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Muslims and Islam: Key findings in the U.S. and around the world

BY MICHAEL LIPKA ([HTTP://WWW.PEWRESEARCH.ORG/AUTHOR/MLIPKA/](http://www.pewresearch.org/author/mlipka/))

Muslims are the fastest-growing religious group in the world. The growth and regional migration of Muslims, combined with the ongoing impact of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and other extremist groups that commit acts of violence in the name of Islam, have brought Muslims and the Islamic faith to the forefront of the political debate in many countries. Yet many facts about Muslims are not well known in some of these places, and most Americans – who live in a country with a relatively small Muslim population – say they know little or nothing about Islam (<http://www.pewforum.org/2010/08/24/public-remains-conflicted-over-islam/>) .

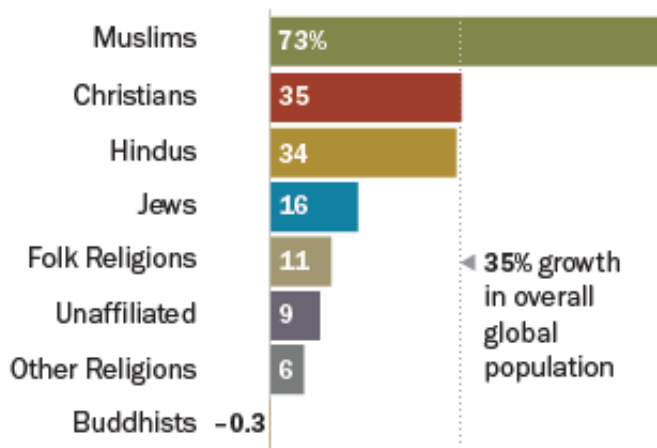
Here are answers to some key questions about Muslims, compiled from several Pew Research Center reports published in recent years:

How many Muslims are there? Where do they live?

Islam Growing Fastest

Muslims are the only major religious group projected to increase faster than the world's population as a whole.

Estimated change in population size, 2010-2050



Source: The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050

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(<http://www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/religious-projections-2010-2050/>) There were 1.6 billion Muslims in the world as of 2010 – roughly 23% of the global population – according to a Pew Research Center estimate (<http://www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/religious-projections-2010-2050/>). But while Islam is currently the world's second-largest religion (after Christianity), it is the fastest-growing major religion (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/04/23/why-muslims-are-the-worlds-fastest-growing-religious-group/>). Indeed, if current demographic trends continue, the number of Muslims is expected to exceed the number of Christians by the end of this century (<http://www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/religious-projections-2010-2050/#beyond-the-year-2050>).

Although many countries in the Middle East-North Africa region, where the religion originated in the seventh century, are heavily Muslim, the region is home to only about 20% of the world's Muslims (<http://www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/muslims/>). A majority of the Muslims globally (62%) live in the Asia-Pacific region, including large populations in Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran and Turkey.

Indonesia is currently the country with the world's single largest Muslim population, but Pew Research Center projects that India will have that distinction (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/04/21/by-2050-india-to-have-worlds-largest-populations-of-hindus-and-muslims/>) by the year 2050 (while remaining a majority Hindu country), with more than 300 million Muslims.

The Muslim population in Europe (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/11/17/5-facts-about-the-muslim-population-in-europe/>) also is growing; we project 10% of all Europeans will be Muslims (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/04/15/europe-projected-to-retain-its-christian-majority-but-religious->

minorities-will-grow/) by 2050.

How many Muslims are there in the United States?

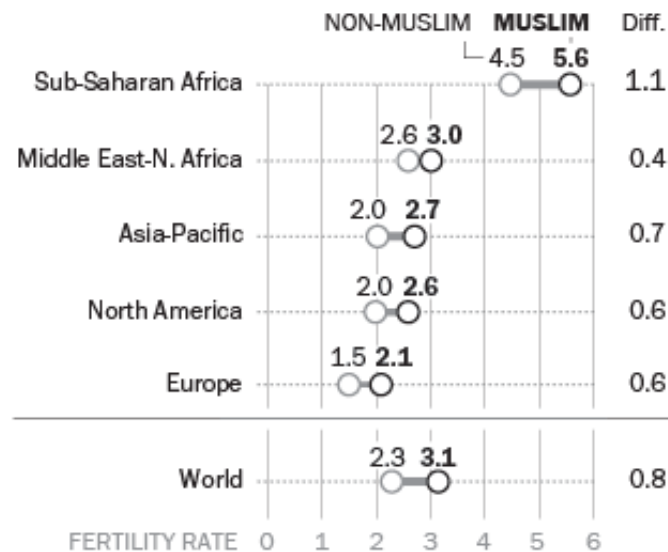
According to our best estimate, Muslims make up just less than 1% of the U.S. adult population. Pew Research Center's 2014 Religious Landscape Study (<http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/chapter-3-demographic-profiles-of-religious-groups/>) (conducted in English and Spanish) found that 0.9% of U.S. adults identify as Muslims. A 2011 survey of Muslim Americans (<http://www.people-press.org/2011/08/30/muslim-americans-no-signs-of-growth-in-alienation-or-support-for-extremism/>), which was conducted in English as well as Arabic, Farsi and Urdu, estimated that there were 1.8 million Muslim adults (and 2.75 million Muslims of all ages) in the country. That survey also found that a majority of U.S. Muslims (63%) are immigrants.

Our demographic projections estimate (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/04/14/muslims-expected-to-surpass-jews-as-second-largest-u-s-religious-group/>) that Muslims will make up 2.1% of the U.S. population by the year 2050, surpassing people who identify as Jewish on the basis of religion as the second-largest faith group in the country (not including people who say they have no religion).

A recent Pew Research Center report (<http://www.pewforum.org/2013/05/17/the-religious-affiliation-of-us-immigrants/>) estimated that the Muslim share of immigrants granted permanent residency status (green cards) increased from about 5% in 1992 to roughly 10% in 2012, representing about 100,000 immigrants in that year.

Why is the global Muslim population growing?

Muslim and Non-Muslim Fertility Rates, by Region, 2010-2015



Note: Latin America-Caribbean not shown due to lack of reliable data. Differences are calculated from unrounded numbers.

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(<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/04/23/why-muslims-are-the-worlds-fastest-growing-religious-group/>)

There are two major factors behind the rapid projected growth of Islam, and both involve simple demographics (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/04/23/why-muslims-are-the-worlds-fastest-growing-religious-group/>). For one, Muslims have more children than members of other religious groups. Around the world, each Muslim woman has an average of 3.1 children, compared with 2.3 for all other groups combined.

