

THE ROLE OF CALIPH AL-HAKAM AL-MUSTANŞIR IN ISLAMIC EDUCATION IN CORDOVA, ANDALUSIA

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Abstract

This study examines the role of Caliph Al-Hakam II in advancing Islamic education in Cordova, Andalusia, during the golden age of Islamic civilization. Using a library research method and a qualitative approach, the findings indicate that Al-Hakam II made a substantial contribution to the development of knowledge through the establishment of the University of Cordova as a global intellectual center, the construction of a major library containing approximately 400,000 books, and the encouragement of translations of Greek and Latin works into Arabic. He also invited scholars from various regions to teach and engage in scholarly discussions, as well as provided free education for the community. His visionary policies transformed Cordova into the largest center of knowledge and culture in Europe in the tenth century CE, while simultaneously exerting a major effect on the rise of Western civilization. The leadership of Al-Hakam II demonstrates that education is the primary foundation for building an advanced Islamic civilization.

Keywords: Al-Hakam II, Islamic Education, Cordova, Andalusia, Islamic Civilization.

INTRODUCTION

Historians have comprehensively documented the dynamics of the development of Islamic civilization, particularly during the period from the mid-eighth century CE to the early thirteenth century CE. This period is known as the Islamic Golden Age, characterized by significant progress in various strategic fields such as science, politics, economics, and technology. These achievements did not originate solely from the eastern center of Islamic power, namely the Abbasid Caliphate based in Baghdad, but also from the western region through the Umayyad Caliphate centered in Cordova. Both powers made major contributions to shaping the foundations of global civilization and expanding Islamic intellectual influence in the Western world.

The rapid development of Islamic civilization in Spain, particularly in Andalusia,