

ABSTRACT

**Clearing The Minefield: Resolving Conflicts Between Islamic
And Non-Islamic Worlds**

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This thesis examines the elements of conflict resolution which are found both in the Islamic and non-Islamic worlds. Then, elements of both worlds are combined to create a new paradigm in conflict resolution which may be used to effectively resolve conflicts between Muslims and non-Muslims.

In attempting this task three case studies have been selected. The first two involve the conflicts between the Moros and the government in the Philippines on the one hand, and the conflict between the *Muhammadiyah* and its relations with the government, Christian missions and other groups in Indonesia. The third case study focus on the relationship and conflict between the United States of America and the Republic of Iran over the last twenty five years.

The conceptual framework presented may be seen as part of a testing ground of ideas and possible research directions that are being broad and indepth study of ethnic conflict.

Current methodologies of ethnic conflict resolution are, despite some successes, distressingly limited in their results, and some of the currently prevailing theories and modes of application may have to be drastically revised, while the terrain of ethnic conflicts is constantly expanding and misconceptions abound. There is a compelling need for thinking new paradigms, for further

developing diagnostic models and tools and for redesigning or creating new resolution forms, not only because new areas and kinds of ethnic conflict seem to be appearing, but also because of the further deteriorating nature of certain long-existing conflicts. This need becomes even more immediate in the Western world where ambivalent feelings toward Islam and Islamic peoples exist.

Key words: conflict, conflict resolution, ethnicity, mediation, secession, dialogue of civilisation, public sphere.