In the name of Allah, most benevolent, ever-merciful.

God has promised, to those among you who believe and work righteous deeds, that He will, of a surety grant them in the Land, inheritance (of power), as He granted it to those before them; that He will establish in authority their religion—the one which He has chosen for them; And that He will change (their state), after the fear in which they (lived), to one of security and peace: 'They will worship Me (alone) and not associate aught with Me.' If any do reject Faith after this, they are rebellious and wicked. Surah XXIV.55

In this Qur'anic verse, Allah points out the three basic conditions for nations to gain leadership and establish civilization on earth. These three are: 1) clarity of vision and commitment to goals (Imān); 2) determination to translate vision into action through appropriate means (Amaḥ); and 3) objectivity in assessing challenges and opportunities in order to devise and carry out strategies and tactics best suited to produce the desired results in accordance with the Laws of Creation (Ṣāliḥ).

It is clear from this verse that Khilafah and the establishment of the Muslim Ummah as the leader of humanity and human civilization have to satisfy these three conditions of a clear commitment and a strategy based on a comprehensive understanding of Islam. This Imān has to motivate action. Establishment of the rule of the Ummah and the Khilafah can never be accomplished according to this verse unless the Ummah's actions are based on objective assessments of what can be done and on the objective development and pursuit of goals and objectives (Ṣāliḥ).
Salāh is not intention. Intention is a matter of Imān, which in all cases will be rewarded on the Day of Judgement (Ākhirah).

The Prophet (SAAS) also made it clear that a Muslim who does his best with good intentions to achieve an objective (ijtiḥād) will get two rewards if he followed the right course of action (Ajrān) but one kind of reward if he failed to follow the right course of action (Akhtāa). The Muslim who follows the right course of action (Sunān) will gain the fruits of his actions both in this world and in the Hereafter. If the Muslim fails to follow the right course of action, however, in pursuing his goals he will get the fruits of his intentions only in the Hereafter.

This makes it clear to everyone that Imān and intentions alone will not enable man to establish and lead great civilizations and establish Khilafah. Also essential are vision and commitment based on the right attitude toward life and the universe. This attitude is one of commitment to objectivity, involvement, and action (al'amal al-salih).

The Muslim mind and the Muslim methodology of thought, knowledge, and research should not confuse the Law of Causality with the truths of ghayb (issues beyond human logic and comprehension). Muslims who accept with full faith and confidence all aspects of ghayb and al-kulliyat al-ilahiyyah according to Allah's message, should subject their thought and action to the objective laws of life and matter (sunan al-khalq).

Social scientists are invited to study and analyze this verse and the laws revealed to man in it. They are invited to study its scope and effects. They are invited to study the history of human civilization in its light and help man to understand himself better and follow a better course of action in the future.