Muslims are also the youngest (median age of 23 years old in 2010) of all major religious groups, seven years younger than the median age of non-Muslims. As a result, a larger share of Muslims already are, or will soon be, at the point in their lives when they begin having children. This, combined with high fertility rates, will fuel Muslim population growth.

While it does not change the global population, migration is helping to increase the Muslim population in some regions, including North America and Europe.

What do Muslims around the world believe?

(<http://www.pewforum.org/2013/04/30/the-worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-overview/>) Like any religious group, the religious beliefs and practices of Muslims vary depending on many factors, including where in the world they live. But Muslims around the world are almost universally united

(<http://www.pewforum.org/2012/08/09/the-worlds-muslims-unity-and-diversity-executive-summary/>) by a belief in one God and the Prophet Muhammad, and the practice of certain religious rituals, such as fasting during Ramadan (<http://www.pewforum.org/2012/08/09/the-worlds-muslims-unity-and-diversity-executive-summary/#unifying-rituals>), is widespread.

In other areas, however, there is less unity. For instance, a Pew Research Center survey of Muslims in 39 countries (<http://www.pewforum.org/2013/04/30/the-worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-overview/>) asked Muslims whether they want sharia law, a legal code based on the Quran and other Islamic scripture, to be the official law of the land in their country. Responses on this question vary widely. Nearly all Muslims in Afghanistan (99%) and most in Iraq (91%) and Pakistan (84%) support sharia law as official law. But in some other countries, especially in Eastern Europe and Central Asia – including Turkey (12%), Kazakhstan (10%) and Azerbaijan (8%) – relatively few favor the implementation of sharia law.

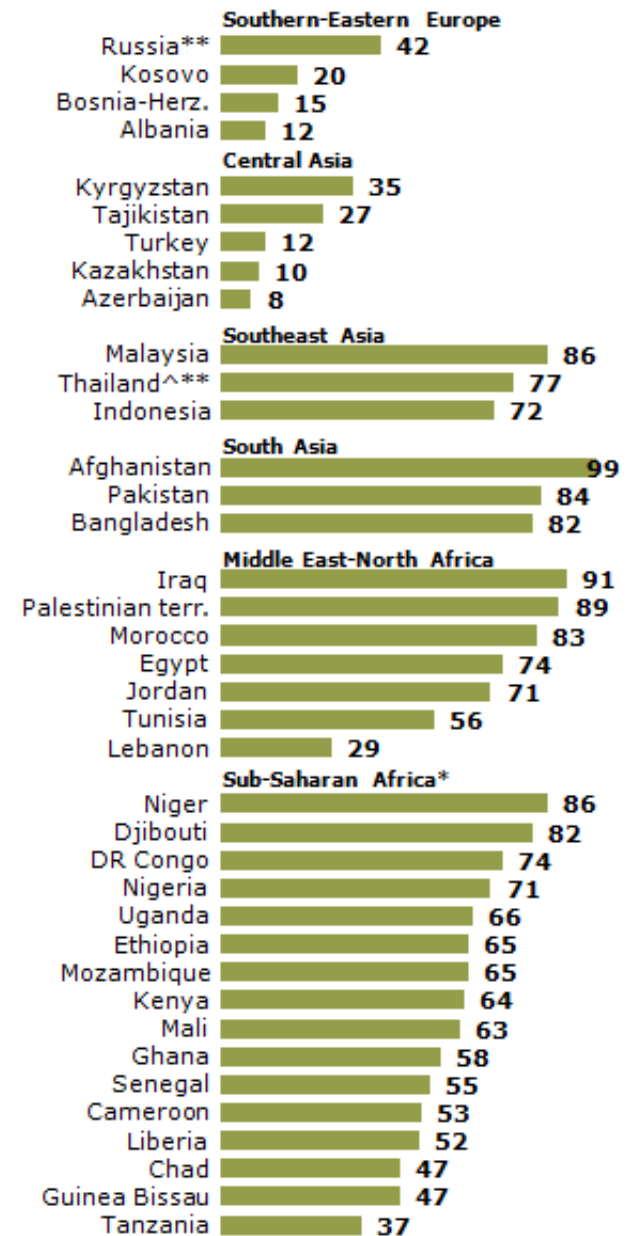
How do Muslims feel about groups like ISIS?

Recent surveys show (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/11/17/in-nations-with-significant-muslim-populations-much-disdain-for-isis/>) that most people in several countries with significant Muslim populations have an unfavorable view of ISIS, including virtually all respondents in Lebanon and 94% in Jordan. Relatively small shares say they see ISIS favorably. In some countries, considerable portions of the population do not offer an opinion about ISIS, including a majority (62%) of Pakistanis.

Favorable views of ISIS are somewhat higher in Nigeria (14%) than most other nations. Among Nigerian Muslims, 20% say they see ISIS favorably (compared with 7% of Nigerian Christians). The Nigerian militant group Boko Haram, which has been conducting a terrorist campaign in the country for years, has sworn allegiance to ISIS (<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/06/11/world/africa/boko-haram-isis-propaganda-video-nigeria.html>).

Support for Sharia

% of Muslims who favor making sharia the official law in their country



*Data for all countries except Niger from "Tolerance and Tension: Islam and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa."
 ^Interviews conducted with Muslims in five southern provinces only.
 **Question was modified to ask if sharia should be the law of the land in Muslim areas.
 This question was not asked in Uzbekistan.

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More generally, Muslims mostly say that suicide bombings and other forms of violence against civilians in the name of Islam are rarely or never justified (<http://www.pewforum.org/2013/04/30/the-worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-overview/#extremism-widely-rejected>), including 92% in Indonesia and 91% in Iraq. In the United States, a 2011 survey found that 86% of Muslims (http://www.pewforum.org/2013/04/30/the-worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-app-a/?beta=true&utm_expid=53098246-2.Lly4CFSVQG2lphsg-KopIg.1&utm_referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pewforum.org%2F2013%2F04%2F30%2Fthe-worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-overview%2F%3Fbeta%3Dtrue) say that such tactics are rarely or never justified. An additional 7% say suicide bombings are sometimes justified and 1% say they are often justified in these circumstances.

In a few countries, a quarter or more of Muslims say that these acts of violence are at least sometimes justified, including 40% in the Palestinian territories, 39% in Afghanistan, 29% in Egypt and 26% in Bangladesh.

