

# READINGS IN SOCIAL AND ISLAMIC ISSUES

JAMIL FAROOQUI



IIUM Press  
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*Edited by*  
**Jamil Farooqui**



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# **THE MUSLIM WORLD AND THE WEST**

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**Jamil Farooqui\***

## **INTRODUCTION**

Relations between the West and the Muslim world are tense and strained due to the 9/11 episode. They became more critical and alarming with incidents which followed and are now on the verge of serious conflict. Intellectuals and persons who are conscious of the peaceful co-existence of nations and communities are disturbed by this poignant situation and are trying to find out the reasons for the distressing and excruciating relations between the two.

In the academic world two paradigmatic theories – ‘the end of history’ and ‘the clash of civilizations’ already existed and the intellectuals drew assistance from them to provide a rationale for the conflict between the two great civilizations. Besides, there are other explanations provided by different thinkers and intellectuals about the conflicting situation between the two groups of nations. First, it is said that there are ideological differences between the two that help to develop two distinct and contradictory civilizations that have often come into conflict with each other throughout history. Second, some blame Islam itself for the conflicting situation because it, according to them, preaches fundamentalism, promotes orthodoxy and obscurantism. Third, Islam is considered incompatible with the modern Western system and ideologies, particularly with liberalism, secularism and democracy. Fourth, the cause of the conflicting situation between the two is the policies of Western powers in the region that create an undesirable reaction among Muslims. Fifth, their perceptions of each other are quite different, devastating and dangerous. Both sides consider each

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