

# AL-HIKMAH

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## Book Review

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Book Review titled *Sociology and Islam A Comparative Study of Islam and Its Social System* by Dr. Mohammad Muslehuddin (1999) M.A, Ph.D School of Oriental and African Studies. Author's Ph.D dissertation completed at University of London). This book has been printed by Academe Art & Printing Services, Kuala Lumpur. Overall, this book has been divided into two part which consist of part I and part II. Then, 18 chapters have been clarified in this book with 188 pages which is published by A S Noordeen, Malaysia. We can conclude that, reading this book will let us know about an history of sociology process with contributed in Muslim's society. Futhermore, this book becomes more special and interacting to read by the readers because of the comparative between secular and Islam perspectives. This is a study of sociology in its various theories comparing them with the social system of Islam so that, we can find the differences between view life of Islam and secular aspect and pointing out the principles of Islamic society.

In part I, writer has been stated with 10 chapters in this book. Chapter 1 discuss about sociology as a science. Science of sociology cover human's life since the Renaissance which served to awaken a new faith in the possibility that experience could yield dependable knowledge. The thinker of sociology had identify about jungle of traditions that obstructed the path of science and establishing assumption of lawfulness and naturalness of social phenomena include anthropology, economy, geography and so on. Meanwhile, chapter 2 are related to chapter 1 under the title Positivistic Organicism. Positivistic is defined as the belief in science's ultimate adequacy as a mode of knowing and as a guide of action. It also doctrine for basically positivistic was unsound since it failed to deal with the life of mind. For organicism, it refers to tendency in the thought which construct its picture of the world on an organic model. In chapter 3 under the title Other Schools of Sociological Theory, there are four theories such as sociological conflict theory, sociological formalism, social behaviourism and sociological functionalism. Sociological conflict theory story about two conflict

thing between positivistic and organicism. From this view, sociology is not an ideology but it is a set of idea depending a social position. The second theory, sociological formalism, described as a comprehensive expression applied to various theoretical and practical tendencies to interpret the universe purely. It holds that sociology stand for empiricism and demands methodology of science. Next is social behaviourism which the real search for the positive method that determined changes of sociology in society. Lastly, sociological function thought that science is to developed under national influence it will be transformed into an instrument of the nation and defeat the purpose for sociology stands. In chapter 4 the discussion is about Shift in Sociological Theory. Sociologies have their own tastes and aptitudes according to which they try to interpret societies. Sociologies also to solve the intricate problems of inter-connected human relations with their theories. Psychology, anthropology, geography, economy, law and history also include in sociology issues. The various shift is to know how the social thought changes according to the spirit of times and physical environment. The discussion in chapter 5 about History of Sociology. In this chapter is around the phenomena, moral and social precepts which had happened since last time. And that's something always be the subject of discussion by sociologies like the Sophist, Plato and Aristotle. This history also include the Greek period, the Roman period, the Medieval period, the Renaissance and the Enlightenment period. All the times emphasize the influence of affection of human behaviour. It also express in various and endless theories which contradicting the others. A survey discloses that sociology began in prehistoric times when people started thinking about each other's behaviour. Chapter 6 is about Social Evolution which refers to the progress and development of society. They are several of view towards the definition of social evolution by Comte, Vico, the Italian philosophers and Spencer. But in the end they were agree that social changes is not doubt but it is governed and cannot be modified by human action. Chapter 7 it's about social change. Here are many theories of social change discussed by the reseachers. All of them have their own different views on social change for example, there are about cultural contact, life, desires and in folk ways. Moreover, the main factors in social change over it's technological because the source of all other cultural and social changes. Chapter 8 it's on aim of sociology through reorganization, science and society, reason and experience is not achieved because a lot of criticism that prevent for relate in aim of sociology. Chapter 9 discuss about ethics. This story relate with of two views between the western and Islamic ethics. Western supported moral theory while Islam have a aims first at character training and builds in man a disposition to do good to others without which no moral theory can be effective. In chapter 10 is a shifts in morality. In the early days of western moral society is still traditional. Then apply the changes with the creation of moral theory. There are many changes implemented so bring a variety of speculation. Therefore, turn to Islam and study the origin and nature of Islamic society and can get successful in our live.

Based on this discussion, the writer has been divided chapter 11 to chapter 18 in part II. So that, we are discussing the next part of this book. Chapter

11 discuss about concept of society in Islam. To be followed for Muslims is the Quran and the prophet which is enough to build a social system in Islam. Therefore, Muslims have a good charated either to himself or society. In chapter 12 it's about the call of the Quran. The teachings of Islam found in the al-Quran to be a role model to humans. It relates to faith and that there are basic things in Islam such prayer, fasting, poor-due and pilgrimage. Moreover, al-Quran also discussed the granting of righteous acts that need to be implemented to obtain mercy. Chapter 13 has discussed an islamic social system. Based on this book, it have discussed that Islamic social system is a processed in dealing the characteristic features of Islamic society and it outcome s of Islamic Law which is consist of Islamic whole life. We can said that an important point in this chapter is a point to the embracing nature of life and its social system based on Islamic perspectives. Thus, in chapter 14, the writer has discussed about a law and justice. Therefore, Islamic Law has classified actions into five categories, so that man may know where the real good lies, there are, obligatory, forbidden, improper, commendable and permissible. This stands totally different with secular laws of the modern world which are rationalistic and therefore liable, and the unerring Divine Law. Besides, in chapter 15 is more focus on socialism and communism. In chapter 15, the writer discussed about socialism and communism. In this chapter, there have a points of difference between socialism and Islam. For examples, Islam stands for justice and believes in the distribution of wealth. Besides, Islam believes in the Unity of God to express itself in the unity of man. In contrast, socialism is entirely materialistic and has no conception of the world Hereafter which its rewards and punishments. Those who think of Islam in terms of Socialism are either unaware of the value of Islam or have failed to distinguish between natural and unnatural system. While in chapter 16, the topic is about man fitted by nature for Islamic society. In this chapter, the writer highlighted about the nature of man. In sum, the majority of thinkers and philosophers hold that man is selfish and of evil nature. In contrast, Islam has provided the terms about man's nature in Islamic society. God created man and assigned to him the highest position of His vicegerent on earth. However, there a test and if man does not control himself and falls into temptations, it amounts to the wrong use of his power from the right path. Those who followed God's law will certainly reach the high and noble destiny. Then, Islam has its own conception of social evolution the value if Islamic Society lies in its morality and its norms of good and evil, virtue and vice which are to be strictly observed. In Islam concepts, there has a theory view of life which has purpose and design to be fulfilled. This topic is included in chapter 17 which is discussed an evolution in Islam.

Last but no least in chapter 18, this book has discussed a comparative study of Islam and its social system. Therefore, Islam builds the character of man in such manner that he feels satisfied in doing good to others. It shows that features of Islamic society is an ideal society for all. We can conclude that adaptation to the changing conditions does not mean that Islam changes with the changing conditions but it refers to its laws which contain broad principles to

accommodate the changing needs of society. However, there are numerous theories that stated by western aspects are theory of biological by Darwin, dialectical theories, cyclic theories and voluntaristic theories which describes the factor of social change. This shows that no general theory widely accepted by sociologists. This is the differences between western and Islamic perspectives that shows Islamic State as superior by far to the modern state which ignores the principles of morality in all its affairs and thinks of sovereignty in the human terms.

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