

**ANGELA MERKEL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO FOSTER MUSLIMS
INTEGRATION IN GERMANY**

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS



Written by:

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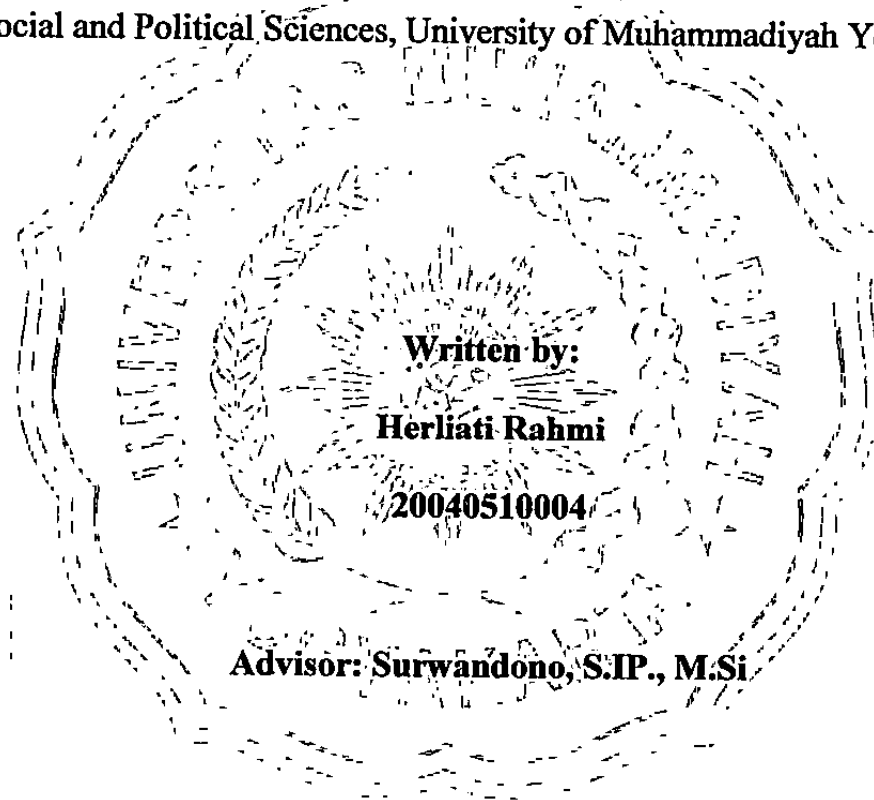
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Sarjana Ilmu Politik (S.IP)
in the Dept. of International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences,
University of Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta

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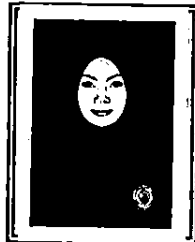
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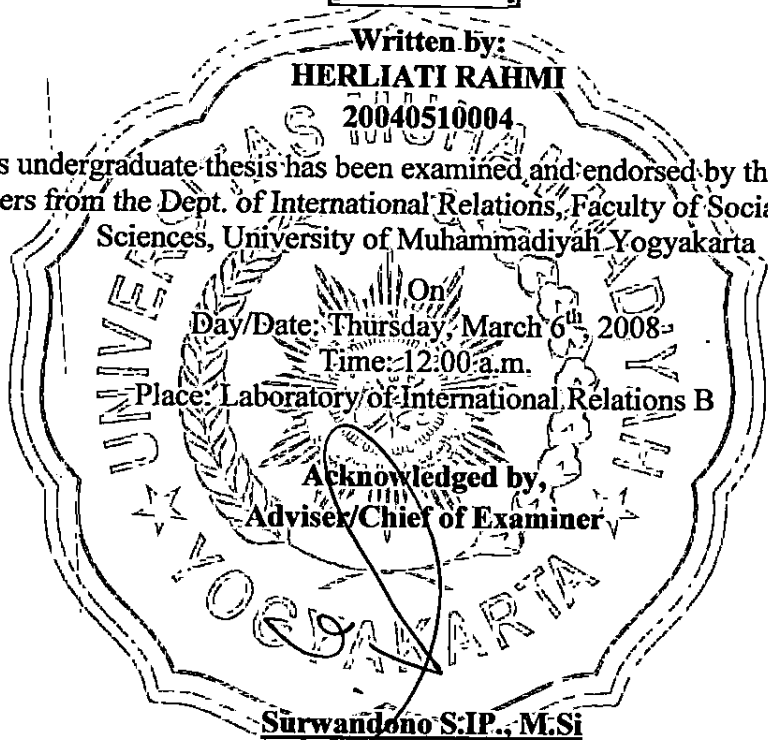
ENDORSEMENT PAGE

