

Reclaiming the Conversation

Islamic Intellectual Tradition
in the Malay Archipelago



Edited by

ROSNANI HASHIM

with a Foreword by

MOHD KAMAL HASSAN

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Mohd Kamal Hassan



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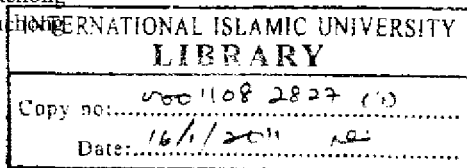
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Hamka

Intellectual and Social Transformation of the Malay World

Rosnani Hashim

HAMKA WAS A GREAT SON OF THE MALAY WORLD whose works have left a huge impact not only in his homeland Indonesia but also throughout the other parts of the Malay world—Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Pattani and Champa. He was one of the greatest *dā'īs* in the Malay world. He is well known for Malay and Islamic literature, creative writing, culture, politics and philosophy. He lived in the era of colonialism and the struggle to be freed from its clutches. Thus, it was a period of resistance to the colonial master by the indigenous through several movements to strive for independence. At the same time this was a period of Westernisation. The Malays were having a crisis of empowering their race, revitalising their identity and rebuilding their civilization.¹ It was in this context that Hamka, a Malay scholar, devoted his attention to these issues. He attempted to define the problems in relationship to Islam and the Malays. He left a large collection of works covering philosophy, mysticism, Islam, *tafsīr* and literary novels.

Brief biography

Hamka (Haji Abdul Malik Karim Amrullah) was born on February 17, 1908 in Maninjau, West Sumatra into a noble, religious family.