

*Contemporary Issues in*

# ISLAMIC COMMUNICATION

Editor

**Mohd Yusof Hussain**



**IIUM Press**

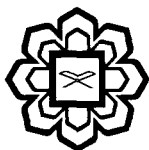
**International Islamic University Malaysia**

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## Moving Towards a New Muslim World Information Order

MOHD YUSOF HUSSAIN

The end of the Cold War – a period in which the conflict remained “cold” and did not explode into war – in 1989 brought to a close a period of international bipolarity making the United States the only remaining super power in the world. Since then scholars, policy makers and journalists have tried to predict the new great world power that would become the United States next contender and the kind of world order that would evolve. Of the many writers that have captured the headlines: Francis Fukuyama who wrote *The End of History and the Last Man* in 1992, Samuel Huntington who wrote *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* in 1993, and Benjamin Barber who wrote *Jihad and the Mc-World* in 1996 were the most influential.

Fukuyama in his book puts forth the notion of the end of history and a future world order dominated by a growing liberal zone of peace. He is optimistic that the greater part of humanity will eventually accept liberal democracy. The mechanism that would push humanity towards this end are economic development and the struggle for personal recognition.

In his book Huntington discussed at length the conflict between the Western and the Muslim worlds as being a main fault line for future wars. He sees two possible future world orders. The first is a major inter-civilisational war “most likely involving Muslims on one side and non-Muslims on the other” (1996, 312). The second which he recommends, is for the United States and other core civilisational states to abstain from involvement in conflicts in other civilisations, and to negotiate amongst each other so as to contain and prevent wars at the fault lines between civilisations.

Barber in his book visualizes a world in which two forms of world orders coexist: one “rooted in race which calls for a detribalisation of large swaths of humankind... in which culture is pitted against culture... a *jihad* against modernity itself.” The other is “a busy portraits of onrushing