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Identity: Contemporary Identity Politics and the Struggle for

Recognition. By Francis Fukuyama. London, UK:
Profile Books, 2019, pp. 218, ISBN: 978-1-78125-981-8.
Syaza Farhana Binti Mohammad Shukri 679

What Happened. By Hillary Rodham Clinton.
New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc., 2017.
ISBN-10: 1501175564; ISBN-13: 978-1501175565.
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Editorial Note

Intellectual Discourse (Vol. 27, No. 2, 2019) contains fifteen research articles, one review article and two book reviews. In recent times, the state of Higher Education and its relationship with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a number of countries have received much attention from concerned policymakers and academics. In Turkey, for example, there are concerns regarding how to shape Higher Education in line with sustainable development. In the first article entitled “Higher Education in Turkey: Responding to Sustainable Development Agenda,” Cihat Atar and Shukran Abdul Rahman review literature that analyses the history and current status of Higher Education in Turkey. In their article, the authors also review the Turkish Government’s agenda for Higher Education. The main reason for this article is to identify the extent to which the Turkish Government has responded to the sustainable development agenda. This paper also recommends ways to improve and develop Higher Education in Turkey so as to make it a significant sector that prepares stakeholders to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The second article is contributed by Mariyam Shahuneeza Naseer and Dawood Abdulmalek Yahya Al-Hidabi. Entitled “Quality Assurance in Higher Education in the Maldives: Past, Present, and Future,” this study looks at the history and the current status of quality assurance mechanisms in the Maldives. In this paper, the authors have identified the strengths and weaknesses of the quality assurance mechanisms in Higher Education in the Maldives and have made informed recommendations.

Shafizan Mohamed and Syed Arabi Idid are the authors of the third article entitled “Who Sets the Agenda? Locating the Formation of Public Opinion during the Rantau By-Election”. On 13th April 2019, a by-election was held for the Negeri Sembilan State Legislative Assembly seat of Rantau in Malaysia. Due to social networking sites such as Facebook becoming popular sources of information, various news media organisations set up their own respective channels on these

sites, including Facebook. The authors maintain that this phenomenon allows for wider reach in news and an improvement in audience participation. They point out that audience members reading and subsequently commenting on Facebook news articles makes it possible to identify public opinion and sentiments on issues being covered. In this article, the research conducted by the authors showed that while newspapers and readers do share some issue salience, the relationship does not typify a traditional agenda-setting dynamic.

Dina Murad is the author of the fourth article entitled “The Socio-Political Context behind the Malayan Insurgency, 1948-1960.” She analyses the socio-political context surrounding the Malayan Insurgency (1948-1960) and how it shaped the outcome of counter-insurgency (COIN) operations in the Malayan peninsula. The author argues that the success of British COIN in Malaya was primarily due to the structure of Malayan society which was inhospitable towards a communist insurrection. Her argument is based on an analysis of the significance of race relations, religion, and culture in Malaya. She also took into account the impact of diaspora towards the changing social landscape of Malaya.

In “Islam and Sport: From Human Experiences to Revelation”, Baidruel Hairiel Abd Rahim, Nurazzura Mohamad Diah, Haizuran Mohd Jani, and Abdul Sham Ahmad analyse the relationship between Islam and sports. They examine sports sociology as an academic discipline in the context of a Muslim majority society. The authors of this paper also examine the philosophy of sports participation and the dilemma faced by Muslims in sports under the light of the al- Qur’ān, and Hadīth.

The sixth article is written by Kamaruzzaman Abdul Manan, Che Mahzan Ahmad, Aini Maznina A. Manaf, and Ahmad Shalihin Mohd Samin. Entitled “Factors Driving the Intention to Adopt a Tobacco-free Policy among Employees in a Public Higher Education Institution,” the authors use the Social Cognitive Theory (SCT) to examine how a conducive environment and knowledge influence employees’ intentions towards the tobacco-free policy in higher educational institutions. Statistical results as reported in this paper confirmed that all three constructs of employees—environment, self-efficacy, and knowledge—

have a significant influence on employees' intention to adopt the tobacco-free policy.

Mohammed Farid Ali al-Fijawi, Maulana Akbar Shah @ U Tun Aung, and Muneer Kuttiyani Muhammad contributed the seventh article. They titled the article "Violations of Basic Rights of Prisoners in Conventional and Islamic Law: Theory and Practice." The authors analyse the general problems of jailed prisoners. The paper highlights the violations of human rights suffered by the prisoners. The authors also focus on overcrowding in jails, inadequate educational facilities for prisoners, and poor health care facilities.

