

Islamic Literary Culture Beyond Java: Ulama, Books, and Magazines in 20th-Century Sumatra

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Abstract: This study aims to examine the contributions of Islamic scholars (*al-‘ulamā’*) in the publication of Islamic books in Medan during the 20th century and the role of publishers in supporting the development of Islamic intellectualism. The research employs library research with a historical approach, incorporating literature reviews, in-depth interviews, and content analysis of various sources such as books, magazines, and newspaper archives. The study adopts Antonio Gramsci’s theory of hegemony to analyze the role of media in reinforcing the ideological dominance of Islam within society. The findings reveal that publishers such as Syarikat Tapanuli and Rimbow, alongside scholars like M. Arsjad Th. Lubis and Zainal Arifin Abbas, played a significant role in disseminating Islamic literacy and shaping socio-political discourse during the period. This research concludes that the publication of books and magazines in Medan not only served as a means of distributing religious knowledge but also functioned as a tool for advancing nationalism and independence through counter-hegemonic discourse.

Keywords: ulama, publishing, Islamic books, publisher, hegemony

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Introduction

The presence of Islamic scholars (*'ulamā'*) in Nusantara¹ is reflected in their intellectual legacy, especially their published works.² These include books and articles featured in magazines or newspapers.³ Their writings not only chronicle their scholarly pursuits but also provide a valuable source of knowledge for readers to delve into. In the publishing process, the role of publishers cannot be overlooked. The publication of a written work relies on the presence of a publishing entity. Publishers serve as vital partners for authors by providing a platform for their writings, while authors are equally important to publishers, as their writings are essential for any publication activity. This mutualistic relationship between publishers and authors, including Islamic scholars, highlights their interdependence.⁴

Between 1950 and 1980, Medan City (North Sumatra, Indonesia)

¹ Azyumardi Azra, *The Origins of Islamic Reformism in Southeast Asia: Networks of Malay-Indonesian and Middle Eastern "Ulama" in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries* (Netherlands: Asian Studies Association of Australia, 2004).

² Ja'far Ja'far et al., "Discovering the Legacy of Mandailing Ulama: Education, Intellectuals, and Politics in North Sumatra in the Early 20th Century," *Ulumuna: Journal of Islamic Studies* 26, no. 2 (2022): 296–336; Mhd. Syahnan, Asrul Asrul, and Ja'far Ja'far, "Intellectual Network of Mandailing and Haramaayn Muslim Scholars in the Mid-19th and Early 20th Century," *TEOSOFI: Jurnal Tasawuf Dan Pemikiran Islam* 9, no. 2 (2019); Mhd. Syahnan, Abd. Mukhsin, and Ja'far Ja'far, "From Iran and Saudi Arabia to Indonesia: The Translation of Shi'ite and Wahhabi Literature in Contemporary Indonesia," *Teosofi: Jurnal Tasawuf Dan Pemikiran Islam* 13, no. 2 (2023): 261–80; Mhd. Syahnan and Azmi Ahmad, "East Sumatra and South Tapanuli Ulama on Religious Sciences at the Turn of the 20th Century," *Nahrsiyah: Journal of Aceh and Malay Archipelago Heritage* 1, no. 1 SE-Articles (December 2023): 18–38, <https://doi.org/10.47766/nahrsiyah.v1i1.1859>.

³ Saidatul Khairiyah, H.P. Daulay, and H. Asari, "The Existence of Islamic Book Publishers in Medan City (1950-1990)," *Edukasi Islami: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 10, no. 2 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.30868/ei.v10i02.1552>; Saidatul Khairiyah, "Urgency of Publishing Books in the Education World," *Proceeding International Conference on Islamic Educational Management (ICIEM)* 1, no. 1 (2019): 410–21, <https://jurnal.uinsu.ac.id/index.php/iciem/article/view/7389>.

⁴ C. W. Watson, "Islamic Books and Their Publishers: Notes on the Contemporary Indonesian Scene," *Journal of Islamic Studies* 16, no. 2 (2005): 177–210, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jis/eti>.

emerged as a significant hub for publishing.⁵ The publishing industry in Medan dominated Indonesia's publishing scene during this period, with over 30 publishers operating in the city within three decades. These publishers produced textbooks, popular scientific books, scientific magazines, and newspapers, indicating a flourishing intellectual tradition in Medan. Remarkably, Islamic scholars contributed not only as writers but also actively participated in the publishing process.⁶ Editorial teams of several popular scientific magazines included prominent scholars such as Buya Hamka, who served as editor-in-chief of *Pedoman Masyarakat* and *Pelita Andalas*, and Joesoef Sou'yb, who led *Doenia Pengalaman*.⁷

As writers, the ulama of Medan were highly productive,⁸ publishing numerous works through local publishers such as Boekhandel Islamiyah or Poestaka Islam. Their writings spanned various disciplines, appearing in magazines like *Loekisan Poedjangga*, published by Tjerdas; *Moestika Alhambra*; and *Doenia Pengalaman*, the first Islamic magazine published in Medan by Poestaka Islam. In subsequent years, the ulama in Medan City expanded their contributions to the realm of book publishing like Sheikh Hasan Ma'sum,⁹ Sheikh Yusuf Ahmad Lubis,¹⁰ Sheikh

⁵ Ja'far Ja'far, "Peran Ulama Al Washliyah Dalam Pengembangan Ilmu Agama," *Islamijah: Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 2, no. 1 (February 24, 2021): 16, <https://doi.org/10.30821/islamijah.v2i1.11291>.

⁶ Saidatul Khairiyah, "Penerbit Buku Keislaman Di Kota Medan (1950-2000): Sejarah Dan Relevansinya Dalam Pendidikan Islam" (Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara, 2021), <http://repository.uinsu.ac.id/12162/>.

⁷ Hamka had led the magazine *Pedoman Masyarakat* and *Pelita Andalas*, while Joesoef Sou'yb had led the magazine *Doenia Pengalaman*. See: Koko Hendri Lubis, *Roman Medan: Sebuah Kota membangun Harapan* (Jakarta: Gramedia, 2018), 12.

⁸ Ja'far Ja'far, "Ulema, Al Washliyah, and Knowledge in Modern Indonesia (1930-1980)," *MIQOT: Jurnal Ilmu-Ilmu Keislaman* 46, no. 2 (2022); Ja'far Ja'far and Umar Muhammad Noor, "Religious Knowledge in Contemporary Indonesia: The Contributions of Al Washliyah Madrasahs and Scholars to the Development of Hadith Studies," *Journal of Contemporary Islam and Muslim* 8, no. 2 (2024): 191–219.

⁹ Ja'far Ja'far, "Tarekat Dan Gerakan Sosial Keagamaan Shaykh Hasan Ma'sum," *Teosofi: Jurnal Tasawuf Dan Pemikiran Islam* 5, no. 2 (2015): 269–293, <https://jurnaluf.uinsby.ac.id/index.php/teosofi/article/view/107>.

¹⁰ Khairuddin Said and Zulkifli bin Hj. Mohd Yusoff, "Pemikiran Islah Yusuf Ahmad Lubis Di Indonesia: Analisis Berdasarkan Korpus," in *Tajdid and Islah* (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Islamic History and Civilization Academy of Islamic Studies University of Malaya, 2011); S Ritonga, "Ulama, Social Action, and Power

Abdurrahman Sjihad,¹¹ Sheikh M. Arsjad Th. Lubis,¹² Sheikh Abdul Halim Hasan, and Sheikh Zainal Arifin Abbas.¹³ The productivity of Islamic book publishing continued to flourish. By the 1940s and 1950s, several new publishers emerged, further enriching the publication of Islamic books.

However, the prominence of Islamic book publishers in Medan gradually declined by the late 1980s. While a few publishers like Islamiyah continued their activities, many ceased operations. By the 1990s, Islamic book publishing in Medan had nearly disappeared. Factors contributing to this decline include government policies on the publishing industry, the removal of paper subsidies leading to higher book prices, piracy, and a decline in reading interest. Despite its relatively brief golden age of approximately 30 years, Medan's publishing industry made significant contributions to Islamic intellectualism.

