



OCCASIONAL PAPERS

1

Outlines of A Cultural Strategy

Tāhā Jābir al 'Alwānī

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE of ISLAMIC THOUGHT

Introduction

The publication program of the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) has already addressed important issues in the field of Islamic thought and the Islamization of knowledge. In this respect a number of books have already appeared in several languages under three main series: *The Islamization of Knowledge Series*; *Issues in Contemporary Islamic Thought Series*; and *Islamization of Culture Series*.

The *Occasional Papers Series*, published by the Institute through its London Office, will select a number of research papers, articles, or lectures from the Institute's world-wide program as well as from Muslim scholars willing to make contributions, and present them individually in the form of booklets that can be easily read or referred to. It is hoped that the booklets will reach students, scholars, and specialists as well as major segments of the world's Muslims alike to generate a fruitful debate on the vital issue of Islamization, to create an awareness of the intellectual crisis in its various shapes and forms, and to encourage an active role in the proposed course of action and solution. This series will also be translated into other languages.

The first paper in the new series, *Outlines of a Cultural Strategy*, was originally a lecture entitled "Towards an Islamic Alternative in Thought and Knowledge" delivered in Rabat, Morocco, in Dhū al Ḥijja 1408/August 1988, at the invitation of the Islamic, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO). The paper not only addresses the intellectual crisis in the Muslim world as manifest in the present state of Muslim thought, knowledge, education, and civilization, which is directly responsible for the Muslim world's social, economic, and political problems, but also presents interesting and thought-provoking ideas for an alternative cultural strategy likely to tackle the Ummah's malaise and benefit humanity at large, inshā' Allah.

IIIT

London

Muḥarram 1410/August 1989

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC THOUGHT

The International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) was founded in 1401/1981 to promote research in Islamic studies throughout the world. In particular, its objective is to promote Islamic thought and the Islamization of knowledge in the contemporary disciplines, especially in the social sciences. It will seek to address the problems pertinent to Islam, the Muslim Ummah, and the world through the principles, concepts and values of the Islamic paradigm.

The Institute organizes specialized seminars and conferences. It has plans to establish and encourage, in cooperation with other institutions, specialized programs of higher studies to help lay the firm intellectual base necessary to strengthen the creative role of Islam and Islamic culture. The Institute has a scholarship program and offers guidance and supervision to graduate students.

The Institute is engaged in the production of scholarly works from its own research programs and from scholars around the world. It aims to make important Islamic scholarly works accessible in Arabic, English and other major languages.

The Institute welcomes academic cooperation and contributions from all sources concerned with the progress of Islamic thought and knowledge.