The charismatic leadership style of Tun Mahathir Muhammad is the subject of the eighth article. Suleyman Temiz, and Arshad Islam, in their article "Charismatic Political Leadership and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's Malaysia: Power, Control, Stability and Defence," adopts a qualitative approach to analysing historical information, documents, memoirs and articles, and books to better understand Mahathir's leadership.

Francesca Bocca-Aldaqré is the author of the ninth research article entitled "Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: A life With Islam." In this article, she studies Goethe's religiosity throughout his life and, in particular, his relationship with Islam. She makes the point that of out of all religions Goethe studied and interacted with at length, Islam is remarkably absent from literary criticism; yet he elaborated on it throughout his life. This article proposes a periodisation which divides his relationship with Islam into four stages in which specific religious themes echo in his letters and works, most of which have not been pointed out before such as in the *Faust*. Finally, the author discusses the findings in the context of religious studies' scholarship, and approaches the issue of what Goethe could have suggested for the meaning of European Islam today.

Hafiz Zakariya is the author of the tenth research paper. It is titled "Major Trends in the Historiography of Muslim Reformism in Pre-Independent Malaysia." He points out that Muslim reformism was not only influential in West Asia but also in Southeast Asia. However, he makes the point that most studies on Muslim reform have privileged the "central Islamic lands" at the expense of its "periphery". Hence, this article discusses the historiography of Muslim reform in Malaya. The author argues that the existing studies tend to focus on the intellectual

history of reform, while the social history of the diffusion of reformism has not been adequately analysed.

The eleventh article is written by Ali Ahmed Zahir. Entitled “A Critical Analysis of Islamic Council of Europe: From a Juristical and Islamic Legal Maxim Perspective”, he provides a critical analysis of the Islamic Council of Europe. He examines its administrative structure, council members, as well as its procedural guidelines and principles. The author also discussed the Council’s arbitration cases, and a comprehensive breakdown was rendered according to the principles of Islamic judiciary and legal maxims.

Abdul Rashid Moten is the author of the twelfth article titled “Kashmir between India Pakistan: The Unfinished Agenda.” Using documentary sources, surveys, and other writings, the author analyses the genesis of the conflict in Kashmir. He has brought in historical facets together with discursive elements of the contemporary political crisis in Kashmir. The study found that the Kashmir dispute has multiple causes, with the major one being religious differences in a conflict between India -- a predominately Hindu state -- and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Nor Razinah Binti Mohd. Zain, Engku Rabiah Adawiah Engku Ali, Adewale Abideen, and Hamizah Abdul Rahman, in the thirteenth article “Smart Contract in Blockchain: An Exploration of Legal Framework in Malaysia,” discuss the current position of smart contracts in Malaysia and the viability of the Malaysian framework in handling the latest developments. The authors found that smart contracts are more or less similar to traditional contracts. Therefore, they conclude that the requirements, as stipulated under the Contract Act 1950, are applicable in Malaysia and must be followed accordingly. The authors evaluate the current position of Malaysian laws in dealing with smart contracts.

The fourteenth article, “South-South Cooperation: A Case Study of Contemporary Sudanese-Malaysian Relations,” is written by Garoot Suleiman Eissa, Elfatih Abdullahi Abdelsalam, and Muhamad Fuzi Bin Omar. This paper is focused on Malaysia-Sudan relations as a case study of South-South Cooperation. The authors’ findings support the claims of potential rewards in South-South Cooperation.

The fifteenth and final paper titled “Diplomatic Ties between Malaysia and the Holy See: A Symbol of Mutual Respect, Inter-Religious Coexistence and International Cooperation,” by Roy Anthony Rogers, analyses the relationship between the Holy See and Malaysia. The author points out that although diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Malaysia were officially established in 2011, cordial engagements already existed between the Pope and local leaders. This article explores the relations between Malaysia and the Holy See, and analyses the reasons for Malaysia establishing relations with the Holy See and conducting bilateral activities.

A review article on “The Arab Uprisings and Worldwide Responses: A Review of the Literature,” by Mohd Irwan Syazli Saidin is included in this issue of *Intellectual Discourse*. Book reviews have been contributed by Syaza Farhana Binti Mohammad Shukri, and Mahmood Hossain.

Finally, words of my deep thanks are due to Muhammad Saadman, my Graduate Assistant. He worked untiringly, and with deep dedication.

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