This study aims to document the legacy of Medan's ulama during this period and their published works in both book and magazine formats. The research problem lies in the lack of studies addressing the contributions of ulama to Islamic book publishing in Medan, despite their substantial role in enriching Islamic intellectualism. This study seeks to fill this gap by examining how Medan's ulama influenced the development of Islamic literacy through publishing and how Islamic book publishers in Medan facilitated the dissemination of religious knowledge. The focus of this research is to analyze the contributions of ulama and

Domination: The Role of Yusuf Ahmad Lubis in Socio-Religious Movements," *Journal of Indonesian Ulama* 01, no. 01 (2023): 63–79, <https://journal.cas.or.id/index.php/jiu/article/view/4%0Ahttps://journal.cas.or.id/index.php/jiu/article/download/4/5>; Khairuddin Said and Zulkifli Mohd. Yusoff, "Yusuf Ahmad Lubis Dan Gagasan Pembangunan Jati Diri Umat," in *Prosiding Nadwah Ulama Nusantara (NUN) V: Ulama Dan Cabaran Idealisme Semasa. Jabatan Pengajian Arab Dan Tamadun Islam* (Kuala Lumpur: Fakulti Pengajian Islam, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 2013).

¹¹ Ja'far Ja'far, *Sang Ulama Pemimpin: Biografi Abdurrahman Sjihad* (Medan: Perdana Publishing and CAS, 2021).

¹² Ja'far Ja'far, "Peran M. Arsjad Th. Lubis Dalam Pengembangan Ilmu-Ilmu Keislaman," *Dialogia: Jurnal Studi Islam Dan Sosial* 18, no. 2 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.21154/dialogia.v18i2.2216>.

¹³ M. Jamil and Ja'far Ja'far, "Pemimpin Perempuan Dan Non-Muslim Perspektif Ulama Tiga Serangkai," *Teosofi: Jurnal Tasawuf Dan Pemikiran Islam* 6, no. 1 (2018): 1–7, <https://doi.org/10.15642/teosofi.2018.8.1.31-54>; Nadzrah Ahmad, "'Ulama'

publishers in Medan to the development of Islamic intellectualism in North Sumatra and Indonesia.

Methods

The research employs library research¹⁴ with a historical approach.¹⁵ Data were collected through literature reviews of relevant sources, including books, magazines, and newspaper archives published in Medan during the 20th century. In-depth interviews were conducted with experts and historical witnesses familiar with the development of Islamic book and magazine publishing in Medan and the contributions of ulama to this field. The data analysis technique used is content analysis,¹⁶ where the researcher identifies themes, patterns, and meanings within relevant published materials to illustrate the contributions of ulama and the dynamics of publishing in Medan.

Results and Discussion

The History of Newspapers and Magazines in Medan

The development of the press significantly influenced the rise of publishing businesses, particularly in Medan. Publishing activities in Medan emerged long before Indonesia's independence. The early beginnings of book publishing in Medan were marked by the advent of magazine and newspaper publishing.

Tiga Serangkai' and Their Contribution towards Reviving Islamic Education in the Early Post-Colonial Indonesia (Sumbangan Ulama' Tiga Serangkai Dalam Menghidupkan Semula Pendidikan Islam Di Indonesia Pada Awal Pasca-Kolonial)," *Journal of Islam in Asia* 18, no. 2 (2021): 122–43, <https://doi.org/10.31436/jia.v18i2.1055>; Muhammad Reza Fadil and Suparwany Suparwany, "Ulama Tiga Serangkai's Tafsir Al-Qurānūl Karim: Source, Method and Profiles of the Interpreters," *Journal of Contemporary Islam and Muslim Societies* 6, no. 2 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.30821/jcims.v6i2.12644>.

¹⁴ Mestika Zed, *Metode Penelitian Kepustakaan* (Jakarta: Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia, 2018).

¹⁵ Kuntowijoyo, *Pengantar Ilmu Sejarah* (Medan: Tiara Wacana, 2013).

¹⁶ Klaus H. Krippendorff, *Content Analysis* (California: Sage Publication, Inc., 1980).

Deli Courant, the first newspaper in Medan, was published on March 18, 1885. This Dutch-language newspaper was owned by Dutch nationals and operated its own printing press.¹⁷ The press employed a steam-powered printing system and had a circulation of 150 copies. It employed workers for various tasks, including typesetting and operating the steam-powered machinery. Additionally, the press accepted printing orders for brochures and advertisements. However, this printing business did not benefit the indigenous population, as it solely catered to the interests of tobacco companies operating in Medan.

The newspaper's office was located on Huttenbach Straat, now known as Ahmad Yani Street. It was led by an editor-in-chief named Jacques Deen. *Deli Courant* maintained a conservative stance, supporting plantation interests throughout the late 18th century.¹⁸

Ten years after *Deli Courant*, another newspaper, *De Oostkust*, was launched in 1895, although little detailed information is available about it. In 1899, the newspaper *De Sumatra Post* was introduced, published by a European printing company owned by J. Hallerman, a German descendant.¹⁹

Subsequently, newspapers owned by the indigenous population began to emerge. In 1902, *Pertja Timor* was published, marking the first Indonesian-language newspaper owned by locals, under the editorial leadership of Mangaraja Silambuwe. Without its own printing press, *Pertja Timor* relied on J. Hallerman's printing services and shared its office space with *De Sumatra Post*. The building also housed NV. Medanse Drukkerij, a printing company that accepted various printing orders.²⁰

In 1905, the *Sjarikat Tapanoeli* printing company was established as a native business entity with notarized ownership. Based on Moskeestraat (now Jalan Mesjid), *Sjarikat Tapanoeli* was a business venture dominated by capital owners from the Mandailing community. Five years after

¹⁷ Muhammad TWH, *Sejarah Perjuangan Pers Sumatera Utara* (Medan: Yayasan Pelestarian Fakta Perjuangan Kemerdekaan Republik Indonesia, n.d.), 47.

¹⁸ Mohammad Said, "Waspada, Harian Republika di Daerah NICA," in Koko Hendri Lubis, *Roman Medan: Sebuah Kota Membangun Harapan* (Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2018), 16.

¹⁹ Lubis, *Roman Medan*, 17.

²⁰ Muhammad TWH, *Sejarah Perjuangan*, 2.

its establishment, *Sjarikat Tapanoeli* launched *Pewarta Deli*, the first indigenous-owned printing and publishing company in Medan.

By mid-1916, *Benih Merdeka* joined the media landscape. Both *Pewarta Deli* and *Benih Merdeka* consistently addressed ethnic issues and carried writings imbued with the spirit of the nationalist movement for independence. This contrasted starkly with the newspapers established by Europeans.

Medan's press scene flourished further with the emergence of newspapers like *Sinar Deli*, *Pantjaran Berita*, *Tjin Po*, and *Pelita Andalas* by the 1930s. These publications, similar to their predecessors, focused on indigenous interests and supported nationalist movements striving for independence.²¹

In its early development, publishing in Medan was closely intertwined with printing. Companies like *Sjarikat Tapanoeli* and European-owned presses acted as both printers and publishers of the newspapers in circulation. Historical records reveal several indigenous printing presses established before independence, including Asia Printing and Publishing (located in Pasar Pusat), Sinar Deli Printing (Jalan Mesjid), NV. Deli Printing (Jalan Kesawan), and Indesche Drukkerij (Jalan Sutomo).²² These presses not only printed newspapers but also handled advertisements, public meeting flyers, brochures, invitations, magazines, novels, and general books.

The rise of magazines also enriched Medan's publishing industry. Although they emerged later than newspapers, magazines played a crucial role in disseminating knowledge. Beginning in the early 1950s, several magazines, such as *Loekisan Dunia* (1950), *Simpat* (1950), *Pelangi* (1954), and *Pelita Rakyat*, added vibrancy to Medan's publishing landscape.²³

When discussing publishing in Medan, one cannot ignore the history of Medan's romance novels. The proliferation of these novels significantly spurred the growth of publishing businesses in the city. While romance novels were not exclusive to Medan, they were also prominent in other cities like Padang and Bukittinggi in Sumatra.

²¹ Muhammad TWH, *Sejarah Perjuangan*, 18-19.

