INSPIRATIONAL LEGACY: TRACES OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP INNOVATION
UTHMAN BIN AFFAN IN THE MODERN ERA

1) Muhammad Khottob Shoffan Sholihin, 2) Miftahul Jannah Akmal

1) Al Qasimia University, 2) Indonesia University of Education
Q20216681@alqasimia.ac.ae, mjannahakmal@upi.edu

ABSTRACT

Today’s world is faced with complex global phenomena. This requires entrepreneurs to be more innovative and creative in doing business globally, which is not only profit-oriented but also prioritizes ethical values in doing business. So, Uthman bin Affan comes as a figure who can fill the void. Even though it was a long time ago, the business strategy implemented by Uthman bin Affan is still relevant and can be adopted by Muslim entrepreneurs in the modern era. This article will review more about the traces of innovation and entrepreneurship of Uthman bin Affan and analyze how this legacy can be a provision to face the challenges and opportunities of today’s business world. The method in this research is a literature study. The conclusion is that Uthman bin Affan is a figure who illustrates innovation and leadership in various fields, including business, military, and social. His innovations, such as the formation of the navy, codification of the Qur’an, and creative business strategies, provide lessons that are relevant in modern times. The characteristics and principles of entrepreneurship in Islam that Uthman bin Affan adhered to, such as justice, honesty, social responsibility, and service to the public good, also provided a strong foundation for his innovations. Thus, the innovative legacy and Islamic values embodied by Uthman bin Affan have significant relevance in the contemporary context, both in the fields of business, military strategy, and social affairs.

Keywords: legacy, innovation, entrepreneurship, uthman bin affan

INTRODUCTION

Uthman bin Affan, the third caliph in Islamic history, was known as a visionary leader who was able to lead Muslims to an era of glorious progress. His leadership, which lasted from 644 to 656 AD, was characterized by various innovative breakthroughs that had a positive and significant impact on various aspects of Muslim life (Hakim, 2007). Uthman bin Affan’s success was not only reflected in his ability to manage the government and lead the people with justice and integrity but also in his intelligence in identifying needs and formulating innovative solutions to overcome various challenges of his day. Among the innovations implemented by Uthman bin Affan were the purchase of the Rauma as an innovative effort in the economic and social fields (Syarbini & Jamhari, 2012), the codification of the Qur’an to standardize the Qur’an as well as conflict resolution and the establishment of a navy as an innovative military strategy (Rahman, 2023).
In the context of modern times, as research (Jelanti et al., 2023) mentioned, the world is currently faced with complex global phenomena such as globalization, digitalization, fierce business competition, and environmental and social issues. This requires entrepreneurs to be more innovative and creative in doing business globally, which is not only profit-oriented but also prioritizes ethical values in doing business. Unfortunately, inspirational figures of Muslim entrepreneurs who successfully combine business growth with Islamic values are still relatively few. As a result, many young Muslims are confused to find role models in entrepreneurship. They crave success stories that are not only driven by ambition and business prowess but also based on faith and adherence to Islamic teachings.

So, one of the Prophet's companions, Uthman bin Affan, came as a figure who could fill the void. He was not only known as a successful businessman in his time but also as a role model in terms of generosity, honesty, and justice in business (Utomo, 2017). The story of Uthman bin Affan's business journey, from a young merchant to one of the richest men among the Prophet's companions, is full of lessons and inspiration.

Although the story takes place centuries ago, the values and business strategies implemented by Uthman bin Affan remain relevant and can be adopted by Muslim entrepreneurs in the modern era. This article will take a closer look at Uthman bin Affan's legacy of innovation and entrepreneurship and analyze how it can be used to face the challenges and opportunities of today's business world. Thus, it is expected to provide a better understanding of how the principles of leadership and innovation introduced by Uthman bin Affan can be adapted and applied in the modern global business context.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research is qualitative with the aim of exploring data using written words in order to explain in detail the innovations and traces of Uthman bin Affan in Entrepreneurship. To obtain research data, the author uses library research, which is a method of collecting data by reading, writing core topics, researching, and managing research material so that it can answer a problem in research (Roos & Fjellfeldt, 2023). The data sources in this study used various sources relevant to the
research topic, such as books, articles, journals, and documents. The research data that has been obtained is then analyzed using descriptive analysis techniques.

