

Abstract

The purpose of this research is to collect and present data about Nahdatul Ulama Organization's roles, such as its implementation of Islamic teachings and civilization in the pluralistic society of Indonesia in order to maintain peace and to cope with colonialism and globalization. Every member of Nahdatul Ulama Organization, from Ulamas to farmers, has joined together to find a solution for the Muslim society of Indonesia, considered to be the biggest in the Malay World of South East Asia and also in the whole World.

The foundation of Nahdatul Ulama Organization was first motivated by the Dutch government's negative policy toward Islam, including the Pan-Islamic sentiment among the Indonesian Muslims. The effect of the reformation of Islam from the Middle East in the beginning of 20th century, which caused conflicts among the Indonesian Muslims, also contributed to the motivation, as well as the need to find a way out for the issue of the leadership of the Muslim World after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

The role of Nahdatul Ulama Organization in the development of education is another example of the research results showing that the Indonesian Muslims are able to reform their traditional Islamic education in Pesantrens, the very large Pondok, and to integrate it with modern education from the West. They can maintain the position of Kyais in Indonesian Muslim society as well.

Nahdatul Ulama Organization began with the attempt to maintain political neutrality but, later, it was gradually drawn to politics. It managed to survive the very critical period of Indonesian politics and the greatest of its challenges was the time when it had to accept the Pancasila.

The research also studies the significance of the present movement of Nahdatul Ulama, such as its graceful shift from political to educational and cultural fields and its struggle to survive amidst the changing Indonesian society. This includes its interest in new issues. For example, it is playing more positive roles in the international arena, especially in the South East Asia, such as its suggestion about peace building in the provinces of the deep south of Thailand.