²² Muhammad TWH, *Sejarah Perjuangan*, 19.

²³ Muhammad TWH, *Sejarah Perjuangan*, 287.

Indonesian romance novels were published between the 1930s and late 1940s, often appearing in serialized magazine formats. These publications were small, affordable, and widely popular, ensuring high sales and profitability.

The popularity of romance novels led to the establishment of specialized publishers, such as *Arena*, which focused on romantic publications but later expanded to general books. Newspapers like *Central Courant* and *Loekisan Pujangga* also began publishing romance novels. This phenomenon became a hallmark of Indonesia's literary scene, with Medan as its epicenter.

Illustrated stories or comics further enriched Medan's publishing industry in the 1950s and 1960s. Publishers like Haris, although not exclusively comic publishers, contributed to the genre. Artists like Taguan Hadrjo created comics published by Haris, marking an important chapter in Medan's creative scene.

The role of Medan's ulama in publishing was also pivotal. Beyond being writers, they actively participated as journalists and editors in Islamic-themed newspapers and magazines. Prominent ulama published works through publishers like Boekhandel Islamiyah and Poestaka Islam, contributing significantly to Medan's intellectual and religious discourse.

From the perspective of Antonio Gramsci's hegemony theory,²⁴ this study highlights how Medan's press, particularly during the colonial era, served as an instrument of domination by the European colonial ruling class over the indigenous population. Newspapers like *Deli Courant*, owned by Europeans and catering solely to their interests, exemplify how media was utilized to sustain colonial cultural and economic hegemony. Conversely, indigenous publications like *Pertja Timor* and *Pewarta Deli* in the early 20th century represent attempts to create counter-hegemony by addressing nationalism and independence struggles. Thus, the transition from colonial dominance to national awakening is reflected in the dynamics of Medan's media landscape, where publishing served not only as a vehicle for disseminating information but also as a tool for shaping social and political discourse.

²⁴ Antonio Gramsci, *Selections from the Prison Notebooks of Antonio Gramsci*, ed. and trans. Quintin Hoare and Geoffrey Nowell-Smith (New York: International Publishers, 1971).

The Role of Ulama in the Publication of Islamic Books and Magazines

1. M. Arsjad Th. Lubis (1908-1972 CE)

M. Arsjad Th. Lubis²⁵ was a prominent scholar from North Sumatra, born in Stabat in October 1908. He grew up in a religious environment, with his father also being a respected ulama in their village.²⁶ He was one of the most prominent scholars in North Sumatra, known for his charismatic leadership and significant contributions to religious affairs. He was also one of the founders of Al Jami'yatul Washliyah, a major organization that has had a significant influence, particularly in North Sumatra, Indonesia.²⁷

M. Arsjad Th. Lubis received a strong educational foundation. He studied under several distinguished scholars, including Sheikh Hasan Ma'sum, Sheikh Muhammad Yāsīn 'Isa al-Fādānī,²⁸ Zainuddin Billah, Sheikh Mahmud Ismail Lubis, Usman Mubarak, Sheikh H.M. Arif (Fakuh Saidi), Sheikh Haji M. Yunus, Baharuddin Thalib, and Sheikh Hamid Mahmud. From these scholars, M. Arsjad Th. Lubis mastered Islamic sciences and the Arabic language. His experience in writing began at a young age, often helping his teachers copy articles for publication in the press, which served as valuable training for his later career as a writer.²⁹

M. Arsjad Th. Lubis took on the profession of teaching early in his life, even before marriage. Later, he was entrusted with several important government positions, such as:

- a. Employee of the Religious Affairs Department of the Republic of Indonesia.

²⁵ Mardian Idris Harahap, "Nationalism and Political Thoughts of Sheikh M. Arsjad Thalib Lubis (1908-1972)," *MIQOT: Jurnal Ilmu-Ilmu Keislaman* 45, no. 1 (2021).

²⁶ M. Hasballah Thaib, *Syeikh H. M. M. Arsjad Th. Lubis: Pemikiran dan Karya Monumental* (Medan: Perdana Publishing, 2012), 21

²⁷ Muhammad TWH, *Sejarah Perjuangan*, 287.

²⁸ Ja'far, *Tradisi Intelektual Al Washliyah: Biografi Ulama Kharismatik dan Tradisi Keulamaan* (Medan: Perdana Publishing, 2015), 43.

²⁹ Arifinsyah, *Muhammad Arsyad Thalib Lubis: Misionaris Islam dan Ahli Perbandingan Agama Sumatera Utara* (Jakarta: Hijri Pustaka Utama, 2005), 14-15.

- b. Head of the Syariah Court of the North Sumatra Residency.
- c. Head of the Religious Affairs Department of the East Sumatra Residency.
- d. Head of the Religious Affairs Office of North Sumatra Province.
- e. Chairman of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of North Sumatra Province. He was also a member of the Constituent Assembly from the Masyurni Party from 1956 to 1959.

As a scholar, M. Arsjad Th. Lubis was highly productive in writing. His works, which cover various topics such as fiqh, Islamic theology, and Islamic history, were published even after his passing. These books have been repeatedly printed, indicating the high quality of both the themes and content, making them valuable references to this day.

Before becoming an active book author, M. Arsjad Th. Lubis was also known as a journalist. He contributed significantly to several Islamic magazines in Medan and even led several magazines, such as:

- a. 1928–1931: Writer for Fajar Islam magazine.
- b. 1934: Editor-in-Chief of Medan Islam magazine.
- c. 1935–1942: Editor-in-Chief of Medan Islam magazine.
- d. 1945: Editor-in-Chief of Medan Dewan Islam magazine.
- e. 1955–1957: Editorial Board Member of Sinar Islam magazine.

Some of his notable works include:

- f. *Penuntun Perang Sabil* (Guide to the War of Sabil), published by Firma Maju, 1957.³⁰
- g. *Imam Mahdi*, published by Firma Islamiyah, 1962.³¹
- h. *Ruh Islam* (The Spirit of Islam), published by Firma Islamiyah, 1959.³²
- i. *Fiqh Islam* (Islamic Jurisprudence), published by Firma Islamiyah, 1955.³³

³⁰ M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, *Penuntun Perang Sabil* (Medan: Firma Maju, 1957).

³¹ M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, *Imam Mahdi* (Medan: Firma Islamiyah, 1962).

³² M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, *Ruh Islam* (Medan: Firma Islamiyah, 1959).

- j. *Pedoman Mati Menurut al-Qur'an dan Hadis* (Guidelines for Death According to the Quran and Hadith), published by Firma Islamiyah, 1971.³⁴
- k. *Fatwa: Beberapa Masalah* (Fatwa: Some Issues), published by Firma Islamiyah, 1970.³⁵

2. Zainal Arifin Abbas (1912-1979 CE)

Zainal Arifin Abbas was born on March 12, 1912, in North Sumatra, specifically in Kampung Lalang, Serba Nyaman District, Deli Hilir. His father, Muhammad Abbas Hasibuan, and his mother, Rajiah Lubis, came from a modest background, but Zainal Arifin Abbas was raised in a religious environment.³⁶

Zainal Arifin Abbas had an excellent educational background. Several notable ulama from North Sumatra were his teachers, including Tuan Haji Abdul Halim Hasan, Kyai Haji Abdul Karim Tamim, Tuan Haji Muhammad Nur Ismail, and Sheikh Hasan Ma'sum Deli. Despite having a military career and engaging in politics, Zainal Arifin Abbas remained deeply committed to the development of knowledge and became one of the most influential intellectual figures of his time.

As an intellectual, Zainal Arifin Abbas was prolific in producing works and ideas in the form of books. Some of his notable works include:

- a. *Perkembangan Fikiran Terhadap Agama* (The Development of Thought on Religion), published by Firma Islamiyah, 1957.³⁷

³³ M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, *Fiqh Islam* (Medan: Firma Islamiyah, 1955).

³⁴ M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, *Pedoman Mati Menurut Alquran dan Hadis* (Medan: Firma Islamiyah, 1971).

³⁵ M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, *Fatwa: Beberapa Masalah* (Medan: Firma Islamiyah, 1970).

