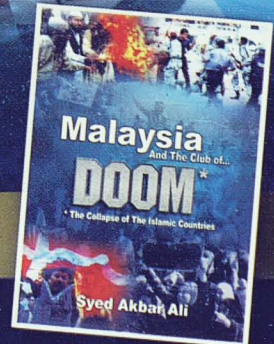


Syed Akbar Ali

Things *in* Common



Author of Best Selling



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Syed Akbar Ali

Kuala Lumpur
2008

PUSTAKA PERDANA



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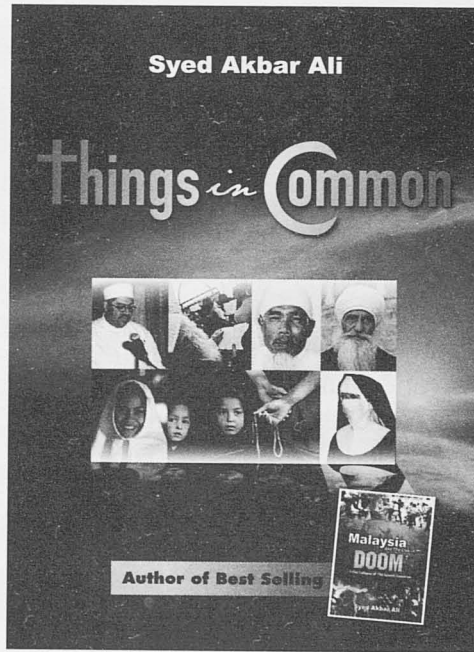
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Description of Cover

Clockwise from top left :

Zoroastrian priest, Jews praying in synagogue, a Balinese Hindu priest, an Indian priest, a Catholic nun, a Buddhist monk, young Aamish girls, Phillippine girl in 'nunnery'

Note: *None of the people on the cover are Muslims.*

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Acknowledgements

Firstly I wish to thank the readers of my previous two books and also for the many e mails that I received from them. Quite a few asked me to write a sequel to my second book 'Malaysia And The Club of Doom - The Collapse of the Islamic Countries'. Well here is my third book. I hope you will find this book useful too.

I thank my brothers in Islam Mohana Kumar and Mohamad Noor Abdullah for again reading the draft of the book and giving me useful advice and appropriate reminders. The cover graphics were designed by Haji Mohamed Ali and his imaging team.

The Internet has again been a great minefield of information. I have had the good fortune of communicating with hundreds of people from all over the world who have sent me information, exchanged ideas and provided numerous references, many of which I have used liberally throughout this book. The miraculous Information Technology at our fingertips has allowed me access to tons of materials which expedites years of research and study. One merely has to have an idea what to look for.

I have gained tremendously from the many discussion lists and websites on the Internet which are devoted to discussing Islam, Christianity and 'religion'. They are major eye openers to the very advanced level of study and discussion about Islam, the Quran and other related topics that takes place on the Internet. Discussion on the Internet is totally free and unfettered - hence the best arguments and the most logical and truthful discussions can also be seen on the Internet. Therefore I have to acknowledge the Internet and I thank God for it.


And I must thank again my wife Zeenath who lent her ears to my verbosity* at the breakfast and dinner table. Also my college going sons Syed Abu Bakar and Syed Ali Ibrahim who helped me handle the computers, scanners and the digital cameras without having to read the manuals. Kind words and the little gestures are the things that make families a source of so much good.

Finally I thank God for His blessings and for His promise to guide those who seek to be guided. Without His Scripture I knew neither God nor what Guidance was.

* Verbosity : long-windedness

Dedications

This book is dedicated to the following:

- i. To the constant memory of the verse in the Quran which says 'bring forward your proofs if you are indeed truthful' (Surah 2:111 and others). In arabic it is 'haatu burhanukum inkuntum sadikin'
- ii. To the constant memory of that other verse in the Quran which says 'God will cast abomination on those who do not use their brains to think' (Surah 10:100)
- iii. To the memory of Foghorn the rooster character in the Looney Tunes cartoon who always convinced a baby hawk that a chicken was actually a four legged animal with a tail and a bark. Foghorn's idea was if you want to con someone, get them young and gullible


"I say, I say I'll show you a chicken, boy!"
- iv. To Thomas Jefferson the 3rd president of the United States of America for saying "ridicule is the only weapon which can be used against unintelligible propositions. Ideas must be distinct before reason can act upon them . . ."
- iv. To the Islamic car makers Audi, Citroen, Ford, Mercedes Benz, Volvo, Volkswagen and others (do read the book).