

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

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

AZLAN KHALILI SHAMSUDDIN

PhD

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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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Faculty: Faculty of Communication and Media Studies

Thesis title: A textual analysis of western thought and civilization from the perspectives of scholars of the 20th. Century.

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Date: 14.4.08

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 analyse their thinking and responses to Western civilization namely:

i) Seyyed Hossein Nasr ii) Sayyid Abul A'la Al Maududi iii) Sayyid Qutb iv) Abul Hasan Ali Nadawi v) Muhammad Asad vi) Maryam Jameelah vii) Syed Muhammad Naquib al Attas and viii) Muhammad Umer Chapra .

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.

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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.