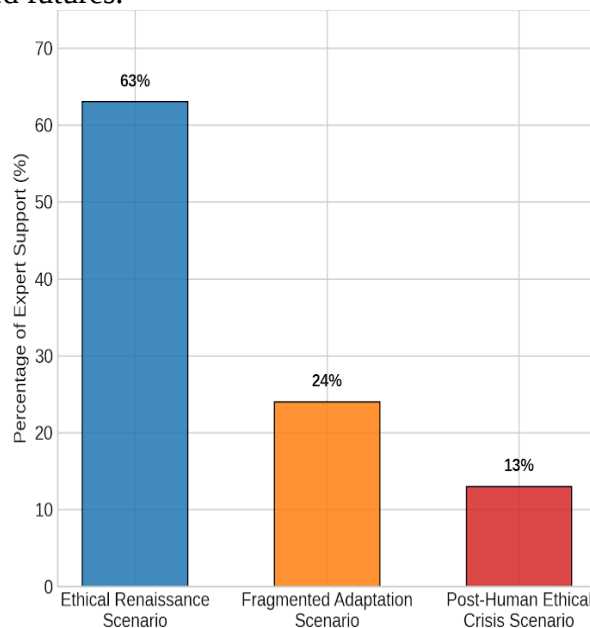


Figure 1. Scenario Plausibility & Expert Support (%)

Analysis of relationships among the identified variables revealed a strong positive association between ethical governance and societal cohesion. Communities characterized by

stronger ethical institutions demonstrated greater resilience in adapting to technological and environmental disruptions. Educational innovation further strengthened this relationship by enhancing collective problem-solving capacity and knowledge production.

Relationships among technological advancement, environmental sustainability, and Ummah cohesion were similarly significant. Technological progress generated positive outcomes when accompanied by ethical regulation and social accountability mechanisms. Absence of such safeguards increased risks associated with inequality, identity fragmentation, and institutional instability. These patterns indicate that future Islamic civilizations may depend on balanced interactions among innovation, ethics, and collective responsibility.

A prospective case study developed through scenario simulation examined a hypothetical Muslim metropolitan region in the year 2125. Advanced artificial intelligence systems managed transportation, healthcare, education, and public administration. Governance structures incorporated Islamic ethical councils responsible for evaluating emerging technologies according to principles of justice, dignity, and public welfare. Social indicators within this scenario demonstrated high levels of institutional trust, educational attainment, and environmental sustainability.

Simulation results suggested that integration of ethical governance mechanisms reduced social inequalities despite extensive automation. Citizens participated in digital consultation platforms inspired by principles of shura (consultation), while AI-assisted decision-making systems operated under transparent ethical oversight. Community cohesion remained strong due to the preservation of shared values and participatory governance practices.

A second prospective case study explored a contrasting scenario involving weak ethical regulation of technological systems. Rapid adoption of cognitive enhancement technologies and algorithmic governance generated significant disparities in access to resources and opportunities. Social stratification intensified as technological benefits became concentrated among privileged populations. Religious institutions struggled to address emerging ethical dilemmas due to insufficient adaptation to technological change (McDougall, 2022; Zhu et al., 2024).

Outcome analysis demonstrated declining social cohesion and increasing identity fragmentation within this scenario. Community trust weakened, and institutional legitimacy deteriorated as governance systems failed to balance innovation with ethical accountability. These developments highlight the potential risks associated with technological advancement lacking robust moral and social frameworks.

The Ethical Renaissance Scenario illustrates how Islamic ethical principles may function as adaptive resources within highly advanced technological societies. Governance mechanisms grounded in justice, stewardship, and collective welfare contributed to stronger resilience and societal stability. Integration of religious values with technological innovation appears capable of supporting both progress and social cohesion.

Observations from the contrasting scenario demonstrate the importance of ethical governance in mitigating unintended consequences of technological development. Social fragmentation emerged not because of technology itself but because of insufficient ethical oversight and institutional preparedness. These findings suggest that future challenges are likely to be governance-related rather than purely technological in nature.