This research is carried out in 5 stages of research (1) Searching and tracing articles, journals, and documents related to this research, (2) Taking and understanding the essence of the data that has been traced, (3) Checking the relevance between the data that has been obtained with the theme of this study, (4) Analyzing the data that has been obtained from articles, journals, documents, and other data, and (5) Concluding the data that has been analysed then describing it in detail through writing.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Inspirational Legacy

Basically, inheritance is caused by the death of the right (Suwarni et al., 2020). The word inheritance comes from Arabic Al-miirats, which is the masdar form of the word waritsa-yaritsu-irtsan-miiratsan. According to the language, the meaning is the transfer of something from one person to another or from one person to another (Ratnawaty, 2018). As in the example of the inheritance process carried out by the Prophet Sulaiman to the Prophet David, namely when the Prophet Sulaiman replaced the prophethood and kingdom of the Prophet David and inherited his knowledge and the book of Zabur, which was originally revealed to the Prophet David (Basri, 2020).

According to M. Ali Ash Ahobuni, the aspect of inheritance is not limited to inheriting knowledge, such as glory, position, physical form, house and so on, but also includes both movable and immovable property based on the provisions of shari'a law (regarding inheritance) which has been determined based on the Qur’an, hadith and agreements by scholars (Muhammad & Sarbaini, 2020). Inheritance can be in the form of: a). Movable assets, such as jewellery, vehicles, savings, and securities; b). Immovable assets, such as land and buildings; c). The rights of the testator; d). and Liquid and intellectual rights; e). (Jamil et al., 2024)

Innovation Objective

Innovation comes from the English language, Innovation, which means change. Innovation can be interpreted as a process of human activity or thought to find something new related to input, process and output, and can provide benefits in
human life (Ibrohim, 2020). According to (Luecke & Katz, 2003), innovation is a process to realize, combine, or mature a knowledge/idea, which is then adjusted to get new value for a product, process, or service. Innovation, according to Zimmerer (Suryana, 2014), is defined as the ability to apply creativity in order to solve problems and opportunities to improve or enrich people's lives (innovation is the ability to apply creative solutions to those problems and opportunities to enhance or to enrich people live). Harvard's Theodore Levitt also suggests that innovation is the ability to apply creative solutions to existing problems and opportunities to prosper people's lives further. So, innovation is doing something new.

In the journal Handayani et al., (2016), it is explained that innovation is economic success due to the introduction of new ways or new combinations of old ways of transforming inputs into outputs (technology), which results in large or drastic changes in the ratio between the use value prepared by consumers for the benefits of a product (goods/services) and the price set by the producer. One of the reasons why innovation is needed is because of the rapid changes in the business environment, which is increasingly dynamic and hostile, so an organization must be able to manage innovation as a determinant of organizational success to become competitive (Fauzian, 2021).

Rosiyana et al. (2022) state that innovation represents the discontinuity of past conditions. This discontinuity distinguishes innovation from change because change is part of the previous or current service configuration and/or professional capabilities. Innovation is a picture of gradual change from existing conditions or a picture of continuity from the past.

The goals of innovation vary widely, but in general, innovation aims to improve efficiency, quality and competitiveness. One of the main goals is to improve efficiency through the use of new technologies or the development of faster and more cost-effective processes. In addition, innovation is also aimed at improving the quality of products or services by developing new features or improving quality control. Competitiveness is also a focus of innovation, both through developing products that differentiate from competitors and through market expansion with the latest technology. In addition, innovation is used to solve complex problems, such as addressing environmental or social challenges, and also to improve sustainability by developing environmentally friendly solutions or supporting social inclusion. Overall,
innovation aims to create added value for customers, companies, and society at large (Hartini, 2012).

