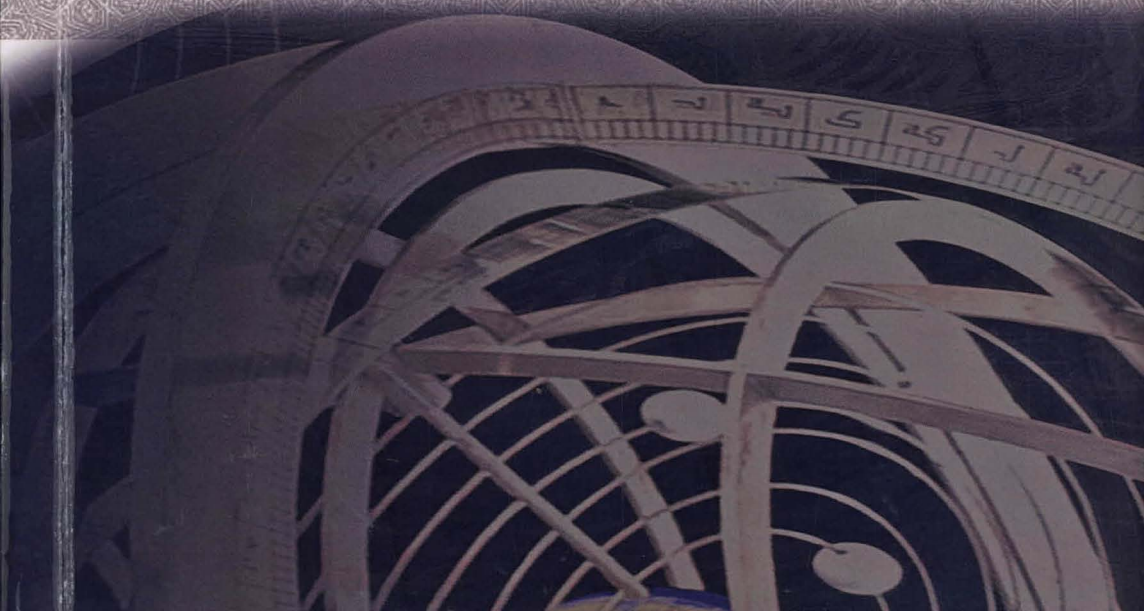


THE ISLAMIC WORLDVIEW, ETHICS AND CIVILIZATION

Issues in Contemporary Interdisciplinary Discourse



ABDUL KABIR HUSSAIN SOLIHU

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Chapter 2

The Question of Development in Islam: Revitalising the Role of Worldview & Civilizational Vision

Abdelaziz Berghout

Introduction

This chapter addresses the question of civilizational development, highlighting the importance of both the Islamic worldview and the civilizational vision in creating the framework and environment for balanced development. As such, it defines civilizational development as a global phenomenon governed by general patterns and laws. As a matter of fact, civilizational development does not happen haphazardly or occurs in a vacuum, rather it is a process that demands scientific orientation. It is a process that has a goal to reach. That is to say, 'development' has as its goal a fuller and/or greater and/or better situation attained through the expansion or attainment of defined possibilities.¹ A process development involves, among other things, having vision, mission, objectives, strategies, plans, approaches and activities geared towards achieving progress at all levels including spiritual, moral, material, social, cultural, technological and civilizational aspects. This conceptualization of the question of the models of civilizational development, concentrating on integrating the moral and spiritual elements into the entire process of development is crucial, especially at the brink of the current world civilization development. Hence, "sustainable development conceptualizes the different elements of civilization in a holistic manner. It takes in the management of natural, economic and human resources, spatial planning, institutional solutions, the moral dimension, the shaping of awareness and the choice of a defined life model."²