³⁶ M. Yakub, "Sejarah Sosial Intelektual Islam Zainal Arifin Abbas (1912-1979 M) 'Perspektif Sosio-Kultural,'" *Dakwah: Jurnal Kajian Dakwah Dan Kemasyarakatan* 18, no. 1 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.15408/dakwah.v22i1.12048>; Zaini Dahlan, "The Intellectual Tradition of Mandailing Ulama in East Sumatra: Zainal Arifin Abbas, 1912-1979," *Journal of Contemporary Islam and Muslim Societies* 4, no. 1 (2020): 23, <https://doi.org/10.30821/jcims.v4i1.7025>.

³⁷ Zainal Arifin Abbas, *Perkembangan Fikiran Terhadap Agama* (Medan: Firma Islamiyah, 1957).

- b. *Kitabus Shalat* (The Book of Prayer), published by Firma Rahmat, 1962.³⁸
- c. *Sejarah Puasa dan Hikmahnya* (The History of Fasting and Its Wisdom), published by Firma Rahmat, 1962.³⁹
- d. *Kaifiyat Sembahyang* (How to Perform Prayer), published by Firma Rahmat, 1964.⁴⁰
- e. *Peri Hidup Muhammad Rasulullah Saw* (The Life of Prophet Muhammad Saw), published by Firma Hasmar, 1975.⁴¹

3. Joesoef Sou'yb (1916-1992 CE)

Joesoef Sou'yb was born in Lhamie, West Aceh, in July 1916. Both of his parents were originally from West Sumatra and belonged to the Minangkabau ethnic group. His father, Haji Syu'ayb Piliang, and his mother, Syafiah Sikumbang, instilled a strong religious upbringing in him.⁴² His intellectual journey began with general education, after which he pursued religious studies at Madrasah al-Thawalib in Padang Panjang. There, he studied under notable teachers such as Angku Zaini Dahlan, Angku Adam, and Angku Nurdin Samad. Although he did not complete his studies at Madrasah al-Thawalib, Joesoef Sou'yb continued his education at Madrasah Islamiyah Bukittinggi, which was led by Sheikh Sulaiman Rasuli. These two madrasahs formed the foundation of his religious knowledge.

Joesoef Sou'yb began his career in journalism, becoming highly active in writing articles and scholarly works for various newspapers and magazines. His career as a journalist led him to migrate from Langsa to Medan, where he continued his professional journey. As a journalist, he eventually became the leader of several magazines and newspapers

³⁸ Zainal Arifin Abbas, *Kitabus Shalat* (Medan: Firma Rahmat, 1962).

³⁹ Zainal Arifin Abbas, *Sejarah Puasa dan Hikmahnya* (Medan: Firma Rahmat, 1962).

⁴⁰ Zainal Arifin Abbas, *Kaifiyat Sembahyang* (Medan: Firma Rahmat, 1964).

⁴¹ Zainal Arifin Abbas, *Peri Hidup Muhammad Rasulullah Saw*, vol. IIA (Medan: Firma Hasmar, 1975).

⁴² M. Yakub, "Karya-Karya Sejarah Joesoep Sou'yb Dalam Historiografi Islam Indonesia" (UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, 2012), <http://repository.uinjkt.ac.id/dspace/handle/123456789/7027>.

in Medan. His role as a journalist and intellectual allowed him to be a productive figure, contributing a wealth of ideas and thoughts to the public. Some of his notable works include:

- a. *Hubungan antar Bangsa* (International Relations), published by Firma Rimbow, 1987.⁴³
- b. *Kontrasepsi Mantap dan Hukum Islam* (Permanent Contraception and Islamic Law), published by Firma Rimbow, 1989.⁴⁴
- c. *Pemikiran Islam Merobah Dunia* (Islamic Thought Changes the World), published by Penerbit Maju, 1984.⁴⁵
- d. *Perkembangan Theologi Modern* (The Development of Modern Theology), published by Firma Rimbow, 1987.⁴⁶
- e. *Kekuasaan Islam di Andalusia* (Islamic Power in Andalusia), published by Penerbit Maju, 1984.⁴⁷

4. Adnan Lubis

Adnan Lubis was one of the prominent ulama of Medan, born on May 10, 1910, in Kampung Arab, Medan, later moving to the Kedai Panjang area (Kesawan, Medan). His father, Haji Hasan Kontas, was a textile merchant in the Kedai Panjang region.⁴⁸ He was fortunate to receive an excellent education. For his elementary education, he attended the English Anthony School in Padang Bulan, Medan. He also studied at Maktab Islamiyah Tapanuli, located on Mesjid Street in Medan. At the age of six, in 1926, with the support of his parents, Adnan Lubis traveled to Mecca to continue his studies at the Tsanawiyah level.

⁴³ Joesoef Sou'yb, *Hubungan antar Bangsa* (Medan: Firma Rimbow, 1987).

⁴⁴ Joesoef Sou'yb, *Kontrasepsi Mantap dan Hukum Islam* (Medan: Firma Rimbow, 1989).

⁴⁵ Joesoef Sou'yb, *Pemikiran Islam Merobah Dunia* (Medan: Penerbit Maju, 1984).

⁴⁶ Joesoef Sou'yb, *Perkembangan Theologi Modern* (Medan: Firma Rimbow, 1987).

⁴⁷ Joesoef Sou'yb, *Kekuasaan Islam di Andalusia* (Medan: Penerbit Maju, 1984).

⁴⁸ Ahmad Nasution, *Sejarah Ulama-Ulama terkemuka di Sumatera Utara* (Medan: Institut Agama Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara, n.d.), 155.

While in Mecca, he studied under several prominent scholars, including Sheikh Hasan al-Mashshāṭ, Sheikh ‘Abdullāh al-Bukhārī, and Sheikh Sa‘id Mukhsin. In 1934, Adnan Lubis furthered his education at Nadwa College in Lucknow, India, where he studied under scholars like Sheikh Mas‘ūd ‘Allām, Sheikh al-Shiblī, and Sheikh Sulaimān al-Nadwī. After five years, he returned to Medan in 1939.⁴⁹

Upon returning to his homeland, Adnan Lubis dedicated himself to teaching at various educational institutions, including:

- a. 1940-1945: Teaching at Madrasah Muallimin and Mualimat Al Washliyah.
- b. Teaching at Perguruan Menengah Islam (PIM) Tanjung Balai.
- c. 1952: Professor at the Islamic University of North Sumatra (UISU), teaching Islamic law.
- d. 1958: First Rector of Al Washliyah University (UNIVA) Medan.

Despite his busy schedule with teaching and other responsibilities, Adnan Lubis also made time for writing. Some of his works include:

- a. In Islamic law, he wrote on *Pengantar Islam* (Introduction to Islam) and *Muqāranah al-Madhāhib* (Comparison of Islamic Schools of Thought).
- b. In literature, he compiled a collection of poems titled *Gubahan Perjuangan Rasul* (The Struggles of the Prophet).
- c. He translated the book *Falsafah Timur* (Eastern Philosophy) by Ghalib from Egypt.
- d. He compiled a Tafsir for Juz ‘Ammā, Surah Yasin, and Surah al-Ahzab.
- e. He wrote about *Qadha and Qadr* in the field of *tawhid* (Islamic Theology).

⁴⁹ Muhammad Hasballah Thaib and Zamakhsyari Hasballah, *Mengenal Almarhum Al-Fadhil H. Adnan Lubis: Kader Nadwatul Ulama India* (Medan: Perdana Publishing, 2012); Ja’far Ja’far, “Adnan Nur Lubis (1912-1968): Ustaz Nasionalis, Pendiri Al Washliyah,” 2021, <https://washliyah.or.id/blog/2021/08/24/adnan-nur-lubis-1912-1968-ustaz-nasionalis-pendiri-al-washliyah/>.

5. Abdurrahman Sjihab

Abdurrahman Sjihab was born in 1910 in Kampung Paku, a district in Galang, Deli Serdang Regency. His father, Syihabuddin, was a qāḍī (judge) in the Serdang Sultanate. He received his basic education at the Government School for general subjects and religious education at Maktab Simpang Tiga Perbungan. He later continued his education at Maktab Islamiyah Tapanuli, which was led by Muhammad Yunus, while also studying at Maktab Hasaniyah under Hasan Ma'sum.⁵⁰

In 1939, Abdurrahman Sjihab performed the hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, where he took the opportunity to study under prominent scholars such as Syekh 'Ali al-Mālikī, 'Umar Hamdān, Hasan Mashshāṭ, Amīn al-Kutubī, and M. 'Alawī. Before leaving for hajj, Abdurrahman Sjihab had already established a madrasah in the Padang Bulan area.

