

Editorial:

ISLAMIC HISTORY AND CIVILIZATION

Initially, many people overlooked the importance of history toward the world civilization. In the Muslim context, it is undeniable that the development of Muslims' civilization in the recent era could not be separated from the history of Muslims in the past. Some historians even stated that the world's social and political condition nowadays is, partly, as the attitude of people in the past. The first Indonesian president, Sukarno, acknowledged that a good nation will not forget its history. Therefore, to face their future, Muslims should study whatever Muslims' history in the past.

It seems very simple, however, just to study about the past, history. The difficulty of studying history is not just to see what happened in the past, but to view what lies behind those facts. Recently, many Muslim scholars see history as a challenging field of study. History would reveal the broad sense of the patterns of behavior through which people structure their relations with one another. Within this framework, culture and religion will have a significant place.

It is undeniable, therefore, that most articles in journal of *Al-Jāmi'ah* are studying about Islamic history. Whatever a scholar's field of study, one should relate with history. In this volume, we present 9 articles dealing with a widely-broad range of Islamic Studies. Three of them discuss about Islamic history in the medieval era, two articles discuss about modern history on certain issues, and the other four articles discuss about various issues in Islamic studies.

The first of the three writings dealing with Islamic history is Svetlana's article which is dealing with cultural and intellectual exchange among nations under *Uthmānī* dynasty in the 18th century. The second is Fauzan Saleh who discuss about the decline of 'Abbasid dynasty and the present of foreign power within the 'Abbasid's empire. Finally,

Misri's article is discussing about Salik Buta, a sufi order in Aceh in the 16-17th century. Turning to other writings, Mohamad Abdun Nasir writes about the discourse on *ḥijāb* in Egypt in the view of Muhammad Sa'id al-'Ashmāwī, while Akh Muzakki writes about the latest issues within Muslim world, i.e., Islamic radicalism in Southeast Asia with special reference to *Jamā'ah Islāmiyah*. Other writers are Susiknan Azhari who writes about *ḥisāb* model developed by Muhammad Wardan to formulate a National Hijriyah Calender, Muhammad Hirzin who discusses about one of the characteristics of al-Qur'an i.e., *amthāl* or metaphor, Nazly Hanum Lubis writes about *maṣlaḥah mursalah* in the thought of Muḥammad 'Abduh and Rashid Riḍa, and finally Ahmad Fu'ad Effendi who writes about the challenges of teaching Arabic in the era of globalization. Conclusively, we do hope that the readers would have some benefits from the articles. (Editor/*Muhammad Wildan*)