In many cases, people in countries with large Muslim populations are as concerned as Western nations (<http://www.pewglobal.org/2015/07/16/extremism-concerns-growing-in-west-and-predominantly-muslim-countries/>) about the threat of Islamic extremism, and have become increasingly concerned in recent years. About two-thirds of people in Nigeria (68%) and Lebanon (67%) said earlier this year they are *very* concerned about Islamic extremism in their country, both up significantly since 2013.

What do American Muslims believe?

Our 2011 survey of Muslim Americans (<http://www.people-press.org/2011/08/30/muslim-americans-no-signs-of-growth-in-alienation-or-support-for-extremism/>) found that roughly half of U.S. Muslims (48%) say their own religious leaders have not done enough to speak out against Islamic extremists.

Living in a religiously pluralistic society, Muslim Americans are more likely than Muslims in many other nations to have many non-Muslim friends. Only about half (48%) of U.S. Muslims say all or most of their close friends are also Muslims, compared with a global median of 95% in the 39 countries we surveyed.

Roughly seven-in-ten U.S. Muslims (69%) say religion is very important in their lives (<http://www.people-press.org/2011/08/30/section-2-religious-beliefs-and-practices/>). Virtually all (96%) say they believe in God, nearly two-thirds (65%) report praying at least daily and nearly half (47%) say they attend religious services at least weekly. By all of these traditional measures, Muslims in the U.S. are roughly as religious as U.S. Christians, although they are less religious than Muslims in many other nations (<http://www.pewforum.org/2012/08/09/the-worlds-muslims-unity-and-diversity-2-religious-commitment/>).

When it comes to political and social views (<http://www.people-press.org/2011/08/30/section-5-political-opinions-and-social-values/>), Muslims are far more likely to identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party (70%) than the Republican Party (11%) and to say they prefer a bigger government providing more services (68%) over a smaller government providing fewer services (21%). As of 2011, U.S. Muslims were somewhat split between those who said homosexuality should be accepted by society (39%) and those who said it should be discouraged (45%), although the group had grown considerably more accepting of homosexuality since a similar survey was conducted in 2007.

What is the difference between Shia Muslims and Sunni Muslims?

Sunnis and Shias are two subgroups of Islam, just as Catholics and Protestants are two subgroups within Christianity. The Sunni-Shia divide (<http://www.pewforum.org/2012/08/09/the-worlds-muslims-unity-and-diversity-executive-summary/#sunnishia>) is nearly 1,400 years old, dating back to a dispute over the succession of leadership in the Muslim community following the death of the Prophet Muhammad in 632. While the two groups agree on some core tenets of Islam, there are differences in beliefs and practices (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2013/11/14/muslim-holiday-of-ashura-brings-into-focus-shia-sunni-differences/>), and in some cases Sunnis do not consider Shias to be Muslims (<http://www.pewforum.org/2012/08/09/the-worlds-muslims-unity-and-diversity-5-religious-identity/>).

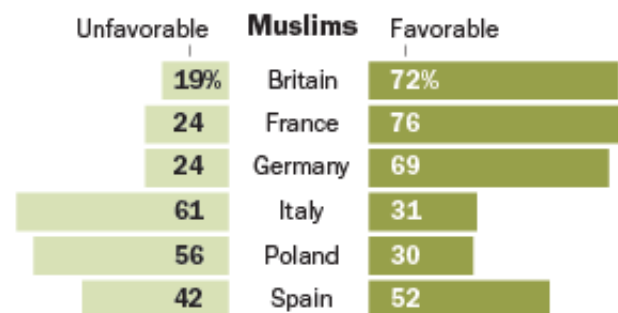
With the exception of a few countries, including Iran (which is majority Shia) as well as Iraq and Lebanon (which are split), most nations with a large number of Muslims have more Sunnis than Shias (<http://www.pewforum.org/2012/08/09/the-worlds-muslims-unity-and-diversity-1-religious-affiliation/>). In the U.S., 65% identify as Sunnis and 11% as Shias (with the rest identifying with neither group, including some who say they are “just a Muslim”).

How do Americans and Europeans perceive Muslims?

A Pew Research Center survey (<http://www.pewforum.org/2014/07/16/how-americans-feel-about-religious-groups/>) conducted in 2014 asked Americans to rate members of eight religious groups on a “feeling thermometer” from 0 to 100, where 0 reflects the coldest, most negative possible rating and 100 the warmest, most positive rating. Overall, Americans rated Muslims rather coolly – an average of 40, which was comparable to the average rating they gave atheists (41). Americans view the six other religious groups mentioned in the survey (Jews, Catholics, evangelical Christians, Buddhists, Hindus and Mormons) more warmly.

How Europe views Muslims

% in each country who have ... views of Muslims



Source: Spring 2015 Global Attitudes survey. Q45c.

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(<http://www.pewglobal.org/2015/06/02/chapter-3-anti-minority-sentiment-not-rising/>) Republicans and those who lean toward the Republican Party gave Muslims an average rating of 33, considerably cooler than Democrats’ rating (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/01/29/the-political-divide-on-views-toward-muslims-and-islam/>) toward Muslims (47).

Republicans also are more likely than Democrats to say they are very concerned about the rise of Islamic extremism in the world (83% vs. 53%) and in the U.S. (65% vs. 38%), according to a December 2015 survey (<http://www.people-press.org/2015/12/15/views-of-governments-handling-of-terrorism-fall-to-post-911-low/>). That survey also found that Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say that Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence among its believers (68% vs. 30% of Democrats) and that Muslims should be subject to more scrutiny than people of other religions (49% vs. 20%). Overall, most Americans (61%) say Muslims should *not* be subject to additional scrutiny solely because of their religion, while U.S. adults are closely divided on the question of whether Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence. *(Note: This paragraph was updated Dec. 17 to reflect a new survey (<http://www.people-press.org/2015/12/15/views-of-governments-handling-of-terrorism-fall-to-post-911-low/>).*)

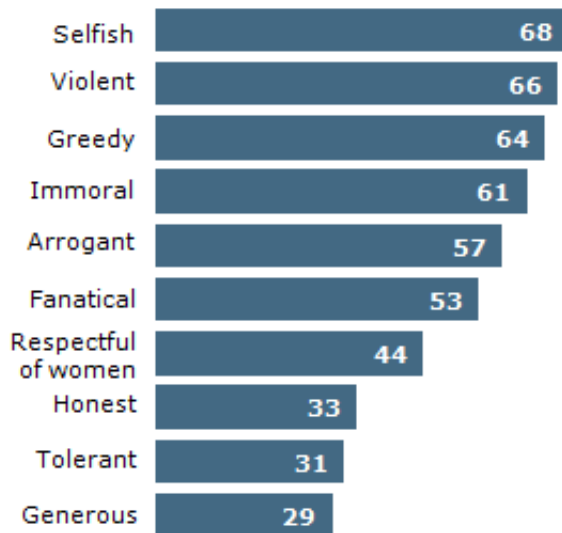
In spring 2015, we asked residents of some European countries a different question (<http://www.pewglobal.org/2015/06/02/chapter-3-anti-minority-sentiment-not-rising/>) – whether they view Muslims favorably or unfavorably. Perceptions at that time varied across European nations, from a largely favorable view in France (76%) and the United Kingdom (72%) to a less favorable view in Italy (31%) and Poland (30%).