**This Undergraduate Thesis entitled:
Angela Merkel Government Initiatives to Foster Muslims Integration in
Germany**



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This undergraduate thesis has been examined and endorsed by the Board of Examiners from the Dept. of International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta



**On
Day/Date: Thursday, March 6th, 2008
Time: 12:00 a.m.
Place: Laboratory of International Relations B**

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Drs. Harwanto Dahlan, M.A



Examiner II

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Dra. Mutia Hariati H., M.Si

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*Allah: there is no deity but He, the Living, the Self-Subsisting, the Eternal.
No slumber can seize Him nor sleep.
His are all the things in the heavens and on earth.
Who is there who can intercede in His presence, except as He wills?
He knows what is before them and what is behind them.
None of His creatures can know anything of His knowledge, except as He wills.
His throne extends over the heavens and the earth, and
He is never tired in guarding and preserving them, for He is the Most High, the Supreme."*

Q.S. 2:255

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who has made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. The Lord is your Keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. Your Lord will watch

PREFACE

The post 9/11 poses growing prejudices, not only from the West towards Muslims, but also from Muslims towards the West. In order to eliminate prejudices which only bring more tensions between humankind, understanding and harmonious cooperation are necessary. The writer wishes to participate in building bridge of unity through this thesis that hopefully will be a good contribution to understand the action of a Western government towards Muslims in a positive perspective. The writer believes that a positive perspective will help to eliminate prejudices.

This thesis seeks to comprehensively cover evidence that describes how the Western government, in this case represented by the German government under Chancellor *Angela Merkel*, attempts to approach Muslims in a more beneficial effort both for the country and for Muslims through the initiatives of integration. This initiative is now followed by other European Union countries such as Britain and Italy. The integration policy of Germany towards Muslims minority is meant to open up equal access in economy and social life of Muslims living in Germany, embracing them to be part of the society and to give positive contributions to the country. It is important to note that Muslims in Germany, indeed, respond very positively towards the German government initiatives and work together with the government to foster the social integration of Muslims in Germany, realizing and improving harmonious coexistence.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work is part of a decade of following my heart and pursuing my dream. The last 3 years of this 10 years journey have been the most difficult one. There have been challenges to face and changes to make. And this whole process is truly about learning and believing in myself. The writing of this paper was all about discovering my present and my future. Funnily, like the theme of this paper, I saw that my life, too, is about 'integration'.

I wish to acknowledge extraordinary people who have been great companions through this journey: Surwandono, S.IP., M.Si as my Guru and thesis adviser, what he has given during his lectures and the writing of my thesis, indeed, lighted up my way through the most difficult time; Drs. Harwanto Dahlan, M.A as senior lecturer of International Relations Department and my thesis examiner, his toughness in examining my thesis did help me discover the core of myself.

It has been a great blessing to make my own choice to study in the University of Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. I would like to thank Ibu Dra. Mutia Hariati H., M.Si., who is also my thesis examiner, and Ibu Dian Azmawati, S.IP., the two working mothers for dedicating their time and made it possible to realize the International Class of University of Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. I also would like to deliver my high gratitude to all lecturers of International Relations Department as well as other lecturers from other faculties who wholeheartedly shared their knowledge in International Class: Bpk. Iwan Satriawan, SH., MCL., DR. M. Ikhsan., Ibu Tri Hastuti N.R., S.Sos., M.Si., Hilman Latief S.Ag., M.A., Nurwanto S.Ag., Yordan Gunawan, S.H., Drs. Hudiono, and Bp. Suryanto, S.Pd., M.H.S.C Director of American Corner Library as my language consultant for this thesis. I also thank visiting lecturers: Bpk. Riza Noer Arfani M.A. from Gadjah Mada University and Irwan Omar Ph.D from National University of Singapore. My high gratitude is also for Prof. Noel Tracy and Prof. Anton Lucas, the two visiting lecturers from Flinders University Australia. I also thank the young and promising female lecturer Atin Prahenderi S ID

Deeply from my heart I thank my young and bright co-students and friends in International Class from the Academic Year 2004: Freddy Fernandez, Lutfi Rakhmawati, Septiyan Listiya E.R., Hilda Permatasari Ismail and Rifki Ramadhan, Dewi Kencana Putri, Triana Nurdianti, Yana Puspitasari, Galuh Cyntia Dewi, Dita Nury Vanessa, Yustika Noor Arifa, Ardhi Tyas Nugraha, Erriza Fitriana, Anwar Kholid, D.N. Kusumaningrum, Witri Elvianti, Diana Fatmawati, Patria Nurhari, M. Fikri Pido, Sugito, M. Rozie Syafitrah, Rizky Ferdian, Raja Badal Muda, M. Rivai, Rangga Permana, Ahmad Sulfiadi, and Firman Maulana. If I recall far back to the beginning when I walked around the campus to look for the classes and be around with people 7 years younger than I am, I think I would have not been able to make it to go through these almost 4 years without you all. I thank you all for helping me keep being young and excited for life.

