A TEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF WESTERN THOUGHT AND CIVILIZATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF SCHOLARS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

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PhD

April 2008
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

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Thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES

APRIL 2008
Candidate’s Declaration

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulation of University Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any other degree or qualification.

In the event that my thesis be found to violate the condition mentioned above, I voluntarily waive the right of conferment of my degree and agree to be subjected to the disciplinary rules and regulations of University Teknologi MARA,

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ABSTRACT

This research dissertation aims to analyze viewpoints of scholars of the 20th century concerning Western thought and civilization. In particular, ten scholars have been chosen to analyze their thinking and responses to Western civilization namely:


The research will explore the views of the above-mentioned scholars regarding various aspects of Western thought and civilization. Aspects of Western thought and civilization that will be discussed are as follows: i) Secularism and ii) Spiritual, moral and ethical issues.

The methodology of research in undertaking this Ph.D. programme is only one that is through a textual analysis of relevant literatures available as related to the research. An analysis of these literatures as related to the research subject had been done by referring to the books written by the afore-mentioned scholars.

Generally, it can be said that these scholars do not view Western thought and civilization favourably and they have contributed greatly to understanding the history and roots of Western thought and civilization, as well as offered positive criticism of them. Since all of them can be regarded as scholars of Islam, their criticism of Western thought and civilization were mostly viewed from the Islamic perspective.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A word of thanks to my supervisor for this PhD research thesis, Associate Professor Dr. Mokhtar Muhammad of the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), for his willingness to supervise this work from the start, especially enabling my background of Islamic studies to be incorporated into a thesis suited to the discipline of this faculty. His main contribution to this work had been to suggest to me to add the words “A textual analysis” to the title of this thesis. He had also given me almost “full freedom” to delve into the subject matter of this work, and thus had practically made it easy for me in pursuing the writing of this research thesis.

Also my appreciation to the staff of the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, UiTM, especially to its Dean, as well as various Professors, namely Associate Professor Dr. Darus Salam Abu Bakar, who served as my internal examiner, Associate Prof. Dr. Baharuddin Abdul Aziz and Associate Professor Dr. Abdullah @ Kasim Mohamed who were helpful in giving their comments and recommendations in making better and more readable this research thesis, as suited to the academic discipline of this faculty.

Needless to say, my utmost gratitude must also be expressed to both of my external examiners, Prof. Datuk Dr. Osman Bakar and Professor Dr. Azizan Baharuddin. The former had given me suggestions which had made this research more detailed and depth in its overall outlook.

This PhD research thesis must indeed be one of my culminations in the field of the academia. This work has been a worthy intellectual effort, since the subject matter had been of great interest to me since the 1970s when I then as a teenager was so to speak “finding the meaning of life”. The scholars researched herewith, whether already dead or still alive, must be acknowledged for the “great” work that they had done, especially in giving the Islamic responses to overwhelming influence of Western civilization and thought the world over.

Last but not the least, I would like to record also my love to my parents, as well as to all of my spouse Zurinah. Of note also I pray that my children Ramadhan, Thanna, Tamim, and all my future progenies, to carry on this “intellectual struggle” in their own era and ages.