



DEVELOPING A MUSLIM RESPONSE TO THE WESTERN CRITICISM OF THE PROPHET MUḤAMMAD (PEACE BE ON HIM)

FATIMAH ABDULLAH* AND CHE AMNAH BAHARI**

Department of Usuluddin and Comparative Religion
Kulliyyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences,
International Islamic University Malaysia
<drfatimah2004@yahoo.com>; <amnah@iiu.edu.my>

A B S T R A C T

The Western approaches towards the Prophethood of Muḥammad (peace be on him), from the early Middle Ages to the present time, have been critical and hostile. He was depicted as a demon or a Christian heretic or a madman. Those critics however changed their tone particularly with the downfall of the Ottoman Empire. This change of Western writers' mode towards the Prophet Muḥammad (peace be on him), however, was short lived. The tradition of hurling a variety of criticisms and hostilities against the Prophet (peace be on him) reemerged towards the end of the cold war and more particularly after September 11, 2001. These criticisms reemerged in all kinds and forms, to name a few, in academic writings, fiction, cartoons, films and toy products. This article is an attempt to study the Western criticisms hurled towards Muḥammad (peace be on him) discussing the issues of his Prophethood, his position as the Messenger to mankind, the second part of *Shahādah* and the finality of his Prophethood. These issues are treated here in the context of developing a Muslim response in refuting the Western criticisms, in the light of teachings of the Qur'ān and the *Sunnah* of the Prophet Muḥammad (peace be on him) along with the deliberations of Islamic scholars.

* Fatimah Abdullah, is an Associate Professor at the Kulliyyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, International Islamic University Malaysia. She has published several research papers in