Abdurrahman Sjihab was deeply committed to education, actively teaching at various madrasahs in Medan, including Madrasah Muallimin and Muallimat on Kalkutta Street, Padang Bulan. He also served as the director of several madrasahs, including Madrasah al-Qismul 'Aly.

In addition to his work as an educator, Abdurrahman Sjihab was also an active journalist. He led several magazines, including Medan Islam and Raudhatul Mu'allimin. Writing was an essential part of his daily life as a journalist. One of his notable works is *Penoentoen Hadji*.

From the perspective of Antonio Gramsci's theory of hegemony, the role of ulama in publishing Islamic books and magazines in Medan, as reflected in the works of M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, Zainal Arifin Abbas, and other ulama, can be viewed as part of an effort to shape and maintain cultural hegemony within the Muslim community. According to Gramsci, hegemony refers to the dominance of a particular group in society, which can be achieved through ideological and cultural control in addition to political and economic power. These ulama, with their significant influence in education and media, served not only as religious leaders but also as key agents in spreading Islamic knowledge and values through their writings. They used platforms like magazines and books to reinforce

⁵⁰ Ja'far Ja'far, "Ulama Mandailing Awal Abad Ke-20: Gerakan Religius Dan Politik Abdurrahman Sjihab (1910-1955)," *Islamijah: Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 1, no. 1 (2020).

a worldview aligned with their interpretation of Islam while also responding to the social-political challenges of their time. In this way, ulama played a crucial role in shaping collective consciousness, building consensus around social norms and values, and maintaining existing social structures through a subtle ideological dominance.

Publishers and Islamic Books in Medan

1. Syarikat Tapanuli

Syarikat Tapanuli has been involved in the book publishing business since the early 1900s, but it only began publishing Islamic books in the 1920s. Some of the books that were published include:

- a. *Ṣarim al-Mumayyiz ‘an al-Tala‘ub bi Kalām al-‘Azīz* by Hasan Ma’sum, published by NV. Syarikat Tapanuli in 1929.⁵¹
- b. *Tanqih al-Zunūn ‘an Masā’il al-Maimūn* by Hasan Ma’sum, published in 1930.⁵²
- c. *Waṣiyāt* by Abdul Wahap Rokan (no publication year provided).
- d. *Al-Fatawa al-‘Aliyah* by Khatib Ali Padang (no publication year provided).
- e. *Risālat al-Isnād* by Muhammad Zainuddin Serdang (no publication year provided).

2. Perca Timor

Pertja Timor was a pioneer in both the newspaper industry and as an indigenous publisher. Although it initially did not have its own printing press, over time, Perca Timor also began publishing Islamic books. Some of the books published include:

- a. *Samir al-Ṣibyān li Ma‘rīfah Furuḍ al-A‘yān* by Hasan Ma’sum, published by Perca Timor in 1930.⁵³

⁵¹ Hasan Ma’sum, *Tanqih al-Zunūn ‘an Masā’il al-Maimūn* (Medan: Syarikat Tapanuli, 1930).

⁵² Hasan Ma’sum, *Ṣarim al-Mumayyiz ‘an al-Tala‘ub bi Kalām al-‘Azīz* (Medan: Syarikat Tapanuli, 1929).

⁵³ Hasan Ma’sum, *Samir al-Ṣibyān li Ma‘rīfah Furuḍ al-A‘yān* (Medan: Perca Timor, 1930).

- b. *Tadhkir al-Murīdīn Sulūk Ṭarīqah al-Muhtahdīn* by Hasan Ma'sum, published by Perca Timor in 1932.⁵⁴
- c. *Al-Luqṭah al-Marḍiyah fī Tafṣīr al-Sayyi'ah* by Musa Mandailing (no publication year provided).⁵⁵
- d. *Miftāḥ al-Khair fī al-Ṭarīqah al-Naqshabandiyyah* by Suhailuddin Tanjung Pura, published by Perca Timor in 1941.⁵⁶

3. Sinar Deli Publisher

Sinar Deli Publisher is one of the publishers in Medan that has also contributed to the publication of Islamic books. Some of the books published by Sinar Deli include:

- a. *Shifā' al-Ṣudūr fī Ziyārah al-Qubūr* by Yusuf Ahmad Lubis, published by Sinar Deli in 1930.⁵⁷
- b. *Sabīl al-Sa'ādah fī Akhlāq al-Marḍiyah* by Adnan Yahya Lubis (no publication year provided).⁵⁸
- c. *Tiada Nabi Sesudah Muhammad* by Tamzil Yaqub, published by Sinar Deli (no publication year provided).⁵⁹

4. Imballo Publisher

Imballo Publisher was one of the earliest publishing houses to venture into the world of publishing. The development of the Islamic book publishing industry encouraged Imballo to publish Islamic books. Some of the Islamic books published by Imballo include:

⁵⁴Hasan Ma'sum, *Tadhkir al-Murīdīn Sulūk Ṭarīqah al-Muhtahdīn* (Medan: Perca Timor, 1932).

⁵⁵ Musa Mandailing, *Al-Luqṭah al-Marḍiyah fī Tafṣīr al-Sayyi'ah* (Medan: Perca Timor, n.d.).

⁵⁶ Suhailuddin Tanjung Pura, *Miftāḥ al-Khair fī al-Ṭarīqah al-Naqshabandiyyah* (Medan: Perca Timor, 1941).

⁵⁷ Yusuf Ahmad Lubis, *Shifā' al-Ṣudūr fī Ziyārah al-Qubūr* (Medan: Sinar Deli, 1930).

⁵⁸ Adnan Yahya Lubis, *Sabīl al-Sa'ādah fī Akhlāq al-Marḍiyah* (Medan: Sinar Deli, n.d.).

⁵⁹ Tamzil Yaqub, *Tiada Nabi Sesudah Muhammad* (Medan: Sinar Deli, n.d.).

- a. *Qatar Labn fi 'Aqā'id al-Imām* by Muhammad Zain Tasak Batubara, published by Imballo in 1957.⁶⁰
- b. *Miftāḥ al-Ṣibyān fi 'Aqā'id al-Imām* by Muhammad Zain Tasak Batubara, published by Imballo (no publication year provided).⁶¹
- c. *Maslak al-Ikhwān* by Ahmad Bakri Batubara, published by Imballo (no publication year provided).⁶²
- d. *Natījah al-Miqāt* by Ahmad Bakri Batubara, published by Imballo (no publication year provided).⁶³
- e. *Tamrin al-Islām fi Izhar 'Umur al-Zalām* by Ibrahim Baijuri, published by Imballo (no publication year provided).

5. Boekhandel Islamiyah

Boekhandel Islamiyah is one of the publishers that contributed to the vibrant world of publishing in Medan, especially Islamic books. Established before Indonesia's independence, in the 1930s, Boekhandel Islamiyah has been consistently focused on publishing Islamic books.

In its announcement, it is stated that Boekhandel Islamiyah is a business involved in selling and publishing books, including Islamic books, historical works, novels, and poetry. Some of the books published by Boekhandel Islamiyah include:

- a. *Propagandist Islam* by Haroenoe Rasjid and M.A. Hanafiah Lubis, published by Boekhandel Islamiyah in 1936.⁶⁴
- b. *Islam di Polen* by M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, published by Boekhandel Islamiyah in 1939.⁶⁵

⁶⁰ Muhammad Zain Tasak Batubara, *Qatar Labn fi 'Aqā'id al-Imām* (Medan: Imballo, 1957).

⁶¹ Muhammad Zain Tasak Batubara, *Miftāḥ al-Ṣibyān fi 'Aqā'id al-Imām* (Medan: Imballo, n.d.).

⁶² Ahmad Bakri Batubara, *Maslak al-Ikhwān* (Medan: Imballo, n.d.).

