

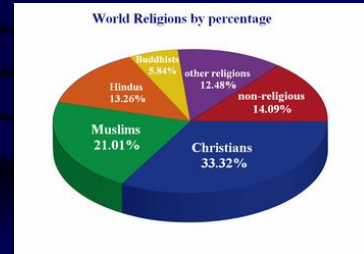
Islamic Diversity, Islamic Unity

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Statistics on the Religions



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Which better represents Islam?

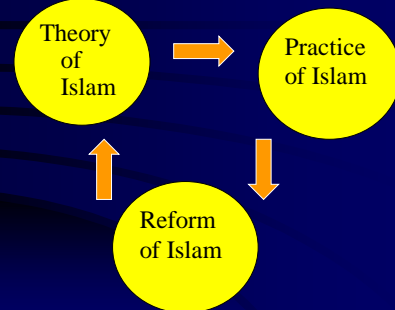


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The Islamic Circle



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True or False?

- Dinesh D'Souza on radical Islam:
- "it's foolish to blame Islam when Islam has been around for 1,300 years and Islamic terrorism has been a problem for the past 25 years. So is it even reasonable to blame Mohammad or the Koran?"

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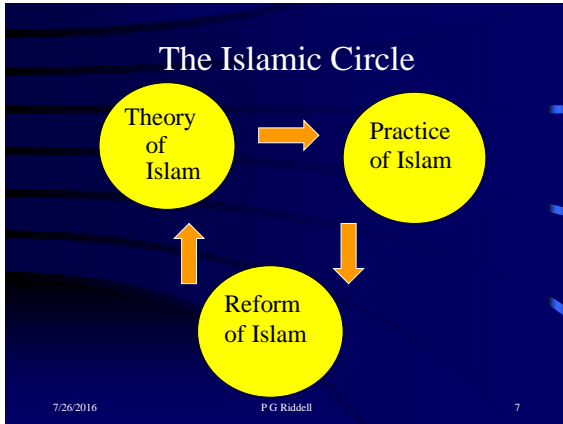
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- Radical Islam has been around since the time of Muhammad
- 661 - Kharijites
- 1328 - Ibn Taymiyya
- 1780 - Wahhabis
- 1928 - Muslim Brotherhood
- 1990s - Al Qaeda

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True or False?

- Muhammad was a man of peace/war
- Islam is a religion of peace/war

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- Both the figure of Muhammad and the Qur'an are very diverse
- Muhammad's 22 year ministry progressed from peaceful protest to military jihad
- The Qur'an progresses from more peaceful to more warlike verses

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True or False?

- All Muslims are essentially the same

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Islamic Diversity

- Numerous documents remind us of the need to recognise the diversity of Muslim people:
 - Runnymede Trust Islamophobia Reports
 - WCC Guidelines on Dialogue

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- Muslims are diverse, in terms of:
 - Ethnicity
 - Language
 - Culture
 - Political views

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Islamic Diversity

- **Ethnic:** Arab, Turkish, Persian, Malay/Indonesian etc.
- **Geographical:** Arab world, Central Asia, SE Asia, Europe etc.
- **Nationality:** Egyptian, Moroccan, Pakistani, British, American etc.
- **Sectarian:** Sunni, Shi'ite, Isma'ili, Ahmadi etc.
- **Mystical inclination:** Sufi and non-Sufi

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Islamic Diversity

- **Engagement with doctrine:** rationalist versus literalist approaches, with wide ranging ramifications
- **Ideological:** Traditionalist versus Reformist (Modernizing versus Islamist)

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ANALYSIS OF SURVEYS OF MUSLIMS IN THE WEST REVEALS...

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Islamic Diversity

- **Interaction with Western society:** participatory (60%) and separatist (40%)

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<u>Participate</u>	<u>Separate</u>

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<u>Participate</u>	<u>Separate</u>
Assimilate	
Participate to influence	

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<u>Participate</u>	<u>Separate</u>
Assimilate	Separate within - carve out space
Participate to influence	Separate by leaving

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Islamic Diversity: Poll results

- Participatory assimilationist 10%
- Publicly condemn terror attacks
- Attribute blame for attacks on extremists
- Don't want Sharia Law
- Use different schools, including church schools
- Watch full range of TV
- Respond to issue of voting like non-Muslims
- Friendly towards Jews
- See themselves as (1) national citizens and (2) Muslims
- Don't think about issue of apostasy

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Islamic Diversity: Poll results

- Separatist Radical Islamist 8.5%
- Might participate in terror strikes
- Support terror strikes
- Call for Sharia Law
- Muslim schools, Muslim media only
- Do not vote
- See Jews as legitimate targets
- Loyal to umma only
- Apostates are legitimate targets

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Islamic Diversity: Poll results

- Participatory Islamist 40%
- Publicly condemn terror attacks
- Attribute blame for attacks on West
- Want some Sharia Law
- Exert Islamic influence in state schools
- Lobby for Islamic programming on TV
- Urge Muslims to vote
- Suspicious of Jews
- Emphasise identity as national citizens and Muslims
- Avoid the issue of apostates

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Islamic Unity

- So Kenneth Cragg: "Like any living faith, Islam is in debate with itself."
- But there is glue which binds Muslims together into a common religious system:

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Islamic Unity

- Zaki Badawi: "looking at the Muslim community in comparison with other religious communities, perhaps we have less differences than, say, the Jews or the Christians... in a sense, Islam is more united, for all the differences that might appear, because we have our *Shari'ah*. Though we differ in small areas, we all accept the basic principles of the Law."

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Islamic Unity

- Regard for Muhammad as the final and greatest prophet → role model
- Holding to the Qur'an and Hadith as sacred scripture (Sunni vs. Shi'a hadith collections)
- Considering the Islamic Shari'a law as divine law, given by God for human guidance
- Sharing the pillars of Islamic practice and the core doctrines
- Concept of umma

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Islamic mission/da'wa

- [16:125] Invite (all) to the Way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful exhortation; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious: for thy Lord knoweth best, who have strayed from His Path, and who receive guidance.
- [22:67] For each congregation, we have decreed a set of rites that they must uphold. Therefore, they should not dispute with you. You shall continue to invite everyone to your Lord. Most assuredly, you are on the right path.

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Islamic Unity

- Seeing Islam as much more than doctrine:
- I.e. faith + political ideology + social organisation + legal system +++

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Islamic Unity

- Ahmad F. Yousif: "The concept of separation between religion and state is completely alien to the Islamic world-view, which views the two as being inextricably linked..."
- Yousif: "...The primary responsibility of the state is to ensure the dictates of the Shari'ah (Islamic law) are duly implemented."

Further Reading

Riddell & Cotterell



Riddell



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