**Islam and Orientalism**

**Orientalism** is a term used by art historians, literary, cultural and religious studies scholars for Western attitude towards Middle Eastern, Asian and North African societies. Since the 18th century, Orientalist has been the traditional term for a scholar of Oriental i.e. East studies. The academic discipline of Oriental studies is now more often called Asian, Middle East or Area studies.

In last two centuries so many Encyclopedias, books, manuscripts, research papers and articles have been compiled and written in the West about Islam and Quran by authors of diverse backgrounds, Jews, Christians and even self-confessed atheists and Marxists that the present layman in Europe feels that the whole spectrum of opinion on the subject is already available in Western literature.

Thus when a western is asked, what do you know about Islam? The average might answer; it is the religion of Muslims. He may add a conjecture that the Islam is a religion of terrorism. They argue that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was an imposter; the narration of his life by orientalists gives the reader the impression that he had carefully planned in his mind the entire scheme beforehand. The Quran is discredited as a forgery. Islam was merely the Judeo-Christian heritage Arabicized and nationalized and presented as a curious mixture of Judaism, Christianity and Arab paganism.

This research book of almost 200 pages gives a critical and analytic review of the orientalists’ major assumptions and theories about the Quran, Hadith, Biography of the Prophet Muhammad PBUH, History of Islam and Islamic Law. This monograph also point out their faults, misconceptions, inconsistencies and fanaticism.