⁶³ Muhammada Nur Ismail Langkat, *Ilmu Tasawuf* (Medan: Boekhandel Islamiyah, n.d.).

⁶⁴ Haroenoe Rasjid and M.A. Hanafiah Lubis, *Propagandist Islam* (Medan: Boekhandel Islamiyah, 1936).

⁶⁵ M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, *Islam di Polen* (Medan: Boekhandel Islamiyah, 1939).

- c. *Ilmu Tasawuf* by Muhammad Nur Ismail Langkat, published by Boekhandel Islamiyah (no publication year provided).
- d. *Penoentoen Hadji* by Adurrahman Sjihab, published by Boekhandel Islamiyah in 1940.⁶⁶
- e. *Sedjarah Peperangan Salib* by Mochammad Moe'in, published by Boekhandel Islamiyah (no publication year provided).⁶⁷

6. Madju Publisher

Madju Publisher is a publishing enterprise that does not specialize exclusively in Islamic books, but its contribution to publishing Islamic literature is significant. Like Islamiyah Publisher, Madju has been involved in publishing popular scientific Islamic books and educational books for schools. Established in 1949, Madju's first publication was a religious book.⁶⁸ Madju Publisher is one of the largest publishing companies in Medan. As a publishing enterprise, Madju also owns its own printing press. It is the only remaining publishing business in Medan that still exists today, although it is no longer as productive as it once was in publishing books. To survive, Madju has focused more on the printing business.

Madju Publisher was founded by M. Arbie. Initially starting with a bookstore called Pustaka Madju, Arbie expanded into publishing and printing under the name Firma Madju. Located on Sutomo Street in Medan, Firma Madju began with very modest facilities, with an office space of 4 x 4 meters and a single printing press. The publishing business grew steadily, and Firma Madju not only published popular scientific books but also educational books. Over time, Firma Madju prioritized publishing textbooks for both elementary and secondary schools.

Firma Madju continued to thrive, and despite the fluctuating publishing landscape in Indonesia, especially in Medan, the company

⁶⁶ Abdurrahman Sjihab, *Penoentoen Hadji* (Medan: Boekhandel Islamiyah, 1940).

⁶⁷ Mochammad Moe'in, *Sedjarah Peperangan Salib* (Medan: Boekhandel Islamiyah, n.d.).

⁶⁸ Doni Irfan Tanjung, interview by Saidatul Khairiyah, August 28, 2018.

did not face the same fate as many other local publishers. In the mid-1980s, at a time when the publishing industry in Medan was struggling, Firma Madju was still able to expand to Jakarta. In 1985, Firma Madju opened a branch in Pulogadung, Jakarta, involved in both publishing and printing.

With the growth of its publishing efforts, Firma Madju added more printing units to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of its operations. The expansion was also reflected in the transformation of Firma Madju into PT. Madju Medan Cipta, which now owns subsidiaries in the hotel and healthcare industries.

Madju's contributions to the publishing world cannot be doubted. With over 50 years of experience in publishing and printing, Madju Publisher has published thousands of books with millions of copies. The breakdown of its publications is as follows:

1. Textbooks for Elementary and Junior High Schools: 65%
2. Religious Books: 20%
3. Scientific Books: 10%
4. Other General Books: 5%

Some of the Islamic books published by Firma Madju include:

- a. *Ibadat* by M. Nuh Hudawi, published by Madju Publisher in 1955.
- b. *Ilmu Tasawuf* by Zainal Arifin Abbas, published by Madju Publisher (no publication year provided).⁶⁹
- c. *Penuntun Perang Sabil* by M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, published by Madju Publisher (no publication year provided).⁷⁰
- d. *Puasa dan Kesehatan* by Alimin, published by Madju Publisher in 1984.⁷¹

⁶⁹ M. Nuh Hudawi, *Ibadat* (Medan: Firma Madju, 1955). This book is a textbook for grade V at *Sekolah Rakyat* (SR). This book is published based on the instruction and permission of the order in this case the Minister of Education and Culture.

⁷⁰ Zainal Arifin Abbas, *Ilmu Tasawuf* (Medan: Firma Madju, n.d.).

⁷¹ M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, *Penuntun Perang Sabil* (Medan: Madju, n.d.).

- e. *Keimanan dan Akhlak* by Abbas Hasan, published by Pustaka Madju Medan (no publication year provided).⁷²

7. Islamiyah Publisher

Islamiyah Publisher is one of the most consistent publishers in producing Islamic books. While the exact founding date of Islamiyah is unclear, it has been active in the Islamic publishing industry since the 1940s. One of its early publications in the 1940s was *Pemimpin Puasa* by Abdul Halim Hasan, published by Toko Buku Islamiyah in 1949. Islamiyah Publisher is located on Sutomo Street, Medan, at No. 328-329.

Islamiyah has made significant contributions to the dissemination of religious books. It has consistently focused on publishing Islamic books, which sets it apart from other publishers in the region. The founder and owner of Islamiyah are not widely known, but it is mentioned in the book *Tafsir al-Ahkam* by Abdul Halim Hasan, published by Kencana Publisher, that Islamiyah was founded by Bagindo Siregar.⁷³ The following passage from the book expresses gratitude to Islamiyah and acknowledges the contributions of Bagindo Siregar:

We pray that Allah Ta'ala grants us all guidance, and I express my deep gratitude to Firma Islamiyah for publishing this book. This book is also a tribute to our late brother, Bagindo Siregar, the founder of Islamiyah, who has passed away. We pray that all his efforts in spreading religious books, as a contribution to the development and progress of Islam in Indonesia, especially in North Sumatra, are accepted by Allah Ta'ala as righteous deeds and are rewarded manifold. Amīn Ya Rabb al-‘Ālamīn.

Islamiyah's role in Islamic publishing is undeniable. It is a business that not only has a publishing house but also owns a bookstore, named

⁷² Alimin, *Puasa dan Kesehatan* (Medan: Madju, 1984).

⁷³ Abdul Halim Hasan, *Tafsir al-Ahkam* (Bandung: Kencana, n.d). The author assumes that this book is a reprint edition, which in the previous edition of this book was published by penebrit Islamiyah Medan and then republished by the publisher Kencana.

Toko Buku Islamiyah. Initially, each book published by Islamiyah bore the name “Toko Buku Islamiyah” as the publisher, later changing to “Firma Islamiyah.” In publishing Islamic books, Islamiyah has focused on popular scientific literature, as well as textbooks for schools or madrasahs.⁷⁴ Some of the books published by Islamiyah include:

- a. *Tafsir Juz ‘Amm* by Adnan Lubis, published by Islamiyah Publisher in 1949.⁷⁵
- b. *Dasar-dasar Fiqih Islam* by Muhd. Hasbi Ashshidqi, published by Toko Buku Islamiyah (no publication year provided).⁷⁶
- c. *Rangkaian Tarich Islam Chalifah Umar Bin Chattab r.a* by Hadji Abdullah A’idid, published by Islamiyah Publisher in 1956.⁷⁷
- d. *Al-Ahkaam* by Muhd. Hasbi Ashshidqi, published by Firma Islamiyah in 1958.⁷⁸
- e. *Tasawuf Modern* by H. Abdulmalik Karim Amrullah, published by Toko Buku Islamiyah (no publication year provided).⁷⁹
- d. *Perbandingan Agama Kristen dan Islam* by M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, published by Firma Islamiyah in 1974.⁸⁰

⁷⁴ The change in the name of the publisher is not that meaningful, because whether using “Islamiyah Bookstore” or “Islamiyah Firm” in essence remains one business. With the change in name, the author assumes there is an indication that at the beginning, the Islamiyah publisher was a bookstore business which then developed by establishing a publishing business. It can be seen from several books published by Islamiyah, for example in the book by Muhammad M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, *Riwayah Nabi Muhammad SAW* (Medan: Toko Buku Islamiyah, 1951). This book is an Islamic Tarikh textbook for madrasah diniyah and this book is written in Malay Arabic script.

⁷⁵ Adnan Lubis, *Tafsir Juz ‘Amm* (Medan: Firma Islamiyah, 1949).

