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Book Review

The Official Indonesian Qur'an Translation, The History and Politics of Al-Qur'an dan Terjemahnya

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BOOK REVIEW: THE OFFICIAL INDONESIAN QUR'ĀN TRANSLATION, THE HISTORY AND POLITICS OF AL-QUR'AN DAN TERJEMAHNYA

Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Al-Mustafa¹

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The Official Indonesian Qur'ān Translation is a reformulated and regenerated copy of his PhD dissertation. The official Qur'an translation of the State of Indonesia was initially published in 1965 and Lukman's point of view about the said translation was that QT (Al-Qur'an dan Terjemahnya) is produced by a state under the circumstances driven by political interests which clearly reflects in the translation. It mirrors the position of the state as an "actor" and describes the standardized Islamic discourse in Indonesia. Although there are observations on word-selection in this book (in Chapters Five and Six) but the focus of the author is to understand the officiality of a particular Qur'an translation and its impact on the content, working procedure of the committee, and the historical background of QT.

The book consists of one introduction and seven chapters in which the author has shed light on historical background of QT published by the state, an overview of Quran translation in Indonesia, the politics about the Quran translation particularly in Indonesia, methodological aspects Quran Translation, the comparison between Quran Translation and reforms project of the state, and reception of the Quran Translation, produced by the state, in the society. The overview of the book has been summarized in the following points which are according to the sectional division of the book.

The introductory chapter in which the author delves into the production process of QT, its textual material, and the reception of the translation by its readers and establishes his research question and limitations, citing literature on inadequacies and mistakes in

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the official Indonesian Quran translation. The chapter also briefly introduces the history of state's Quran translation project being a sub-genre of *Tafsir* along with structural review beside the history of Islam and Muslims in Indonesia.

Overview of Quran Translation in Indonesia: This chapter provides a brief history of Quran translation in Indonesia, covering its content and revisions made over the six decades since its initial publication.

The Politics of Quran Translation: The author describes in this chapter that how the official Quran translation has been involved with different political interests of ruling governments since its publication. The chapter also explores the motivations behind the production of the translation in the context of the development of the national language.

Methodological Aspects of Quran Translation: The author discusses the methodological aspect of the production of the official Quran translation, including the process of giving interpretive authority to the ulama and the preferences for committee member selection to ensure that intended translation relies heavily on Sunni sources.

Comparison of Quran Translation and Islamic Reform Projects: This chapter compares the official Quran translation with various Islamic law and education reform projects brought about by MORA (Ministry of Religious Affairs).

Translation of Selected Verses: Chapter six elaborates on the translation of selected verses, alluding to vocabulary or issues closely related to the ideological idioms of the state.

Reception of the Quran Translation: The author examines the reception of the official Quran translation through an examination of a specific political scenario fraught with disputes and controversy in which the translation played a significant role, namely the 2017 Jakarta gubernatorial election and proves how the renderings proposed by different editions of QT resulted in the formation of partisanship, which influenced the election outcome.

This is a well-researched book that provides detailed information on the history of Qur'anic translation, geographical developments regarding the Quran and its translations, and the political circumstances surrounding the translation of the Qur'an in the Indonesian perspective. The formatting and language of the book are both excellent, making it easy to understand and accessible to researchers and students of Islamic

Studies. The book is a valuable resource for scholars of Islam, and anyone interested in the translation and exegesis of the Holy Text. Overall, I highly recommend this book for anyone looking to gain a deeper understanding of the political aspects of the Qur'an translation in Indonesia. Moreover, the author's worthy literature review, dynamic style of highlighting the research gaps, and raising the clear question are among the essential features of this book.