

MODERN ISSUES IN QUR'AN AND SUNNAH STUDIES

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SOCIO-POLITICAL ORIENTATION IN QUR'ĀNIC EXEGESIS

Methodological Approach of Mohammad Natsir

By
Dr. S.M. Solihin* and Dr. Mohammad Shah Jani**

Abstract

Muhammad Natsir is a renowned Indonesian Muslim thinker who played important role in designing political system following the independence. He is one of the influential Muslim leaders in the Muslim world who served as the Prime Minister in the country. He involved in polemics on the role of religions in the state to encounter secular idea with regard to the validity of *Shari'ah* to be implemented in the state level. He dedicated his life to serve the *ummah* and to defend Islam from the onslaught of secularism and Christian Missionary propagation. This paper attempts to expose his methodological exegesis toward the religious text which, according to many, is very distinctive and contextual. His exposition on religious texts is mostly related with socio-political aspect to make the *Shari'ah* as the main source of the constitution. He authored number of books such as *fiqh al-da'wah*, Islam and principles of the government and many others in different issues. The paper focuses on study of his methods in dealing with legal texts.

Sketch of His Life

He was born in Alahan Panjang, West Sumatra, on 17 of July, 1908, in a province where prominent figures such as Muhammad Hatta, the first vice president of Indonesia, Haji Agus Salim, a Muslim thinker, and Hamka, an influential Muslim scholar emerged.¹³⁶ During his childhood Natsir witnessed the Dutch discriminatory policies

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¹³⁶ The village where he was born is called Jembatan Berukir. His mother was Khadijah, and father was Idris Sutan Saripado. See Yusuf Abdullah Puar (ed.), *Muhammad Natsir 70 tahun: Kenang-kenangan Kehidupan dan Perjuangan*, Pustaka Antara, Jakarta, 1978, p.1. Deliar Noer, *The Modernist Muslim Movement in Indonesia 1900-1942*, Oxford University Press, Singapore, 1973, p.88. At the beginning of the twentieth century Minangkabau was known as the birthplace of Islamic reformatory thought and prominent scholars in the field of religion, intellectualism, and politic. See Yusril Ihza, *Modernisme Islam dan Demokrasi*, in Ansar Harjono (et.al), *M. Natsir: Sumbangan dan Pemikirannya Untuk Indonesia*,