⁷⁶ Muhd. Hasbi Ashshidqi, *Dasar-Dasar Fiqih Islam* (Medan: Toko Buku Islamiyah, n.d.).

⁷⁷ Hadji Abdullah A’idid, *Rangkaian Tarich Islam Chalifah Umar Bin Chattab r.a* (Medan: Firma Islamiyah, 1956).

⁷⁸ Muhd. Hasbi Ashshidqi, *al-Ahkaam* (Medan: Firma Islamiyah, 1958).

⁷⁹ H. Abdul Malik Karim Amrullah, *Tasawuf Modern* (Medan: Toko Buku Islamiyah, n.d.).

⁸⁰ M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, *Perbandingan Agama Kristen dan Islam* (Medan: Firma Islamiyah, 1974).

- e. *Ilmu Pembahagian Pusaka (al-Faraidl)* by M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, published by Toko Buku Islamiyah in 1953.⁸¹
- f. *Manusia dan Agama* by Moesa'i Machfoeid, published by Toko Buku Islamiyah in 1954.⁸²
- g. *Sendi Iman: Mutiara Ilmu Kalam* by Sheikh Thahir bin Shaleh al-Djazairy, translated by Nukman Sulaiman, published by Firma Islamiyah in 1968.⁸³
- h. *Saya Kembali ke Ru'yah* by HAMKA, published by Firma Islamiyah in 1972.⁸⁴

8. Saiful Publisher

Saiful Publisher is another publisher that has contributed to the Islamic book publishing landscape in Medan. Although it has not been as consistent in publishing Islamic books, its contributions to Islamic literature cannot be overlooked. Saiful Publisher has been involved in the publishing of Islamic books since the 1950s. Some of the Islamic books published by Saiful Publisher include:

- a. *Falsafah Timur* by M. Ghallab, translated by Adnan Lubis, published by Saiful Publisher in 1950.⁸⁵
- b. *Sejarah Agama dan Kebudayaan Islam* by Bahrum Rangkuti, published by Saiful Publisher in 1954.
- c. *Hati Terpikat di Tanah Suci* by Saiful U.A., published by Saiful Publisher in 1954.⁸⁶

⁸¹ M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, *Ilmu Pembahagian Pusaka (al-Faraidl)* (Medan: Toko Buku Islamiyah, 1953).

⁸² Moesa'i Machfoeid, *Manusia dan Agama* (Medan: Toko Buku Islamiyah, 1954).

⁸³ Thahir bin Shaleh al-Djazairy *Sendi Iman: Mutiara Ilmu Kalam*, translated by Nukman Sulaiman (Medan: Firma Islamiyah tahun 1968).

⁸⁴ HAMKA, *Saya Kembali ke Ru'yah* (Medan: Firma Islamiyah, 1972).

⁸⁵ M. Ghallab, *Falsafah Timur* (Medan: Penerbit Saiful, 1950).

⁸⁶ Saiful U.A., *Hati Terpikat di Tanah Suci* (Medan: Penerbit Saiful, 1954).

9. Rahmat Publisher

Rahmat Publisher is one of many publishers that has contributed to the world of Islamic book publishing in Medan. Some of the Islamic books previously published by Rahmat Publisher include:

- a. *Perkembangan Fikiran Terhadap Agama* by Zainal Arifin Abbas, published by Rahmat Publisher in 1965.⁸⁷
- b. *Penuntun Sembahyang* by Zainal Arifin Abbas, published by Rahmat Publisher in 1965.⁸⁸
- c. *Tuntunan Haji Praktis* by Abu Bakar Ya'qub, published by Rahmat Publisher in 1978.⁸⁹
- d. *Kitab al-Shalat* by Zainal Arifin Abbas, published by Rahmat Publisher (no publication year available).⁹⁰

10. Damai Publisher

Several Islamic books published by Damai Publisher include:

- a. *Tarawih dan Hukum Puasa Ramadhan* by Abu Bakar Ya'qub, published by Damai Publisher in 1965.⁹¹
- b. *Keesaan Tuhan Menurut Ajaran Islam dan Kristen* by M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, published by Damai Publisher (no publication year available).⁹²
- c. *Sja'ir Guwa Hirak* by 'Abdullah Ma'ruf, published by Damai Publisher (no publication year available).⁹³

⁸⁷ Zainal Arifin Abbas, *Perkembangan fikiran Terhadap Agama* (Medan: Penerbit Rahmat, 1965).

⁸⁸ Zainal Arifin Abbas, *Penuntun Sembahyang* (Medan: Penerbit Rahmat, 1965).

⁸⁹ Abu Bakar Ya'qub, *Tuntunan Haji Praktis* (Medan: Penerbit Rahmat, 1978).

⁹⁰ Zainal Arifin Abbas, *Kitab al-Shalat* (Medan: Penerbit Rahmat, n.d.).

⁹¹ Abu Bakar Ya'qub, *Tarawih dan Hukum Puasa Ramadhan* (Medan: Penerbit P.P. Damai, 1965).

⁹² M. Arsjad Th. Lubis, *Keesaan Tuhan Menurut Ajaran Islam dan Kristen* (Medan: P.P. Damai, n.d.).

⁹³ 'Abdullah Ma'ruf, *Sja'ir Guwa Hirak* (Medan: P.P. Damai, n.d.).

11. Hasmar Publishing House

Hasmar Publishing, or Pustaka Hasmar, is another publisher that has made significant contributions to the publication of Islamic books. Some of the Islamic books published by Hasmar Publishing include:

- a. *Kashf al-Ghummah pada Menyatakan al-‘Adillah a;-Syar ‘iyah dan Maknanya* by Abdul Halim Khatib, published by Pustaka Hasmar (no publication year available).⁹⁴
- b. *Saif al-Ṭalabah pada Menyatakan Beberapa Dalil Bagi Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jamā‘ah* by Abdul Halim Khatib, published by Pustaka Hasmar (no publication year available).⁹⁵
- c. *Ittihaf al-Ikhwān* by Hasan Ma’sum, published by Pustaka Hasmar (no publication year available).⁹⁶

12. Kedai Haji Abdullah Pasar Ikan Publisher

Kedai Haji Abdullah Pasar Ikan Publisher is another publisher that has published Islamic books. Some of the books published include:

- a. *Hidāyah al-Ikhwān* by Hasan Ma’sum, published by Kedai Haji Abdullah Pasar Ikan in 1927.⁹⁷
- b. *Durār al-Bayān Syrah Hidāyah al-Ikhwān pada Pengetahuan Aqāi‘d al-Imām* by Hasan Ma’sum, published by Kedai Haji Abdullah Pasar Ikan in 1927.⁹⁸
- c. *Al-Maqālah al-Nāfi ‘ah fi mā Yata‘allaq bi Qabliyah al-Jumu‘ah* by Hasan Ma’sum, published by Kedai Haji Abdullah Pasar Ikan (no publication year available).⁹⁹

⁹⁴ Abdul Halim Khatib, *Kashf al-Ghummah pada Menyatakan al-‘Adillah a;-Syar ‘iyah dan Maknanya* (Medan: Pustaka Hasmar, n.d.).

⁹⁵ Abdul Halim Khatib, *Saif al-Ṭalabah pada Menyatakan Beberapa Dalil Bagi Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jamā‘ah* (Medan: Pustaka Hasmar, n.d.).

⁹⁶ Hasan Ma’sum, *Ittihaf al-Ikhwān* (Medan: Pustaka Hasmar, n.d.).

⁹⁷ Hasan Ma’sum, *Hidāyah al-Ikhwān* (Medan: Kedai Haji Abdullah pasar Ikan, 1927).

⁹⁸ Hasan Ma’sum, *Durār al-Bayān Syrah Hidāyah al-Ikhwān pada Pengetahuan Aqāi‘d al-Imām* (Medan: Kedai Haji Abdullah Pasar Ikan, 1927).

⁹⁹ Hasan Ma’sum, *Al-Maqālah al-Nāfi ‘ah fi mā Yata‘allaq bi Qabliyah al-Jumu‘ah* (Medan: Kedai Haji Abdullah Pasar Ikan, n.d.).

