

ABSTRACT

This thesis is devoted towards contributing to the integral understanding of Malik Bennabi's *integrative method* in studying the phenomenon of civilization as applied to the context of Islamic civilization. The present investigation has led to the conclusion that what Bennabi has contributed to contemporary Islamic thought is, above all, his multidimensional method of approaching the problems of civilization, or his integrative view of civilization. The thesis is an attempt to restore the sense of unity and integrality to his method that was fragmented and disjoined by some works of partial nature and approach. Indeed, it is crucial to re-examine his linkage method that integrates revealed morals and human experience in a comprehensive system of analysis. The present thesis is an attempt to bring to light the essence of his linkage method including, its theoretical framework, the tools of analysis and the application.

The first chapter deals with Bennabi's profile and social context taking into account his maturation process, involvement in the political and religious activities and his contribution to contemporary Islamic thought. Being acquainted with his living social context and maturation process, much greater significance is attached, in the second chapter to his theoretical framework which constitute the key conceptual foundation of his linkage method. In the course of the third chapter an attempt is made to study his analytical tools which are developed for the purpose of analyzing the phenomenon of civilization. These include a set of interrelated

and consistent concepts which function as a system of analysis. The latter, involves in the process of analysis several tools and ideas from different disciplines, such as religion, psychology, science of culture and personality, sociology of knowledge, epistemology, history, natural sciences etc. Additionally, the fourth chapter discusses the application of Bennabi's method in the study of the evolution of Islamic civilization, the causes for its decline and his project for its reconstruction. In the summary and conclusion, the thesis provides a general exposition on the characteristics of Bennabi's method as well as some comments and new directions for improvement.