

Book Review

Social Sciences in Islamic Perspectives: A Bibliography of Contemporary Literature (1975-2000)

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With a 'Foreword' by Professor M. Nejatullah Siddiqi

Published by, Institute Of Objective Studies, New Delhi, India. 2001, 300pp.

Since the last quarter of this century, the Muslim scholars are making some serious effort to build-up a social science paradigm based on Islamic value system. As a result, scholars from all over the world, both the critics and proponents, have produced a good numbers of academic works in the varies field of Social Sciences in Islamic perspectives covering the disciplines such as Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, Education, History and Law. Their researches provide an intellectual Islamic alternative in thoughts and knowledge and bring some fresh insights into the emerging disciplines now called as "Islamic Social Sciences" It has also inspired a numbers of Western academics whose critique of modern Muslim intellectual thoughts is now available in a good numbers of monographs, and research papers in various academic journals.

This bibliography aims to cover all these writings on the subject of Social Sciences in Islamic Perspectives and brings together some three thousands selected entries of contemporary literature in English language only, expanding a period of two and half a decade (1975-2000).

One can find that about one fourth of the literature in this volume are on the various aspects of Islamic economics covering the issues such as; nature and scope of Islamic economic, ethics of business and management, economic development, poverty alleviation, land, labour and population. Author has included the Islamic critique of other economic systems but his major focus is on the area of banking and finance, its theoretical and the empirical studies on Islamic financial institutions. There is an especial coverage on the Islamic financial market, all these focusing on the Islamic perspective. Although author's previous bibliography *Islamic Economics and Finance* (1995, Mansell), has the same sort of listing, but this one, as he notes, incorporate the literature that came out mainly in the 1990s.

In the view of reviewer, author has not been much successful in locating the works published in the western academic circles. For example, one does not find any reference of Harvard proceedings on Islamic finance published since mid 1990s. On the other hand, he has not even left the journalistic material published in the Indian sub-continent. Here, one would also agree with Prof. M.N. Siddiqi, who in his 'Foreword' has rightly pointed out that Islamic economics has now 'entered the realism of referred journals and university publications'.

Nonetheless, Dr. Khan has classified his material in a very systematic way and the selections of the items have been drawn from a wide range of published and unpublished material; the books, articles, conference proceedings and Doctoral Theses. There are however, numerous spelling errors, the most prominent one at the cover page itself – and that too in this computer age!

Keeping in view the recent development in Islamic economics, it is hoped that this bibliography would be an indispensable tool for the scholars and students of Islamic economics and finance.

Shariq Nisar