**Entrepreneurship**

The word entrepreneurship is often translated as entrepreneurship. However, the definition of entrepreneurship in Indonesia is quite diverse and much debated (Reza, 2022). The word entrepreneurship comes from the French language, namely entreprendre, which means to undertake, in the sense that an entrepreneur is someone who organizes and manages activities (Darojat & Sumiyati, 2015).

Some definitions of entrepreneurship vary according to the opinions of experts who emphasize differences in emphasis, namely emphasis on the Subject (entrepreneurial actors) and based on Objects (entrepreneurial activities). Entrepreneurship is different from self-employment. The difference between entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs can be seen from the focus of their business. The focus of an entrepreneur's business is to cover all the time in his life. Meanwhile, the business focus of the self-employed is only part-time (Keling & Sentosa, 2020).

Expert Richard Cantillon, in 1725, defined entrepreneurship as people who face risks that are different from those who provide capital (Rucker, 1994). So, Cantillon's definition emphasizes how a person faces risk or uncertainty. Meanwhile, Blaudeu, in 1797, defined entrepreneurship as people who face risks, plan, supervise, organize and own (Antoni, 2014).

Based on various opinions about entrepreneurship, it can be concluded that entrepreneurship is a business activity with an emphasis on business actors who have an entrepreneurial spirit. There are three important points from this conclusion. The first is the aspect of the type of business or economic activity undertaken by an entrepreneur to find a good, potential, and prospective type of business. Prospective entrepreneurs must first conduct a study or analysis of business opportunities. Second, the key to business success lies with the entrepreneur, not with others. So, an entrepreneur must have good and qualified skills and a good personality. And third, entrepreneurial spirit is the complexity of an entrepreneur in managing himself and his business environment to be able to develop and become a successful entrepreneur.
Modern Era

The word modern in English is the word modernize, modernization, and Modernization. The word to modernize in verb form is "to make suitable for modern use, or for the needs of the present time." It means to make something new that can be used or that is needed in the present time.

From an etymological review of the word modern, it can be concluded that the word "modern" has two interpretations, namely in the sense of "new" as opposed to the word "old" or "ancient". (Young et al., 2016). This means that what is said to be "new" is something that has not existed before, in the sense of "what is always considered new, never considered obsolete so that it is valid for all time". Thus, the word modern also means progressive and dynamic.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Uthman Bin Affan’s Profile as Entrepreneurship

Uthman bin Affan, a famous Khulafaur Rashidin. His full name is Uthman bin Affan bin Abu al-Ash bin Umayyah bin Abdi Shams bin Abdi Manaf bin Qushay bin Kilab. He was born in Mecca in the sixth year of the year of the Elephant (al-Suyuthi, n.d.). Besides being a caliph, he was also known as a successful and innovative businessman. He has the honorary title of Dzannurain, namely the one who has two lights because he married two daughters of the Prophet, namely with Ruqayah, after Ruqayah died, Uthman was married to another daughter of the Prophet, namely Ummu Calcum.

From childhood, Uthman was always upright and honest. When he grew up, Uthman traded and ran a thriving business. He enjoyed special esteem for his integrity and friendship with Abu Bakr. Uthman was known as a wealthy and generous cloth merchant. He was famous among economists for the amount of livestock he had, which exceeded the number of other farmers. Uthman is said to have been among the as-Sabiqun al-Awwalin, those who first entered Islam and believed.

Uthman bin Affan was a very wealthy companion who was full of purity and generosity. Because of his spirit of piety and generosity, when the Prophet's order to migrate came, he followed the order without thinking about the wealth and trade affairs he left behind. He was willing to leave all that for the glory of religion and the
sake of obedience to the commands of Allah and His Messenger. Because of his generosity in an effort to achieve the glory of Islam and the victory of Muslims, all efforts to improve the fate of Muslims always received attention.