There are people who come and go and leave something special and good knowledge. I thank all tutors in International Class: Mas Jati, Suham, Qobidl, Mba Itha, and visiting tutors from Univ. of Gadjah Mada like Nisa, Rum, Wiwit, Tyas. I also thank Pak Jumari in TU and Ibu Atik in IC office. I thank my other co-students in International Class academic year 2005, 2006, and 2007, in International Relations, as well as from other faculties. Not to forget, people in my house in Yogya for being so caring: Trina, Ayu, Fitri, Hayyu, Nouva, Nafsi, Anggie, Dhina, and Tania as well as Bp. and Ibu Munawar. Thank you to Baby Zalfa, Alin, and Nadya. My special thanks to Asni who was very kind to give me place to sleep in Jakarta during my research in the library of CSIS.

My very special thank-you to my father, H. Hasan Gani, and my mother Hj. Marsidah, who let me go flying till the edge of the earth. I thank my sister Anis Waty Rochmi who is also bravely following her passion and pursuing her dream, to whom I learnt the bitter sweet of reaching the star.

For Gabriel who has given me wings and made me fly, *Ich danke dir*.

Yogyakarta, May 2008

Herliati Rahmi

ABSTRACT

Muslims have become an important segment in Germany's society. Not only that Muslims are the largest immigrants group in the country, but also because Muslims are the largest religious minority and Islam now is the fastest growing religion in Germany. Along with the acceptance of the reality of the immigrants, including Muslims in the country, Germany needs to improve its efforts to integrate more fully its expanding Muslims population. This thesis on the "Angela Merkel Government Initiatives to Foster Muslims Integration in Germany" intends to explore the determinants of the present German government to integrate Muslims population living in Germany. The determinants are discovered by using the concepts of Integration and the theory of Rational Actor Model or Classical Theory. The writer argues that the German government is regarded as a *'unitary decision maker based on rationality'*. Therefore, there must be *'raison d'être'* for Germany to actively integrate Muslims. Rationality is certainly based on the consideration of benefits and the costs that the German government takes into account by taking such action, given the strategic problems that the government faced.

Keywords: Integration, Rational Decision

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Foreign Population as of 31st December 2006, 10 Most Common Citizenship

The Development of Foreign Population

German Islam Conference (DIK)

Policy Statement of the Federal Minister of the Interior

Integration as a Means to Prevent Islamic Fundamentalism

Topics of Discussions of German Islam Conference

The Participants of German Islam Conference

The National Integration Plan

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz (BfV)</i>	The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution Subordinate to the Federal Ministry of the Interior, and coordinates and evaluates the activities of the 16 local offices within the respective federal states. The most important duty of the Verfassungsschutz is the observation of movements and activities that contravene the Constitution of the Federal Republic. A mere mention within a report of the Verfassungsschutz leaves an organization highly stigmatized.
<i>Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (bpb)</i>	Federal Office for Political Education
<i>Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands (CDU)</i>	Christian Democratic Union of Germany
<i>Diyanet İleri Türk-Islam Birliği (DİTİB)</i>	Türkisch-Islamische Union der Anstalt für Religion e.V. – the Turkish-Islamic Union for Religious Affairs
<i>Grundgesetz, GG</i>	Basic Law
<i>Islamische Gemeinschaft Milli Görüş (IGMG)</i>	Milli Görüş
<i>Muslimische Jugend in Deutschland e.V. (MJD)</i>	Young Muslims in Germany
<i>Polizeiliche Kriminalstatistik (PKS)</i>	Police Criminal Statistics
<i>Rat der Türkeistämmigen Staatsbürger in Deutschland (RTS)</i>	Council of German Citizens of Turkish Origin
<i>Staatsangehörigkeitsrecht</i>	Citizenship law
<i>Statistisches Bundesamt</i>	The Official German Agency for Statistics
<i>Unabhängige Kommission Zuwanderung</i>	Independent Commission on Integration. The Head of Commission: Professor Dr. Rita Süßmuth
<i>Verband der Islamischen Kulturzentren (VIKZ)</i>	Union of Islamic Cultural Centers
<i>Zentralrat der Muslime in Deutschland (ZMD)</i>	Central Council of Muslims
<i>Zuwanderungsgesetz</i>	Immigration Act

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