How do Muslims and Westerners perceive each other?

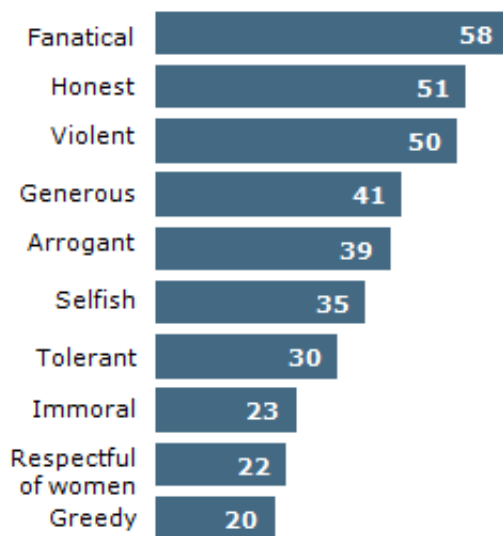
(http://www.pewglobal.org/2011/07/21/chapter-2-how-muslims-and-westerners-view-each-other/?beta=true&utm_expId=53098246-2.Lly4CFSVQG2lphsg-

Characteristics Associated With Westerners and Muslims

Traits associated with Westerners among Muslims in predominantly Muslim countries



Traits associated with Muslims among non-Muslims in the U.S., Russia and W. Europe



Median % of Muslims across seven Muslim countries who say each of these traits describes people in Western countries and median % of non-Muslims across the U.S., Russia and four Western European countries who say each of these traits describes Muslims.

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KopIg.1&utm_referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pewglobal.org%2F2011%2F07%2F21%2Fchapter-1-the-rift-between-muslims-and-the-west%2F%3Fbeta%3Dtrue) In a 2011 survey (<http://www.pewglobal.org/2011/07/21/muslim-western-tensions-persist/>), majorities of respondents in a few Western European countries, including 62% in France and 61% in Germany, said that relations between Muslims and Westerners were bad, while about half of Americans (48%) agreed (<http://www.pewglobal.org/2011/07/21/chapter-1-the-rift-between-muslims-and-the-west/>) beta=true&utm_expId=53098246-2.Lly4CFSVQG2lphsg-

KopIg.1&utm_referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pewglobal.org%2F2011%2F07%2F21%2Fchapter-2-how-muslims-and-westerners-view-each-other%2F%3Fbeta%3Dtrue) . Similarly, most Muslims in several Muslim-majority nations – including Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan – agreed that relations were bad, although fewer Muslims in Pakistan (45%) and Indonesia (41%) had this view.

The same survey also asked about characteristics the two groups may associate with one another

([http://www.pewglobal.org/2011/07/21/chapter-2-how-muslims-and-westerners-view-each-other/?beta=true&utm_expId=53098246-2.Lly4CFSVQG2lphsg-](http://www.pewglobal.org/2011/07/21/chapter-2-how-muslims-and-westerners-view-each-other/?beta=true&utm_expId=53098246-2.Lly4CFSVQG2lphsg-KopIg.1&utm_referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pewglobal.org%2F2011%2F07%2F21%2Fchapter-1-the-rift-between-muslims-and-the-west%2F%3Fbeta%3Dtrue)

[KopIg.1&utm_referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pewglobal.org%2F2011%2F07%2F21%2Fchapter-1-the-rift-between-muslims-and-the-west%2F%3Fbeta%3Dtrue](http://www.pewglobal.org/2011/07/21/chapter-2-how-muslims-and-westerners-view-each-other/?beta=true&utm_expId=53098246-2.Lly4CFSVQG2lphsg-KopIg.1&utm_referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pewglobal.org%2F2011%2F07%2F21%2Fchapter-1-the-rift-between-muslims-and-the-west%2F%3Fbeta%3Dtrue)).

Across the seven Muslim-majority countries and territories surveyed, a median of 68% of Muslims said they view Westerners as selfish. Considerable shares also called Westerners other negative adjectives, including violent (median of 66%), greedy (64%) and immoral (61%), while fewer attributed positive characteristics like “respectful of women” (44%), honest (33%) and tolerant (31%) to Westerners.

Westerners’ views of Muslims were more mixed. A median of 50% across four Western European countries, the U.S. and Russia called Muslims violent and a median of 58% called them “fanatical,” but fewer used negative words like greedy, immoral or selfish. A median of just 22% of Westerners said Muslims are respectful of women, but far more said Muslims are honest (median of 51%) and generous (41%).

Michael Lipka (<http://www.pewresearch.org/author/mlipka/>) is an editor focusing on religion at Pew Research Center.

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226 Comments



bootjangler • 2 weeks ago (#comment-664062)

There is another factor in the rise of Islam and that is the death penalty for anyone who leaves it. This is of course, not followed everywhere, but when we have a preacher in London who runs Sharia courts, insisting that the death penalty is right, then we need to be concerned. When you have other organisations in the UK looking up to him, you need to be very concerned.

I cannot believe that with the world-wide extremism going on, that the “favourable” is so high with certain surveys. I can only think that people surveyed bring it all down to the nice work colleague or the nice neighbour, who may well be in as much danger from the fanatics as everyone else.

I have personally known Muslims who offered no problem and were just “normal” for want of a better word. I also know secular/liberal Muslims from social media these days, who are incredibly wary of the orthodoxy. And I am well aware of that orthodoxy which is a huge problem for the Western world. I cannot state that enough.

So those surveys are a little skewed, because if I was asked what my impression of “Muslims” was, I would have to ask, “Which type?”