One of the key moments in his business journey was during the Hijrah to Abyssinia in 615 AD, where he not only maintained his business but also became part of the growing Muslim community there. In Medina, Uthman played an important role by investing his wealth in projects that became vital water sources for the residents of Medina and the Date Garden, which became not only a recreational area but also an agricultural centre that produced high-quality dates (Yani & Fattah, 2023). His wealth and business success were not affected by his leadership as Caliph in 644 AD; instead, he continued to make significant contributions to the Muslim economy and society, creating an inspiring legacy in the footsteps of entrepreneurship innovation in the modern era (Fahrani et al., 2023).

It seems that Uthman bin Affan’s social sensitivity and tolerance made him take light steps with a happy heart to always appear to meet the urgent needs of the Muslims, and this was done because Uthman bin Affan was one of the richest nobles. Among the Quraysh community in Mecca at that time, Imam Munawwir said that every Friday, Uthman bin Affan bought a slave, regardless of the ransom, to make then him convert to Islam and free him.

In fact, according to one narration, Uthman once said that he preferred to spend his wealth rather than collect it. Furthermore, he said that wealth has a social function. Therefore, had he not been concerned that there were holes in Islam that he could cover with wealth, he would not have accumulated it.

Uthman bin Affan, as a devout Muslim, had a unique personality. He still felt it was important to try to accumulate wealth because it could support the interests of Islam and its people, and he proved it throughout his life. Reflecting on the personality and attitude of Uthman bin Affan, who was wealthy but still lived a simple life, provides an illustration that a Sufi (simple life) is a person who is able to reject what he has and does not reject what he does not have (Harsoyo, 2020).

Uthman bin Affan’s attitude towards the world seems to be wisdom in his understanding of Islam’s teachings. Islam clearly has a concept about life in the world, where Muslims are commanded to seize the world as much as possible. However, control over the various facilities of life that are seized should be used as a
tool of devotion to Allah, not the other way around, making people complacent about facilities so that they forget their God.

**Uthman bin Affan's Entrepreneurship Innovation and Its Relevance in the Modern Era**

**Rauma will be purchased as an innovative economic and social endeavour.**

At that time, the city of Medina experienced a clean water crisis, and a Jew owned the only well left, so to meet the needs of water, Muslims and residents of Medina were forced to queue to buy clean water at a high price from the Jew. Hearing the news from his companions, the Prophet then said, "O my Companions, whoever among you donates his wealth to be able to free the well, then donates it to the people will get His paradise Allah Ta'ala." (HR Muslim).

So Uthman bin Affan took the initiative to meet a Jew who owned the well to free the well by offering a high well price, but the Jew refused on the grounds that it had become a daily income. Uthman bin Affan did not give up because he wanted to get Allah's Paradise by freeing the well and then donating it so that the mullahs and residents of Medina could easily get clean water. After negotiations, they finally came to a decision that one day, the well belonged to Uthman bin Affan, and the next day, it belonged to the Jews and so on.

As agreed, Uthman bin Affan invited the Muslims and residents of Medina to take clean water for free that could be used within two days because the well would belong to the Jews one day. Therefore, the Muslims and residents of Medina that day took water from Uthman's well. They took the amount needed for two days. The next day, what happened when the well belonged to the Jews was that the sale of clean water became quiet with no buyers because the Muslims and residents of Medina had a two-day supply of clean water and would take clean water again when the well belonged to Uthman bin Affan for free.

The next day, a well owned by a Jew had no buyers for clean water because the Muslims and the people of Medina were short of clean water supplies, so the Jew sold half of his well. "O Uthman, buy the other half of my well at the same price as you bought half of it yesterday," said a Jew. Then Uthman bin Affan bought another half of the well, until now the well known as the Raumah Well is located next to the Kiblatain Mosque. Around the well, date palms are managed by the Saudi Ministry of
Agriculture. The proceeds from the sale of dates are donated to the needs of orphans and the poor.