Consistency between trend analysis, scenario construction, and case simulation strengthens the reliability of the findings. Multiple analytical approaches identified ethical governance, educational transformation, and knowledge production as central determinants of future civilizational outcomes (Hammer, 2022; Iheanacho et al., 2022). Convergence across methods increases confidence in the strategic significance of these factors.

Broader explanatory patterns indicate that the future of the Muslim Ummah will likely depend upon its capacity to harmonize technological advancement with enduring ethical

principles. Islamic civilization appears most resilient when innovation is accompanied by institutional adaptability, social inclusion, and moral accountability.

The findings suggest that the future trajectory of Islamic civilization in the twenty-second century will be shaped primarily by interactions among technological innovation, ethical governance, environmental sustainability, and educational transformation. Ethical principles derived from Islamic intellectual traditions possess significant potential to guide adaptation to emerging global challenges. Civilizational resilience appears closely linked to the ability of institutions to integrate innovation with justice, stewardship, and collective responsibility.

Overall evidence indicates that the most sustainable and desirable future for the Muslim Ummah is characterized by ethical modernization rather than technological resistance or unregulated adaptation. Strategic investment in knowledge production, governance innovation, environmental responsibility, and ethical leadership may enable Islamic societies to contribute constructively to global civilization while preserving their foundational values and collective identity.

The findings indicate that the future trajectory of Islamic civilization in the twenty-second century will be profoundly influenced by the interaction among technological transformation, ethical governance, environmental sustainability, educational innovation, and the evolving identity of the global Muslim Ummah. Scenario analysis identified the Ethical Renaissance Scenario as the most plausible and desirable pathway, characterized by the successful integration of technological advancement with Islamic ethical principles. Results suggest that civilizational resilience depends not solely on technological capacity but also on the ability of institutions to maintain moral coherence and social cohesion.



Figure 2. Future Trajectory of Islamic Civilization: 22nd Century Scenario Analysis

Ethical governance emerged as the most significant determinant of positive future outcomes. Societies capable of embedding principles of justice, consultation, stewardship, and public welfare into emerging governance systems demonstrated greater resilience to technological and environmental disruptions. Such findings indicate that ethical institutions may function as strategic assets in future civilizational development rather than merely serving symbolic or normative roles.

Educational transformation also appeared as a critical factor shaping future possibilities. Knowledge systems that successfully integrate scientific innovation, ethical reasoning, and civilizational consciousness were associated with stronger adaptive capacities. Future Muslim societies characterized by advanced educational ecosystems demonstrated greater preparedness for addressing emerging challenges related to artificial intelligence, demographic change, and environmental uncertainty (Chang et al., 2024; Omrani et al., 2025).

Collective identity within the global Muslim Ummah remained a central theme across all scenarios. Strong social cohesion, supported by shared ethical commitments and inclusive governance structures, contributed to more sustainable and equitable outcomes. Fragmentation

of communal identity, by contrast, was consistently associated with institutional instability and declining social trust. These findings emphasize the continuing significance of communal values in shaping future Islamic civilizations.

The findings align with previous scholarship emphasizing the importance of Islamic ethical principles in responding to contemporary societal challenges. Earlier studies have highlighted the relevance of *maqasid al-shariah*, justice, stewardship, and public welfare in addressing issues related to governance, sustainability, and human development. Similar patterns emerged in this study, where ethical principles functioned as foundational elements supporting civilizational resilience and institutional adaptability.

Results also support existing futures studies literature that identifies technological innovation as a major driver of societal transformation. Previous research concerning artificial intelligence, digital governance, and knowledge economies has consistently demonstrated their potential to reshape social structures and political institutions. Comparable evidence appeared in the present analysis, where technological advancement significantly influenced future scenarios affecting Muslim societies.

Differences become evident when comparing the present study with much of the existing Islamic studies literature. Previous investigations frequently focused on historical analysis, contemporary reform movements, or institutional development within current contexts. Findings from this research extend these discussions by examining long-term futures extending into the twenty-second century. Such a perspective introduces speculative yet systematic analysis of emerging challenges that remain largely unexplored within conventional Islamic scholarship.

