ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of God, most Compassionate, most Merciful, who has created the universe and human beings, and made them realize whatever they desire with His consent and love. He is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient.

The topic of the thesis was researched and written in the Department of Sunni Theology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India, and I wish to express my particular gratitude to the entire staff of the Department for their co-operation and assistance towards the completion of this study.

My research could not have been completed without the valuable and timely help of many individuals and institutions.

First of all, my sincere thanks go to my supervisor, Dr. Hafiz Abdul Khalique, Department of Sunni Theology, Aligarh Muslim University for his initiative, scholarly guidance and support in numerous ways.

I express my love and gratitude to my parents, Hajji Samai Mahamad and Hajjah Pojjanee Mahamad, my grandfather and grandmother, Hajji Abdul Kareem Borisut and Hajjah Ruvairiyah Borisut, my uncles and aunts, Mr. Sawat Mahamad, Mr. Pairoj Borisut, Mr. Wiwat Borisut, Mr. Sutee Borisut, Mr. Banjong Borisut, Mr. Opat Borisut, Mr. Suchin Borisut, Mr. Suchad Borisut, Mr. Jaroen Borisut, Mrs. Sombun Mahamad, Mrs. Jumrus Senmanmad, Mrs. Yajai Dawyam, Mrs. Suroiya Loyma, Mrs. Mareena Meemuso, Mrs. Supawadee Sangman, Mrs. Arunrat Romlee, my brothers and sisters, Mr. Korawit Borisut,
Mr. Sawad Kamwilai, Mr. Sakchai Pumpetch, Mr. Romlee Lado, Mr. Rabil Lado, Mr. Abdulkareem Lado, Mrs. Yamilah Lado, Miss Nusiyah Lado, Miss Fatihah Lado, Mrs. Aurmporn Kamwilai, Mrs. Siriporn Pumpetch, and Mrs. Chuanpit Yacob, who could not get chance to study but always encouraged me to study. I am indebted to them for their moral and financial support.

My thanks and respect also go to my senior scholars, Prof. Imran Ma’luleem, currently a Senator in Thai parliament, late Dr. Kitima Amorrathad, a well known scholar in Thailand, Dr. Jaran Ma’luleem senior Faculty at the Department of International Relations, Thammasathr University, Bangkok, Thailand, Dr. Ismail Lutfhi Japakiya Rector of Yala Islamic University, and Dr. Ahmad Omar Chapakiya Deputy Rector for International Relations and Special Affairs for encouragement and guidance.

I also owe my deep sense of indebtedness and reverence to Prof. Mahmoodul Haq, former Director of the Centre of West Asian Studies, for his valuable and critical suggestions.

My thanks also go to my teachers Prof. M. Saud Alam Qasmi, Chairman of the Department of Sunni Theology and Dean Faculty of Theology, Dr. Towqueer Alem, Dr. Abdul Ahad Khan, Dr. Mohd. Saleem, Dr. Mohd. Rashid, Mufti Zahid Ali khan, Maulana M. Habibullah and Mr. Bahruddin Binyosoh, for their critical and timely suggestions towards the completion of this study. I am also grateful to the Staff Library Faculty of Theology, A.M.U., Maulana Azad Library, A.M.U., J.N.U. Library, New Delhi, Panjab University Library, Panjab, Mahidol University Library, Nakronpatom Thailand, for providing literature on the research subject.
Last but not the least, I express my thanks to my beloved sister (bosom friend), Miss Sauda Lado and her Parents Hajji Idaris Lado and Hajjah Kusoh Lado for encouragement in a many ways.

My thanks also go to my senior researchers particularly, Dr. Abdulroning Suetair, Dr. Samart Thongfua, Dr. Mohammad Shamim, and Dr. Mohammad Faheem for their encouragement and moral and material support.

I am also thankful to my friends particularly, Mr. Shusak Aroonpoolsup, Mr. Abdullah Aasdala, Mr. Abdul Aziz Yusuf, Mr. Muhammad Pumpetch, Mr. Anek Kunsrisong, Mr. Witcha Wisuthipranee, Mr. Bandit Aroman, Mr. Somchai Deejaroen, Mr. Smeet Esore, Mr. Ekalak Sukkasem, Mr. Roin Chaloecsuk, Mr. Luksanunt Gurusvasti, Mr. Worawut Wankhwan, Miss Sulida Arunpoolsup, Miss Pohathai Soonsan, Miss Prangtip Salaetim, Miss Paveena Salaetim, and Miss Nadjama Munauwaroh and for their friendly help during the course of this study.

My thanks also go to Royal Thai Embassy in New Delhi, and to all its staff members for facilitation and helping in various ways.

Finally, I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart to Dr. Weerasak Pumpetch and his parents, Hajji Prasert Pumpetch and Hajjah Lamai Pumpetch for their help and constant encouragement in a many ways to bring this work to fruition.

(Salila Mahamad)