From this innovation, the analysis obtained in its relevance in modern times is: resource management with creative solutions. Uthman bin Affan demonstrated a creative way of addressing the water crisis by creating a solution that not only freed the well but also ensured sustainable access to clean water for the community. In today's era, where natural resources are increasingly limited, such an approach is relevant to inspire innovation in sustainable resource management.

Another relevance in modern times is the importance of collaboration. The story of Uthman's Well underscores the importance of collaboration between different parties to achieve a greater goal, in this case, ensuring access to clean water for the community. In the modern era, complex challenges such as climate change and urbanization require cross-sector and cross-border cooperation to create effective solutions.

Social innovation and social responsibility are also relevant to the story. Uthman bin Affan's move to donate the proceeds from the sale of dates to the needs of orphans and the poor highlights the importance of social innovation and corporate social responsibility (CSR) in this day and age. Companies and individuals who innovate not only focus on profitability but also have a positive impact on society and the environment.

In modern times, there is also a need for spiritual influence in innovation: Uthman bin Affan was inspired by his spiritual values to take innovative steps. Values such as integrity, social responsibility, and attention to sustainability are important cornerstones of sustainable innovation.

**Qur'anic codification for Qur'anic standardization and conflict resolution**

After the Prophet's death, tribal fanatics again dominated and controlled the political situation at that time. Each region still holds firmly to what its group glorifies. It came down to the issue of differences in the recitation of the Holy Qur'an. Although in the form of text, the verses of the Qur'an have been written the same and collected in the form of mushaf. However, the Arab region still maintains a way of reading that is in accordance with the dialectics of its group (Pakhrujain & Habibah, 2022).

In an effort to handle this case, Uthman bin Affan took steps to standardize the reading in an effort to create dialectical uniformity in reading the Qur'an. In the future,
there will be a mushaf that can be used as the main guide and is valid in accordance with the reading of the Prophet. So then, Uthman bin Affan formed a committee to codify the Qur’an (dialectical uniformity). The task of this committee was to copy the Mushaf into several Mushafs and standardize the dialect used. The dialect used was the Quraysh dialect (the Qur’ān was revealed through the Quraysh dialect). They took guidance from the hufazh’s recitation, and when there was a dispute between them about the language of recitation, they immediately returned to the Quraysh dialect. So this mushaf is called the Uthmaniyah Rasm Mushaf (Mudin, 2017).

In addition to uniformity and standardization into one Mushaf, the second step taken by Caliph Uthman bin Affan was to burn copies of the Qur’an that were not authentic in the original dialect. This was done so that there would be no racial variations allegedly adopted by certain groups. Caliph Uthman did a great service to Muslims in the codification of the Qur’ān. This was done to maintain the sanctity of the Qur’an so that there would be no variations in its recitation. In terms of politics, the unification or standardization of the Qur’an has a significant impact in preventing disputes or disputes between groups and regions that still consider their local dialectics in reading the Qur’an the most fluent (Madaniyah & Agustiar, 2024).

Departing from this, Islam now has a valid Qibla guidance from the Qur’an, which was last read by the Prophet Muhammad before his death, and Jibril repeated the sequence for the last time (Mukhsin, 2007). And this mushaf still survives to the present generation. This effort, called standardization, was strengthened by destroying the unreliable verses of the Qur’an and what the Prophet recited in order to avoid mutual distrust of the dialectic of reading the Qur’an. With the help of the memorization of the huffaz and the Qur’anic text collected by Abu Bakr, this unification step became a solution to resolve conflicts. It could unite Muslims even though they came from various dialects and groups, but the reading remained one.

