

## **ABSTRACT**

**Yusuf Aripin.** The Dynamics of Liberal Islam Network 2001-2015. Essay. Jakarta: Prodi History Education, Faculty of Social Sciences, Jakarta State University, 2017.

This study aims to describe how the dynamics of Liberal Islam Network in the arena of thought in Indonesia. The initial limitations of this study were 2001, 2001 was chosen as the initial limitation of research coincided with the founding of the Liberal Islam Network. The final limitation of this study is 2015, 2015 was chosen as the final limitation due to the fact that 2015 is considered a period of decline of the Liberal Islam Network and ten years of the Indonesian Ulema Council's declaration on secularism, pluralism and liberalism. The year 2015 is also used as a benchmark to find out whether the Liberal Islam Network still exist in the world of Islamic thought in Indonesia even though it did not get funding from The Asia Foundation.

This study uses historical method which is presented in the form of descriptive-narrative. The sources used are written sources and oral sources, both primary and secondary. Primary written sources are used in the form of newspaper articles and magazines related to the Liberal Islam Network. Whereas, secondary written sources are the relevant books according to the discussion. In addition, this study also conducted interviews with resource persons, in this case the founder of the Liberal Islam Network Luthfi Assyaukanie.

The results of this study show that the emergence of Liberal Islam Network caused by social conditions, politics, and religious patterns in Indonesia

after the New Order collapsed. Post-New Order collapsed many radical Islamic religious groups popping up and threatening the life of tolerance that exist in Indonesia. Radical Islamic groups also demanded the government to use Islamic sharia law and wanted Indonesia to become an Islamic state.

The emergence of the Liberal Islam Network is to counter the emergence of radical Islamic groups. The Liberal Islam Network is funded by the Asia Foundation which is used for the cost of campaigning for the ideas of liberalism, pluralism, and secularism. The Liberal Islam Network uses print and electronic media to spread its ideas.

The Indonesian Council of Ulama issued a fatwa related to the prohibition of secularism, liberalism, and pluralism in religion. The MUI fatwa resulted in the Liberal Islam Network getting intimidation from radical Islamic groups. The Asia Foundation as the main funder for the Liberal Islam Network stops disbursing funds, it affects the operations of the Liberal Islam Network in spreading its ideas that cost a lot, so the Liberal Islam Network retreats slowly from the stage of Islamic thought in Indonesia.