- d. *Targhīb al-Mustaqīm Bagi yang Mendirikan Jum ‘at Atas Kata al-Shāfi‘ī yang Qadim* by Hasan Ma’sum, published by Kedai Haji Abdullah Pasar Ikan (no publication year available).¹⁰⁰
- e. *Is‘āf al-Murīdīn Dengan Menerangkan Rabiṭah al-Ṣufiyyīn* by Hasan Ma’sum, published by Kedai Haji Abdullah Pasar Ikan (no publication year available).¹⁰¹

13. Rimbow Publisher

Rimbow Publisher is one of the publishers in Medan that has contributed to the publication of Islamic books. Although it became active in the book publishing scene in the 1980s, Rimbow Publisher’s role in the dissemination of Islamic literature cannot be denied. Some of the books previously published by Rimbow Publisher include:

- a. *Makna Agama Terhadap Alam Fikiran Manusia* by Abdullah Sinaga, published by Rimbow Publisher in 1987.¹⁰²
- b. *Adab Haji Mencapai Haji Mabru* by Ahmad Fuad Said, published by Rimbow Publisher (no publication year available).¹⁰³

In addition to the publishers listed above, many others have also contributed to the publication of Islamic books, including:

1. Syarkawi Medan Publisher, which published *Lembaga Hidup* by HAMKA in 1949.¹⁰⁴
2. Masa Medan Publisher, which published *Perselisihan Ayat-Ayat Bibel* by Yusuf A. Lubis (no publication year available).¹⁰⁵
3. Daun Medan Publisher, which published *Perjalanan Haji Tahun 1966/1967 M atau 1387/1388 H* by Muh. Jamil al-Mangaraja Ihutan in 1967.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁰ Hasan Ma’sum, *Targhīb al-Mustaqīm Bagi yang Mendirikan Jum ‘at Atas Kata al-Shāfi‘ī yang Qadim* (Medan: Kedai Haji Abdullah Pasar Ikan, n.d.).

¹⁰¹ Hasan Ma’sum, *Is‘āf al-Murīdīn Dengan Menerangkan Rabiṭah al-Ṣufiyyīn* (Medan: kedai haji Abdullh Pasar Ikan, n.d.).

¹⁰² Abdullah Sinaga, *Makna Agama Terhadap Alam Fikiran Manusia* (Medan: Rimbow, 1987).

¹⁰³ Ahmad Fuad Said, *Adab Haji Mencapai Haji Mabru* (Medan: Rimbow, n.d.).

¹⁰⁴ HAMKA, *Lembaga Hidup* (Medan: Penerbit Syarkawi, 1949).

¹⁰⁵ Yusuf A. Lubis, *Perselisihan Ayat-Ayat Bibel* (Medan: MASA, n.d.).

4. Al-Ichwan Medan Publisher, which published *Pribadi Hidup* by Ghazali Hasan (no publication year available).¹⁰⁷
5. Firma Siregar Medan Publisher, which published *Penuntun Sembahyang* by Zainal Arifin Abbas in 1964.¹⁰⁸
6. Satria Medan Publisher, which published *Pelajaran Huruf Arab* by A. Zaini (no publication year available).¹⁰⁹
7. Mayang Kencana Medan Publisher, which published *Mutiara Hikmah Untuk Membina Keluarga Muslim Yang Bahagia* by Tengku Badrul Zaman and Mariam Barus in 1987.¹¹⁰
8. Sasterawan Medan Publisher, which published *Sejarah Masuknya Islam ke Bandar Baru Sumatera Utara* by Dada Meuraxa in 1973.¹¹¹
9. Pustaka Simpul Publisher, which published *al-Waqi'ah Doa dan Maknanya* by Abu Bakar Ya'qub (no publication year available).¹¹²
10. Pustaka Bedaya Medan Publisher, which published *Shifā' al-Fu'ād: Keterangan dan Cara Meratibkan Ratib al-Haddad* by Muhammad Ya'qub Mandailing in 1961.¹¹³
11. Pustaka Indonesia Medan Publisher, which published *Budi dalam Kehidupan Diri dan Masyarakat* by Bustami Ibrahim (no publication year available).¹¹⁴

¹⁰⁶ The existence of this book is recorded in: Henri Chambert Loir, ed., *Naik Haji Masa Silam: Kisah-Kisah Orang Indonesia Naik Haji 1482-1964*, vol. I (Jakarta: Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia, n.d.), 2.

¹⁰⁷ Ghazali Hasan, *Pribadi Hidup* (Medan: al-Ichwan, n.d.).

¹⁰⁸ Zainal Arifin Abbas, *Penuntun Sembahyang* (Medan: Firma Siregar, 1964).

¹⁰⁹ A. Zaini, *Pelajaran Huruf Arab* (Medan: Firma Satria, n.d.).

¹¹⁰ Tengku Badrul Zaman dan Mariam Barus, *Mutiara Hikmah Untuk Membina Keluarga Muslim Yang Bahagia* (Medan: Mayang Kencana, 1987).

¹¹¹ Dada Meuraxa, *Sejarah Masuknya Islam ke Bandar Baru Sumatera Utara* (Medan: Penerbit Sasterawan, 1973).

¹¹² Abu Bakar Ya'qub, *al-Waqi'ah Doa dan Maknanya* (Medan: Pustaka Simpul, n.d.).

¹¹³ Muhammad Ya'qub Mandailing, *Syifā' al-Fu'ād: Keterangan dan Cara Meratibkan Ratib al-Haddad* (Medan: Pustaka Bedaya Medan, 1961).

¹¹⁴ Bustami Ibrahim, *Budi dalam Kehidupan Diri dan Masyarakat* (Medan: Pustaka Indonesia, n.d.).

In the context of Antonio Gramsci's theory of hegemony, the publication of Islamic books in Medan can be seen as part of an ideological struggle to maintain or strengthen the dominance of certain social classes over society. Gramsci emphasized the importance of institutions like media and education in shaping a social consensus that benefits the dominant groups, through what he referred to as "hegemony." The publication of Islamic books by various publishers in Medan, such as Islamiyah, Madju, and others, not only serves as the distribution of religious knowledge but also acts as a mechanism to spread certain ideologies that reinforce the social and political position of Muslims in the region. The books published cover a wide range of topics, from Sufism to the history of Islam, reflecting an effort to spread norms in line with the dominant ideology of the time. This process enables the creation of a consensus among readers and the broader community, where publishers, authors, and readers are involved in an "ideological struggle" to establish greater social and political influence.

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that the history of publishing in Medan has undergone significant development, beginning with the publication of *Deli Courant* in 1885, followed by the emergence of indigenous-owned newspapers and magazines, and further evolving with the advent of illustrated stories and comics during the 1950s and 1960s. Scholars in Medan, such as M. Arsjad Th. Lubis and Zainal Arifin Abbas, played crucial roles in the development of Islam through the publication of books and magazines focused on themes such as fiqh, tawhid, and Islamic history. Islamic publishers, such as Syarikat Tapanuli and Penerbit Rimbow, made substantial contributions to the dissemination of Islamic literacy in North Sumatra, producing a wide variety of scholarly works and religious textbooks, although some publishers experienced fluctuations in their operations.

The publication of Islamic books and magazines in Medan, involving scholars like M. Arsjad Th. Lubis and Zainal Arifin Abbas, can be understood in the context of Antonio Gramsci's theory of hegemony as an effort to strengthen ideological and cultural dominance within the Muslim community. Media was used to spread interpretations of Islam, both in support of colonial power and as a counter-hegemonic

tool advocating for nationalism and independence. These publications served not only as a means of distributing religious knowledge but also as tools for shaping social consensus and maintaining or challenging the existing power structures, through the ideological struggle reflected in social and political discourse.

This study has several limitations, including a limited timeframe and focus solely on the publication of newspapers, magazines, and Islamic books in Medan, thus excluding the development of publishing in other regions or non-Islamic publishing. Furthermore, this research emphasizes the roles of early scholars and publishers, which may not encompass the latest developments in Medan's publishing world. Therefore, future research is suggested to expand its scope by further exploring the influence of digital media publishing and the role of younger generations in the Medan publishing industry. Researchers are also encouraged to investigate the contributions of non-Islamic publishers and their impact on the intellectual development of the city of Medan.

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