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Editorial Foreword

We are pleased in the Editorial Committee to present to our readers this new issue of *Tajseer*. It includes five research papers (written originally in Arabic), two translated works, as well as the two regular Sections: Book Reviews and Reports on functions that Ibn Khaldon Center has executed. The papers focus on a variety of subjects that may differ in style and ways of presentation, with a diversion towards the interdisciplinary targeted integrative track that the *Tajseer* has been following since its first issue. Most articles in this issue shed light on the current situations in the Arab and Islamic societies; being political, cultural or international. This engagement, however, does not imply in any way a tendency towards ignoring the orienting theoretical frameworks, or the strict scientific methodology.

In the first article (Salem), the author draws our attention to the "Non-Western Contribution to rid the International relations discipline from Western Epistemological Hegemony". He highlights some discussions that are taking place in Arab academic circles whose exponents are bending on this process of ridding the international relations discipline from what they see as a prevailing Western hegemony. After describing the background and explaining the causes of such hegemony, the author's conclusion is that most of the Western schools of international relations do not concern themselves with finding solutions for the problems of non-Western societies. In most cases, these schools fail to understand the external relations of other societies, either because Western scholars are ignoring or ignorant of the experiences of these societies, their history, and cultures.

In the second paper (Benlahcene), the author addresses some methodological problems related to the study of civilization itself. He assumes that the partial approaches followed in the field of philosophy of history and social sciences are not adequate tools for the study of civilization. After presenting a critical evaluation of these approaches, he concludes that partial and disconnected approaches are not adequate tools for a meaningful study of any civilization. He stresses the need for an interdisciplinary approach where various fields meet.

The interdisciplinary approach that we seek in the Editorial Committee to achieve reaches its highest level in the third article (Khezri): "The Geography of Comparative Literature". It focuses on the emergence and development of comparative literature in Turkey. Undoubtedly, Turkey in itself represents a "bridge" that connects the Turkish, Persian and Arabic cultures. This is obviously due to its unique geographical location where three continents converge, and where various nationalities, languages and religions coexist. All together, these represent the factors that have enabled Turkey to be an unparalleled field for the study of comparative literature.

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On the other hand, the author has a deep knowledge of the three major Islamic languages: the Turkish, Persian and Arabic.

The fourth article by (Khechib) focuses on "The Operative Regional Power: Algerian Classical Foreign Policy in a Changing World". Relying on J. Nye's concept of "soft power" (where governments use culture and values to achieve their political objectives), the author seeks to re-examine, in a similar way, the Algerian potential soft power. He calls for a re-thinking of the grand premises upon which the Algerian foreign policy is based. The research shows the close interdependence between foreign policy and culture, and concludes that Algeria's success depends on employing soft power mechanisms, and investing in its disruptive sources, instead of merely relying on oil revenues or mediation mechanisms, debts, which are incomes of limited influence and unable - alone - to keep pace with a new globalized world.

The last article in the list of Arabic material is about "The Art and the New Protest Dynamic" by (Amachnoug). It examines the relationship between arts and social strife. In essence, it seeks to show how art has affected the revolutionary political processes during the Arab Spring. The author emphasizes the significant role of arts in raising awareness, mobilizing people, and reframing issues.

Along with these articles (originally written in Arabic), there are two other papers translated from English. In the first one, the author (Ibrahim) addresses the concept of "Cultural Colonialism" as al-Taib Salih's famous novel: "The Season of Immigration to the North" reflects. The article raises a fundamental question about how we translate literary works; and whether a translation would truly reflect the image of the "other", or whether the translator tends to manipulate the text and "colonializes" it- as it may be said in the post-colonial language.

The second article (Aljassar) in this section, focuses on the developments of the theory of the Arabic grammar in the middle Ages. Professor J. Owns who carried out this study is an outstanding professor of language. In this deeply grounded piece of research, he looks into the earlier stages of the Arabic grammatical thought, and sheds light on its origins and methods.

Finally, we hope that these articles respond to some unanswered questions, or raise new questions that urge for new research, and prove to be useful and enjoyable.

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