[Reply](#)



Rock Wood • 3 weeks ago (#comment-663964)

I fully reject the term “Muslim-American”, and I declare that there is no such thing as a “Muslim-American”, they simply do not exist, and here is why. If a Pakistani-Muslim comes to America and becomes an American citizen then they are by definition a Pakistani-American. If a Muslim comes to America from Syria and becomes a citizen, then they are a Syrian-American so on and so forth, Just as a black person is considered an African-American. And when one realizes the fact that America was founded as a Judeo-Christian Nation, I say that a “Muslim-American” is an oxymoron, and in reality does not exist. Now, if one of these people is born in america and becomes a Muslim than they are simply an American that is a Muslim. How many Christians declare themselves to be a “Christian-American”, or a Jew declares himself a “Jewish-American”? I must argue that they do not, and are simply an American that practices a certain faith, and that does not afford them the right to identify themselves specifically as that certain religion based American, it is a loaded term that should not be applied to one’s identity. I am an Atheist but I do not go around declaring that I am an Atheist-American, I am simply an American that is also an Atheist. I am quite certain that no Muslim will accept this fact simply because they are the only religion in the entire world that demands special treatment wherever they go.

[Reply](#)



alexandria rider • 3 weeks ago (#comment-663818)

Islam teaches that God has sent prophets to humanity, in different times and places, to communicate His message. Since the beginning of time, God has sent His guidance through these chosen people. They were human beings who taught the people around them about faith in One Almighty God, and how to walk on the path of righteousness. Some prophets also revealed God's Word through books of revelation. What message have the prophets brought?:

Muslims believe that all prophets gave guidance and instruction to their people about how to properly worship God and live their lives. Since God is One, His message has been one and the same throughout time. In essence, all prophets taught the message of Islam – to find peace in your life through submission to the One Almighty Creator; to believe in God and to follow His guidance.

What does the Quran say about the prophets?:

"The Messenger believes in what has been revealed to him from his Lord, as do the men of faith, Each one of them believes in God, His angels, His books, and His Messengers.

They say: 'We make no distinction between one and another of His Messengers.' And they say: 'We hear, and we obey. We seek Thy forgiveness, Our Lord, and to Thee is the end of all journeys.'" (2:285)

What prophets are named in the Quran?:

There are 25 prophets mentioned by name in the Quran, although Muslims believe that there were many more in different times and places. Among the prophets that Hud

Saleh

Ibrahim (Abraham)

Isma'il (Ishmael)

Ishaq (Isaac)

Lut (Lot)

Ya'qub (Jacob)

Yousef (Joseph)

Shu'aib

Ayyub (Job)

Musa (Moses)

Harun (Aaron)

Dhu'l-kifl (Ezekiel)

Dawud (David)

Sulaiman (Solomon)

Ilias (Elias)

Al-Yasa (Elisha)

Yunus (Jonah)

Zakariyya (Zechariah)

Yahya (John)

'Isa (Jesus)

Muhammad

How do Muslims honor the prophets?:

Muslims read about, learn from, and respect all of the prophets. Many Muslims name their children after them. In addition, when mentioning the name of any of God's prophets, a Muslim adds these words of blessing and respect: "upon him be peace" (alayhi salaam in Arabic).

[Reply](#)



Jack Johnson • 3 weeks ago (#comment-663941)

I enjoyed your post. However, I must submit within your Islamic teachings and apologetics lies a problem. A glaring denunciation of the recorded words of both Jesus and John.

Indulge me if you will...

You know (I presume, noting that you recognise the words of the prophet John, when he spoke, “behold the *lamb of God who takes away the sins of the whole world!”) that Jesus declared Himself the **sacrifice for the sins of the world. That through Him alone all may be saved – through faith in the power of His sacrifice and resurrection. If you declare Him anything less than your personal Savior, slain for the penalty of your shortcomings and transgressions, resurrected through the power of God, and seated at God’s right-hand – there is a problem.

If you honor the reputation of your purported prophets, you would honor their words.

Thank you

Merry Christmas!

Jack

Email me @ jackjohnson5599@gmail.com (mailto:jackjohnson5599@gmail.com)

* John 1:36

** 1 Peter 1:19

12/25/15 5:55 AM

[Reply](#)



y. yal Y • 1 month ago (#comment-663525)

It’s all about demographics and backlash of living in so called “modern life” which consists of using tons of contraceptives such as birth control pills and using tons of drugs (cocaine, heroin etc.) plus individualistic mentality, me, me , me...it’s only about me! I would say go back to patriarchy and ban feminism.

[Reply](#)



S Arifeen • 1 month ago (#comment-663522)



I would like to congratulate PewResearch for their outstanding job! Cheers!!

[Reply](#)



Tom Jones • 1 month ago (#comment-663490)

Interesting how people can see the problems in other religions, yet are blind to their own.

Tom

[Reply](#)



S Arifeen • 1 month ago (#comment-663521)

The problem is fear of unknown, mistrust. If you have a good friend from other religion, you'll know most of these views are just wrong! Just viewing this comment section just scare the hell out of me! The ignorance!! OMG!!

[Reply](#)



Kris K Hinson • 4 weeks ago (#comment-663676)

It depends on what you mean; dialogue will be a good start. Recently, I've come to know quite a few people who hide behind this ideology to criticize anyone who dares to point out what they know to be wrong with another religion.

If your religion was different from mine and you knew for sure that what I call a religion of God really wasn't so, would you point it out to me because yours/you are not perfect? Would you not wish that I joined your religion of God and threw myself at the mercy of God rather than worship a false god? That's how I see it.

The Devil would wish to magnify our imperfection to stop us from sharing the truth of God. I will share the truth and welcome criticism even from those of my religion.

[Reply](#)



Mr. Lopono • 1 month ago (#comment-663478)

This article is a lie. Muslims want sharia law implemented. Their holy book tells them too. They all want sharia law. There are no moderate muslims only moderate idiots who believe these so called moderate muslims exist. Google dearborn muslim riot. That shows you how peaceful they are to non-muslims and white people.

[Reply](#)



Jake VanWagoner • 4 weeks ago (#comment-663600)

So I suppose you don't believe there are peaceful blacks?

What's going on is that Christianity met industrialism long ago, and industrialization brings secularism over generations. Islam didn't — and in much of the world, Islam still has yet to meet real industrialism.

Second- or third-generation Muslims have retained the fundamentals of belief in God and private practice of rituals, but are undergoing the secular transformations in much the same way Christianity has — loosening restrictions on clothing, roles for men and women, sexuality, etc. The transformation hasn't happened many other countries yet.