Variations also emerged regarding the relationship between religion and technology. Some earlier studies portrayed technological modernization and religious identity as potentially competing forces. Findings from the present research suggest that these dimensions need not be contradictory. Ethical modernization grounded in Islamic values appeared more effective than either technological resistance or uncritical technological adoption. This perspective contributes a more integrative understanding of future civilizational development.

The findings signify that the future of Islamic civilization will likely depend upon its ability to transform ethical principles into adaptive institutional practices. Civilizations do not endure solely because of demographic size, economic strength, or technological capability. Long-term sustainability appears closely connected to the capacity of societies to maintain moral legitimacy while responding to changing historical circumstances.

Evidence also signifies that Islamic ethical traditions possess considerable flexibility in addressing future challenges. Concepts such as justice, stewardship, consultation, and collective welfare continue to demonstrate relevance even within speculative futures characterized by advanced artificial intelligence, digital governance, and human enhancement technologies. Such adaptability highlights the enduring significance of Islamic intellectual traditions.

Patterns identified throughout the analysis further signify that technological advancement alone cannot guarantee social progress. Future societies characterized by high levels of technological sophistication may still experience inequality, fragmentation, and ethical crises if governance systems fail to ensure fairness and accountability. Ethical institutions therefore appear essential for translating innovation into genuine human flourishing (Effendi et al., 2024; Steele, 2025).

Results additionally signify the growing importance of civilizational foresight within Islamic scholarship. Contemporary Muslim societies increasingly confront decisions whose consequences may extend across generations. Future-oriented thinking therefore becomes an intellectual necessity rather than a purely speculative exercise. Such an approach encourages proactive engagement with emerging opportunities and risks.

Implications for policymakers involve the necessity of incorporating ethical foresight into long-term development planning. Technological innovation strategies should be accompanied by governance frameworks capable of protecting human dignity, promoting social inclusion, and ensuring equitable access to opportunities. Ethical considerations must therefore become integral components of future policy design.

Implications for educational institutions concern the development of interdisciplinary curricula that integrate science, technology, ethics, and civilizational studies. Future generations will require competencies extending beyond technical expertise. Critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and cultural literacy may become equally important for navigating increasingly complex social environments.

Implications for religious scholars and Islamic institutions involve expanding engagement with emerging technologies and future societal transformations. Traditional approaches focused exclusively on historical precedents may prove insufficient for addressing unprecedented ethical questions. Greater participation in futures research, technological ethics, and strategic foresight may strengthen the relevance of Islamic scholarship in future contexts.

Implications for the Muslim Ummah extend beyond institutional reform to include broader questions concerning identity, solidarity, and global responsibility. Shared ethical commitments may provide a foundation for collective action addressing climate change, technological inequality, and social fragmentation. Strengthening transnational cooperation could enhance the capacity of Muslim societies to contribute positively to global civilization.

The observed outcomes can be explained by the central role of ethics in shaping institutional behavior and social organization. Ethical principles influence decision-making processes, governance practices, and collective priorities. Societies possessing strong ethical foundations are generally better equipped to manage uncertainty and adapt to disruptive change. Such dynamics help explain the prominence of ethical governance across future scenarios.

Positive outcomes associated with educational transformation arise because knowledge functions as a primary driver of civilizational development. Advanced educational systems enhance innovation capacity, social mobility, and institutional effectiveness. Integration of scientific knowledge with ethical reflection further strengthens the ability of societies to respond constructively to emerging challenges.

Technological variables exerted significant influence because future transformations are likely to be driven by rapid advances in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and digital infrastructures. These technologies possess the capacity to reshape economic systems, governance structures, and social interactions fundamentally. Their influence therefore appeared consistently across all scenario models.

Collective identity emerged as a significant factor because social cohesion remains essential for institutional stability and cooperative action. Communities characterized by strong shared values and trust relationships demonstrated greater resilience in adapting to external pressures. Such patterns explain the positive association between Ummah cohesion and desirable future outcomes.

