

**“LIBERATION THEOLOGY AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE” - A
CRITICAL STUDY OF ASGHAR ALI ENGINEER’S ISLAMIC
HERMENEUTICS**

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (RELIGIOUS STUDIES)
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY**

2016

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ABSTRACT

Since its revelation the Quran offers the message of liberation through revitalizing human dignity and freedom from all sorts of socioeconomic injustice and oppression. The Quran, not only urges to do justice in every walk of life but it also recognizes other religions; and allows to have an interfaith engagement through dialogue for mutual understanding and respecting each other.

Second, in this regard, this study examines critically Asghar Ali Engineers’ views and his contribution for the constructing the framework and the methodology of Islamic liberation theology and interfaith dialogue in modern age. Engineer offers a modern hermeneutics of the Quran and the traditions of the prophet Muhammad. The research methodology of the work is based on documentary research. It adopts a critical descriptive method to analyse Engineer’s approach to liberation theology and interfaith dialogue. He contributed a praxis approach for the settlement of socio-religious and communal issues, and had a vision to diminish the disputes and differences of such clashes through dialogue and conflict transformation.

The main argument of Engineer is that the Quran condemns the superiority of one’s race and faith, and it determines to liberate people from injustice, oppression and inequality; and thus, inferred that the true message of the Quran is, first, to liberate people from the sufferings, and second, to build the good relation with other people of faiths.

In conclusion, the research found from the textual sources and Engineer’s modern Islamic hermeneutics that the Quranic claims of ‘there is no compulsion in religion,’ and it openly invites for dialogue to understand and respect each other, and they should be maintained for addressing the needs for justice; moreover, exploitation and conflict transformation for constructing socio-religious, communal and cultural harmony and peaceful coexistence should be maintained.

**KEY WORDS: ASGHAR ALI ENGINEER/ LIBERATION THEOLOGY/
INTERFAITH DIALOGUE/ MODERN QURANIC HERMENEUTICS/
CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION/ SOCIO-RELIGIOUS AND
CULTURAL HARMONY AND PEACE.**

202 pages