[Reply](#)



Kris K Hinson • 4 weeks ago (#comment-663677)

What has race got to do with one's beliefs? This is typical of a lot of Muslims; Islam is very important to those born in Muslim countries and parents, no doubt about it, but Islam isn't a race. Whereas a person's beliefs are not sacred, race is. You can change your beliefs but you cannot change your race. The difference is huge.

[Reply](#)



alexandria rider • 3 weeks ago (#comment-663774)

I would not call people who think moderate Muslims exist Moderate idiots. And by your comment i think that you think all Muslims are violent. Well that is definitely not true. I AM a Muslim and believe me I have a lot non-Muslim friends, and none of them will say anything bad about me, or call me violent. And Muslims are moderate. They give, they share, they ARE kind, they ARE generous. And YES some would even risk their own life to save a non-Muslims life. Many people are getting bad points of view of Muslims from social media. Just because of the title "Ratical Muslims" has the name Muslim in it people are thinking that all Muslims are bad. Lets say a Christian man committed some crime, us Muslims don't go around calling all Christians bad. And like the article said American Muslims have the most number of non-Muslim friends than any other Muslims around the world. That is like 100% true. Non-Muslims who have known a Muslim person would never believe that, that person is bad because of the media. And I know Not every ones mind is not in the right place it doesn't make all Muslims bad. Isis ha s done damage to more Muslims than any other religion, so we are in this together. All I am trying to say is if you actually knew a Muslim you would never say this.

[Reply](#)



Mark Colbath • 1 month ago (#comment-663467)

The problem with the modern Christian Church is that we've made it too easy. Church is something you attend, or not, on Sunday. People are looking for more, even if it's a false religion such as Islam. Young people need to be challenged. They are looking for a cause, a mission. Attending a weekly youth group and playing games is not enough.

[Reply](#)



Salman • 1 month ago (#comment-663461)

Very interesting figures! Also kudos to Michael Lipka for a cogent and illuminating summary. Holiday greetings to everyone of Pew staff and all your readers. Merry Christmas, everybody!

[Reply](#)



N Wright • 1 month ago (#comment-663454)

Thank you for your research. Is this going to be available for purchase in book form?

[Reply](#)



Janet r • 1 month ago (#comment-663442)

This survey fails to show Muslim beliefs that go directly against the US Constitution. Therefore, in formative but somewhat misleading in these difficult times of terrorism

[Reply](#)



chuck g • 1 month ago (#comment-663437)

demography is destiny

[Reply](#)



Zaman • 1 month ago (#comment-663433)

Dear LIPKA,

I give you very especial thank for your article. I would like to know, how you collect those data.

Thank you.

Very best,

Zaman.

[Reply](#)



Michael Lipka • 1 month ago (#comment-663445)

Zaman,

Thank you for your kind words. Our methods for collecting data vary somewhat depending on the study. For instance, our international surveys often use face-to-face, in-person interviews, while our surveys in the U.S. are usually conducted by phone. Our demographic research (e.g., the projections of the size of religious groups) use a variety of data sources. With each report, we publish a methodology section, and a more general look at our methods can be found through this page: [pewresearch.org/methods](http://www.pewresearch.org/methods) (<http://www.pewresearch.org/methods/>) .

Thanks again for your interest in our research.

Michael Lipka

[Reply](#)



Yarushua • 1 month ago (#comment-663426)

There are so many things we don't understand about this religion and its roots.. There are good and bad people in every religious group in the world and its good to research their doctrine in order to fully comprehend their actions, and why they resort to such extreme measures. If you are looking for answers to your questions about the identity of Allah, the doctrine of the Qu'ran and why Muslim's are misguided into believing that Islam is the final and only true religion given to replace Christianity, then read my Blog for topics covering these subjects. [yashumessiah.com](http://www.yashumessiah.com/) (http://www.yashumessiah.com/) Don't be fooled, Allah is no Moon god as millions think he his... his true identity is in the five pointed star not the crescent Moon..

[Reply](#)



Edward Flores • 1 month ago (#comment-663463)

First, Islam will never replace Christianity for several reasons:

1. Islam began with violence and false assertions in its basic doctrines and it will end with violence
2. Islam still means submission to Allah
3. From a Christian worldview Allah does not even exist as a true deity
4. Unless my research is incorrect, Islam rejects the deity of Christ
5. Islam rejects the deity of the Holy Spirit

Second, whether or not Allah is considered an ancient Moon god or Hubal is irrelevant since there is another objective eternal truth that Islam rejects, and that is the historical evidence proving that Jesus was crucified

Third, Islam, as all false religions, rejects the blood atonement sacrifice of Jesus Christ as payment for a person's sin to holy Jehovah God

Fourth. More importantly, Islam has no sinless Savior or the grace gift of salvation. Islam's idea of salvation does not include the Holy Trinity's grace. No where in the 93 excellent names of Allah is the virtue of love mentioned.

[Reply](#)



Yarushua • 1 month ago (#comment-663547)

My brother you are wrong on point #3 Allah is indeed an ancient deity going back all the way to Genesis... Islam has tried to authenticate their religion by saying that Isa is Jesus who was send by Allah. If you really want to know Muslims you need to know the reall name of Allah, the name as you aware that simply means "The God". If you are mindful do some research on the five pointed star.. I have already done it for you on my Blog by by the way.. Allah is an old enemy bent on distorting the truth hence the Quran was given by the angel"Gabriel"... If you think Allah as a deity is irrelevant then you oiught to hear this: Islam account of the Creation of Man

Surah No.23, Al Muminoon, Ayats No.12 to 16

And we created man (Adam) out of an extract of clay. Thereafter we placed him as a sperm (Nutfah) in a safe place of rest (Uterus of the woman). Then we made the sperm into a clot (coagulated blood), then we made the clot into a little lump of flesh, then we made out of that, the bones, then we clothed the bones with flesh, and then we brought it forth as another creation. So Blessed is Allâh, the Best of creators. After that, surely, you will die. Then surely, you will be raised up again on the Day of Resurrection.

This statement give us a clue as to the identity of Allah, there is another Sumerian god who also created man from sperm by inserting it into the womb of a goddess, according to their mythology.. He is known as the Ushumgal (Great Serpent) of Heaven. Sounds familiar?