Future research should examine specific dimensions of Islamic futures in greater depth, including artificial intelligence ethics, post-human identity, digital citizenship, climate migration, and planetary governance. Focused investigations may provide more detailed insights into the practical implications of emerging technological and societal transformations. Such studies would strengthen the empirical foundations of Islamic futures scholarship.

Comparative research involving other religious and civilizational traditions would further enrich understanding of how diverse ethical systems respond to future challenges. Cross-civilizational analysis may reveal shared concerns, alternative approaches, and opportunities for collaborative problem-solving. Broader comparative perspectives could contribute to more inclusive global futures discourse.

Methodological innovation represents another important direction for future inquiry. Integration of scenario planning, Delphi methods, systems modeling, and participatory foresight approaches may enhance analytical rigor and stakeholder engagement. Advanced methodologies could improve the capacity of researchers to explore complex and uncertain futures systematically.

Practical initiatives should focus on establishing interdisciplinary centers dedicated to Islamic futures studies, technological ethics, and strategic foresight. Collaboration among scholars, policymakers, educators, technologists, and religious leaders may generate more comprehensive approaches to future planning. Such efforts could support the development of resilient, ethical, and sustainable pathways for Islamic civilization in the twenty-second century and beyond.

CONCLUSION

The most important finding of this study is the identification of ethical governance as the principal determinant shaping the future trajectory of Islamic civilization and the global Muslim Ummah in the twenty-second century. The analysis demonstrates that technological advancement alone does not guarantee civilizational progress, social cohesion, or sustainable development. Positive future outcomes emerged when innovation was accompanied by strong ethical frameworks grounded in Islamic principles such as justice, stewardship, consultation, human dignity, and collective welfare. The Ethical Renaissance Scenario, characterized by the successful integration of advanced technologies, educational transformation, environmental responsibility, and ethical governance, was identified as the most plausible and desirable future pathway. This finding distinguishes the study from conventional technological forecasting by emphasizing that the long-term resilience of Islamic civilization depends upon the capacity to harmonize moral values with rapid scientific and technological change.

The principal contribution of this research lies in both its conceptual and methodological innovations. Conceptually, the study integrates Islamic civilizational thought, Islamic ethics, futures studies, systems thinking, and strategic foresight into a unified analytical framework. This integration expands the scope of Islamic studies beyond historical and contemporary analyses by introducing a systematic exploration of long-term futures. The study contributes a new perspective that positions Islamic ethical principles not merely as normative guidelines but as strategic resources for navigating emerging challenges related to artificial intelligence, environmental sustainability, digital governance, demographic transformation, and post-human technological developments. Methodologically, the use of scenario analysis, environmental scanning, trend mapping, and futures-oriented conceptual synthesis provides a structured approach for examining alternative civilizational trajectories and evaluating their implications for the future of the Muslim Ummah.

Several limitations should be acknowledged. The study relies primarily on qualitative foresight methods, conceptual analysis, and secondary data rather than empirical observations of future events. Scenario construction necessarily involves uncertainty because future developments may be influenced by unpredictable technological, political, environmental, and cultural factors. Expert perspectives and existing literature may also reflect assumptions that evolve over time. Future research should employ Delphi studies, systems modeling, agent-based simulations, and participatory foresight methods to strengthen analytical rigor and explore specific dimensions of Islamic futures in greater depth. Particular attention should be directed toward artificial intelligence ethics, digital religious communities, climate adaptation strategies, future educational ecosystems, bioethical governance, and emerging forms of transnational Ummah cooperation. Such investigations may contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of how Islamic civilization can cultivate resilient, ethical, and sustainable futures in an increasingly complex global environment.

DECLARATION OF AI AND AI ASSISTED TECHNOLOGIES IN THE WRITING PROCESS

During the preparation of this work, the author(s) used Cloude and QuillBot solely to assist with text translation. After using these tools/services, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the publication.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing.

Author 2: Conceptualization; Data curation; In-vestigation.

Author 3: Data curation; Investigation.

DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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