An in-depth analysis of the entrepreneurial innovation of Uthman bin Affan's codification of the Qur’ān reveals implications that are relevant today. Uthman's move to resolve conflicts over Qur’ānic interpretation highlights the importance of having a standard authority in the interpretation of religious texts, which is still relevant in the face of variations in interpretation that can be divisive in today’s information age. In addition, the codification of the Qur’ān also demonstrates the need for standardization in religious education, where a consistent approach to teaching the
Qur'ān can result in a more equitable understanding among Muslims. The use of technology to disseminate religious information in a consistent and standardised manner is also an important aspect revealed in Uthman's innovation, given the importance of using technology in the age of the internet and social media to avoid miscommunication and misinterpretation. Furthermore, the codification of the Qur'ān also reflects the importance of efficient management of religious resources and the maintenance of Muslim tradition and identity amidst the challenges of globalization and modernization. Thus, Uthman bin Affan's step in standardizing the Qur'ān is not only a historical example but also contains lessons and implications that are relevant and profound for today.

**Naval establishment as an innovative military strategy**

The establishment of the navy by Uthman bin Affan was a strategic innovation in the military context that has relevant implications today. It demonstrated a proactive policy of expanding defence capabilities and maintaining territorial security, as well as exploiting the strategic maritime potential. In the modern era, with the complexity of security challenges, including maritime surveillance, maritime law enforcement and protection of natural resources in the waters, the establishment of a navy as an integral part of the country's defence forces has become increasingly important.

Uthman bin Affan's innovation also reflects an understanding of the importance of control over trade routes and sea security, which is still relevant in today's global geopolitical context. With nontraditional threats such as sea piracy, maritime terrorism and cyber threats at sea, navies are at the forefront of maintaining maritime security and addressing these challenges (Mukhsin, 2007).

In addition, Uthman bin Affan's establishment of the navy illustrates the courage to innovate in military strategy, given that at that time, the navy was not yet the main focus of military power. However, this decision proves that understanding and utilizing the potential of natural resources, such as access to the sea, can be a significant strategic advantage in the context of national defence and security.

As such, the establishment of the navy by Uthman bin Affan is not only an inspiring historical example but also provides relevant lessons on the importance of innovation in military strategy, effective management of natural resources and adaptation to the changing global security environment of today.
Characteristics and Principles of Entrepreneurship in Islam

Innovating in Islam emphasizes creativity, justice, and business ethics as the main characteristics of entrepreneurship. Islam encourages its followers to use creativity and innovation in various fields, while still upholding the principles of justice, transparency, honesty, and social responsibility in business (Rizky et al., 2024).

These principles underscore the importance of providing tangible benefits to society, avoiding unethical practices, and ensuring business sustainability. In innovating, Islam also emphasizes service and benefit to society, with the aim of maintaining a balance between personal gain and public interest. Risk-taking and perseverance in the face of challenges are also important aspects of innovating according to Islam, while the principles of Islamic values such as honesty, hard work, justice and diligence guide actions and decisions in business. In addition, Islam also encourages the search for solutions that are sustainable and provide long-term positive environmental, social, and economic impacts, making innovating in Islam a holistic endeavour that is resilient and provides broad benefits to society.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Uthman bin Affan is the epitome of innovation and leadership in many fields, including business, military and social. His innovations, such as the establishment of the navy, codification of the Qur’an, and creative business strategies, provide lessons that are relevant in modern times. The characteristics and principles of entrepreneurship in Islam that Uthman bin Affan adhered to, such as justice, honesty, social responsibility, and service to the public good, also provided a strong foundation for his innovations. Thus, the innovative legacy and Islamic values embodied by Uthman bin Affan have significant relevance in the contemporary context, both in the fields of business, military strategy, and social affairs.

Future suggestions include conducting a more comprehensive, in-depth analysis of the impact of Uthman bin Affan’s innovations and how Islamic entrepreneurship principles are reflected in his actions and decisions in other literature to enrich the existing research results further.
REFERENCES