[Reply](#)



Kris K Hinson • 4 weeks ago (#comment-663682)

You've hit the nail on the head; that's what I should expect from a Christian. We need to connect more and pick up the pace. In a way we've become lukewarm, generally. We need to accept the challenges thrown at us by the end times. Often times Christians won't even defend our faith and if we do others will come up with that's not Christ-like. You're supposed to keep quiet, walk away and let the Holy Spirit do His work. Well, I disagree. We need to explain our position on important issues in love and exercise the authority given to all believers by Jesus to over principalities and powers to set the captives free not cut and run.

Like you've said, we need to make our worship and witnessing a godly adventure. We need to start taking territories for Christ. If Islam is growing, we are not doing enough to offer the rest of the world the true freedom in Christ. Freedom over sin, sickness, fear, terror, ungodliness, respect and true freedom for women with responsibility, corruption, and many other beauties that can only be found in Christ. The world is hurting, the burden of sin and lack of forgiveness is weighing us down. The wonderful work of Christ's crucifixion must be in the forefront, something which is unique and the only way by which man can be pure once again to be reconciled to a pure and Holy God. There is no other way.

[Reply](#)



Kris K Hinson • 4 weeks ago (#comment-663686)

Come on now; God will never replace Christianity if you know what it means. Islam shoots itself in several places; which is not accidental.

Islam believes Jesus Christ is the Word of God, right? The Holy Bible is the Word of God, right? What will God replace His Word with? Islam believes God is all-powerful and can do everything, right? But He cannot look after His Word. We have a big problem. Almighty God is capable of looking after His Word unless He has a weakness that only Islam can exploit. In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word is God. Oops! But Jesus Himself said His Father sent Him, what He said it is not by Himself, His Father in heaven etc. Yes, He says all that but we forget ONE THING. He came to the world to offer Himself as the sacrificial Lamb to die in the way He did. Does any think if He had not assumed that position Satan would dare kill Him? Does anyone think that if He had NOT emptied Himself, temporarily, of His deity He could have died? No!!! Almighty God CANNOT DIE! He had to beat the Devil in his own game without sin, without a single lie because He cannot lie. But He is full of wisdom, truth and POWER.

The prophets of old prophesied about the coming and the mission of Jesus. God sent John the Baptist ahead of Him because He is the fulfilment of prophecy. In other words, the FINAL PROPHET, the Chief Priest. Before going to the cross to die to pay for our sins with His sinless blood, the perfect sacrifice, He promised the Disciples a Comforter, the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit of God who will be here forever (the Holy Spirit cannot die). The Holy Spirit was the One to come after Him. Jesus Christ is "too BIG a boss" to come before any prophet. God knows about hierarchy. In Hebrews 1: 6 in the Holy Bible God orders His Angels to worship Him (Jesus Christ). Jesus Christ from time to time hinted at His deity, e.g. He said He is Al-Hoq (the truth) which is the title of God. This is just one example.

[Reply](#)



alexandria rider • 3 weeks ago (#comment-663775)

Well where you said Jesus said his father sent is not true. He said god had sent him. And Jesus is not dead when some men wanted to kill Jesus god to him in to heaven and made another man look like him and put him in his place.



Preston Haas • 1 day ago (#comment-664343)

And what, "Historical evidence that jesus was crucified" would that be exactly? (and you aren't allowed to use the bible, obviously)

[Reply](#)



Iqbal Singh Cheema • 1 month ago (#comment-663422)

sir ; thanks for valuable information @ Pew Research Center... findings are nemesis of nature....! nobody can temper with natural law...it is better if we observe it as a silent spectator and manage our own life accordingly....? Happy , Happy and Happy Christmas day & New Year- 2016 in advance again thanks

[Reply](#)



Helen Daly • 1 month ago (#comment-663419)

Important article that many people should read. Was surprised to see how much the people of France, Britain, & Germany, view Muslims favorably. I wonder how that would change in a new survey after all that has happened. I surely pray that peace comes to all those country's and we all can get along.

[Reply](#)



Rosy • 1 month ago (#comment-663411)

Think about it!!! What God would create mankind and then call for the destruction of it? AND even promise Virgins as a reward! ? Sounds more like the Devil who declared to destroy God's creation. I am not in any way educated on religion... just making a statement from my heart!

[Reply](#)



Donald Chalmers • 1 month ago (#comment-663410)

Religion or Irreligion, Sharia or no sharia, here is the rub:

I may be able to speak the languages of men and even of angels, but if I have not love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell. I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains – but if I have not love, I am nothing.

I may give away everything I have, and even give up my body to be burned – but if I have not love, it does me no good.

i

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous, or conceited, or proud; love is not ill mannered, or selfish, or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; its faith, hope, and patience never fail.

i

Love is eternal. There are inspired messages, but they are temporary; there are gifts of speaking, but they will cease; there is knowledge, but it will pass. For our gifts of knowledge and inspired messages are only partial; but when what is perfect comes, then what is partial will disappear.

i

When I was a child, my speech, feelings, and thinking were all those of a child; now that I am grown, I have no more use for childish ways. What we see now is like the dim image in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. What I know now is only partial; then it will be complete, as complete as God's knowledge of me.

i

Meanwhile these three remain (Help, Encourage, and Comfort): faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love.

See also “Fervent Appeal to Islamic Scholars” linkedin Pulse blog by Suresh Kumar Soni – A man on a Spiritual Mission – at [linkedin.com/pulse/ferment-appea...](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/ferment-appeal-islamic-scholars-suresh-kumar-soni) (<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/ferment-appeal-islamic-scholars-suresh-kumar-soni>) .

Reply



Edward Flores • 1 month ago (#comment-663468)

Excellent scriptural reference from Paul's letter to the Corinthians.

My question to you Mr. Chalmers: from what part of Jehovah God's core character do you think comes the love you describe? Once you answer that question consider the following: how does any human person develop that love you describe as part of their character?

Reply



David Rodriguez • 1 month ago (#comment-663409)

Education is the precursor to tolerance and understanding. Religious perceptions based on ignorance, more often than not, leads to trouble. Thank you PEW for always leading the way in clarifying and illuminating.

Reply



Dennis • 1 month ago (#comment-663396)

I don't get how Muslim women would join this religion. I would like to sign up to be a second class citizen bottom feeder for the rest of my life. Won't let my daughter be educated and forced to marry anyone my father says I have to. Please sign me up! I think the Muslim men came up with this idea because they are weak and scared of the women and this is the only way they think they can be "manly" and get away with it.

