"What was the power, what were the centres of force which provided the [Umayyad and Abbasid] Caliphates with the material to govern? From whence came the unifying force which allowed these immense empires to weld together peoples of different languages, ethnic origins and cultures?

"The Caliphates drew administrative machinery from some of the greatest centres of learning which have ever existed. The Universities in Damascus and Baghdad, and later those of Cairo, Tehran Cordova and Istanbul were centres of learning unparalleled anywhere else. Even in those days, once the brute force of the armies had been withdrawn it was the power of the intellectual elite which took over and governed, ran and maintained the State.

"During the two Caliphates, the Muslim Universities were producing the best scholars, doctors, astronomers and philosophers. Today where are we? Have we institutions of learning which can compare with the Sorbonne, Harvard, Yale, Cambridge, Oxford, M.I.T.?

"Throughout my journeys I have been deeply pained to see the lack of initiative which my brother Muslims have shown in educational matters. In some circles there may have been a fear that modern education would tend to lessen the sharpness and deepness of our Faith. I am afraid that I must reject this with vehemence."

His Highness the Aga Khan's 1963 Presidential Address at the First Anniversary of Mindanao University (Philippines)

Click here to read more at NanoWisdoms.org ...

[NOTE: For some reason NanoWisdoms' Facebook posts do not always appear in many Facebook newsfeeds due to a problem in Facebook and/or individual newsfeed settings. Please visit our wall to review all our posts if you do not always see our posts. Click here to subscribe and receive our Facebook posts by e-mail. Click here for NanoWisdom's Facebook posts in PDF format. Thank you.]
References

^ Click here to read more at NanoWisdoms.org ...
( http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/1364/ )

^ Please visit our wall
( http://www.facebook.com/NanoWisdoms?sk=wall )

^ Click here
( http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/about/how-to-recieve-nanowisdoms-extended-quotes-if-you-do-not-use-facebook/ )

^ Click here
( http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/about/how-to-recieve-nanowisdoms-extended-quotes-if-you-do-not-use-facebook/#facebookinpdf )

Original URL:
http://www.facebook.com/notes/nanowisdoms-archive/excerpt/321933357824855