

Being Index of Muslim countries places The Maldives top out of 33 countries, with Malaysia and Indonesia tied for second. These three are societies in which women play significant roles in societal well-being. The Index follows the approach outlined in his 2021 article, “An Enhanced Islamic Well-Being Index (IWI 2.0-2021) for Muslim Countries,” which is based on the Higher Objectives of Islamic Law (*Maqasid al-Shari‘ah*). This is an updated version of “A New Islamic Rating Index of Well-Being for Muslim Countries,” which was first released in 2013. The Index can help decision-makers and policymakers discover and correct deficiencies in a country’s well-being status by applying Islamic principles to contemporary issues. It also informs where Islamic forms of foreign aid may be most beneficial.

Prof. Berghout, in his commentary on the Index, remarks that the index is extremely important for the growth of the Islamic ummah, society, and country. He also encourages all academicians and scholars to support and contribute to enhancing and improving the Index. Azizi then commented that Daud should add more components or dimensions to measure religiosity in the Index, such as Islam, *Iman*, *Ihsan*, and *akhlaq*. In addition, Azizi and Alwani commented that another aspect that should be included in the index is governance. Finally, Dato’ Ghazali stated that this Index should be disseminated, processed, and not function in the shadows. It is vital to collaborate with other religions so that they will see what we are about to do as a collective energy to the entire element of human civilization rather than a threat.

The Rise of the East-West Tension and Its Impact on Muslim Countries: Rethinking International Relations Through the Islamic Perspective

(IAIS Malaysia Facebook Live, 25 August 2022)

Wan Naim Wan Mansor and Muhammad Izzuddin Jaafar

In this Islam and Civilisational Talk Series, globally renowned political scientist and expert Dr. Louay M. Safi, currently a professor of political science and Islamic thought at Hamad bin Khalifa University’s Faculty of Islamic Studies (HBKU), presented the topic The Rise of the East-West Tension and Its Impact on Muslim Countries. As a prominent scholar in the fields of social and political development, democracy, human rights, as well as Islam and modernity, Dr Louay Safi covered a variety of subjects, such as finding the best expression

of Muslim thought and societies that is best suited for the modern context, addressing the mutual misinterpretations between the East and West—which has caused tension between the two worlds, and identifying potential impediments to mutual understanding across the cultural and civilisational divide.

Many Muslim nations are minor nations with limited influence compared to the three world giants, therefore this tension has little effect on them. Muslim countries are often caught in the midst and will usually side with one of the superpowers to preserve their safety. Thus, by offering these Muslim countries a choice to aligning themselves with the global powers, they can free themselves from being used as saviours by the global powers. The shift should focus on expanding their zone of independence and developing new visions that include Muslim countries. The discussion also addresses the issue of establishing a renewed moral framework for the international community, named rational idealism as an alternative to political realism which has been the main culprit for the immoralities, destruction, and bloodshed in geopolitics. Such applications have the potential to liberate Muslims from the relentless grasp of political realism that has shackled Muslim countries. The event was followed by an interactive Q&A session with members of the audience from diverse background.

**Forum Kemerdekaan Malaysia & Indonesia 2022
Generasi Penamat Budaya Rasuah & Salah Guna Kuasa Dalam
Konteks Malaysia & Indonesia
(Malaysia & Indonesia Independence Forum 2022: Generation
Ending the Culture of Corruption & Abuse of Power in the Context
of Malaysia & Indonesia)
(IAIS Malaysia Facebook Live, 29 August 2022)**

Ahli Fatoni

Malaysia will celebrate its 65th anniversary of independence on August 31, 2022, while Indonesia will celebrate its 77th anniversary on August 17, 2022. Malaysia's and Indonesia's development as countries have been distinguished by many proud successes, glorious triumphs, and no less challenging obstacles. Despite all of the glory and accomplishments, including two years of fighting the spread of COVID-19, both countries are today being hit by a 'disease' that has been infecting our society for so long that it has even become a culture. The sickness is a culture of greed and power abuse that exists at all levels of society, regardless of background, status, or position. This attitude and misuse of power