[Reply](#)



C Braun • 1 month ago (#comment-663481)

First off, all religions have their oddities — in things their followers are expected to believe. To a non-Christian, imagine reading about Jesus coming back to life after crucifixion. Worshipping a zombie seems just as strange to non-Christians as, say, belief in aliens from outer space (i.e., Scientology, reportedly) or a new Messiah in the US (Mormons— I think?). So, at any rate, I'd highly recommend reading biographies or even fiction set in other cultures, other religions as a way to "walk in another's shoes" even just a little bit.

Above all, however, DIALOGUE and getting to know one another as PEOPLE, not statistics or even stereotypes is probably the ONE most important thing humans can do to better get along. I'm Jewish, my best friend is Orthodox Muslim. We find SO much in common with our respective religions, it's really funny. Who knew? Also, I have purposely been very open about my religion because I live in an area with few Jews. I've found that my many Christian (and N.O.S.) friends are often incredibly curious about Judaism. Kinda like, "All the questions you always wanted to ask, but didn't know a Jew to ask." I am always open to questions and heart-felt dialogue. I've invited many Christian friends to attend Shabbat service with me and have been truly gratified at the warm, enthusiastic responses. Again, humanizing a person, demystifying a religion, reeducating stereotypes. My favorite saying on religion: "There are many paths up, but we all struggle to climb the same mountain." May your journey be a fulfilling one. Shalom — Peace.

[Reply](#)



SHAHARIAR ARIFEEN • 1 month ago (#comment-663520)



Lmao! Okay, just to let you know majority of muslim converts are woman! Now let me tell you how my grandma would say " I don't understand how a woman would join Christian religion, they have no self respect, Christian man treats woman like 2nd class citizen, woman is like sex toys there, they're uncivilized- don't wear cloths, they don't respect elders, they take drugs, get drunk, sleep with strangers, no morality! Our husband treat us like princess, just look at your grandpa ..." See how things are different on different view? :))

[Reply](#)



alexandria rider • 3 weeks ago (#comment-663776)

Guess what that's not true all Muslim girls have the right to accept or refuse marriage.

[Reply](#)



Kash Iqbal • 4 days ago (#comment-664274)

Dennis mate?

Dear writer. If you research with an open mind, you will discover that around 66% of people that embrace Islam are women, in the U.S. and U.k

And It's rather Narrow Minded Approach and Comment's Without Knowing the fact About Your Own countries Women That embrace Islam In large numbers.

Islam gave women rights before Christianity decided to. Study your history

[Reply](#)



Jane • 1 month ago (#comment-663394)

It so scary to read so many comments most of which are written by people whose reactions are made out of Fear!. That was the root cause of McCarthy-ism back in the 1950s when the word Communism or Communist became the big Fear words. There are so many examples in recent history, i.e., Japanese internment during WW11 that we as a country do not seem to remember or at least learn from. That for me is what is truly Scary. Doesn't education do anything for us?

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663460)

Jane,

the readers of your comment owe you a lot; your clear view and honest evaluation is commendable. thanks!

[Reply](#)



S Arifeen • 1 month ago (#comment-663523)

Exactly my thought! I mainly blame media, because they always portray so much negativity, (because it sells) that we now have this mistrust and weird fear of unknown. We have to understand that there is always some bad guys on every culture/religion, but on general people out of geo-politics we are



same

[Reply](#)



Mark L • 4 weeks ago (#comment-663675)

Education is helpful, but requires an open mind to accept new concepts. That is a challenge for people who inherently are insecure.

[Reply](#)



Lic. Pierre Millet • 1 month ago (#comment-663391)

In reality the United States of America is a country where all refugees around the world have the opportunity to live in democracy, and liberty in general. We haven't discrimination about option political or religious. There are the regulate by law, because it's a country where the Constitution respect the human rights. The framers of the American Constitution combined the best political ideas of the past with innovation in what The Federalist called an improved science of politics: federalism, separation of powers, and check and balances. Doing so, they created a form of government which had, in the words of James Madison: "no model on the face of earth".

Today is the anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, signed by Union Nations on December 10, 1948.

[Reply](#)



Joe • 1 month ago (#comment-663389)

I'm reading the Qoran, and I can personally collaborate everything this Scholar says about Islam. May I introduce Ayatollah Hassani.

youtu.be/Tp9TTEXOrME (<http://youtu.be/Tp9TTEXOrME>)

[Reply](#)



Muslim • 1 month ago (#comment-663360)

Nice work...Keep it up. so that we have a better idea that what is going on the people heads about islam/.muslim/ sharia /isis/etc

one thing more ; Plz don't equate islam with ISIS.

ISIS is not representing the true pic of Islam, they are killers,haters,non-compassionate etc.

Islam believe in peace, Dawah (calling non-believers to islam through invitation/sermons etc)

That's all.

isis /media is making extremely ugly face of islam, but the truth will prevail . it is something blessing in disguise ,it has brought islam in forefront, due to which people will inquire now about islam, as a result islam will spread as you studies indicates

[Reply](#)



Gary Smith • 1 month ago (#comment-663353)

Pew is the best place for poll type information.

Local media is whimsical and leftward biased regarding this type of information in the Sacramento area.

Keep up the good work.

[Reply](#)



Mary • 1 month ago (#comment-663340)

According to the Koran, suicide bombing is NOT acceptable. Repeat, NOT. If you kill one innocent person, it is as if you have killed all of humanity. THAT is what the Koran teaches. But People are human... look at the Inquisition. Look at the Crusades (they killed Christians in both instances, in the name (supposedly) of Jesus.)

Look at the KKK (white Anglo Saxon Protestants... WASP we used to call them). Look at those who kill at Abortion Clinics to save fetus lives but have no compunction in killing humans once they are born, innocent or not.

Has there EVER been a time when the world was NOT at war? What do you call all the looting and killing going on by gangs in big cities? They say 89 people die EACH DAY from guns. Compare it to Australia and other countries who have made it difficult to get anything but pistols.

[Reply](#)



Ronald Myers • 1 month ago (#comment-663335)

I found this article helpful for understanding of Muslims. Hopefully you may conduct another survey soon after th mos recent events of 2015!

[Reply](#)



mach37 • 1 month ago (#comment-663333)

2011 is too long ago to have much relevance in 2015, considering the major events in just the last six months. My own studies of Islam "suggest" that most Muslims outside of the middle-east are non-observant apostates. IS would not hesitate to behead them if they had the manpower, except IS realizes they are outnumbered by infidel police forces.

[Reply](#)



Daniel Michaels • 1 month ago (#comment-663332)

The government of Saudi Arabia still beheads people in the name of Islam. That's all I need to know about Islam.

[Reply](#)



Grace • 1 month ago (#comment-663325)

"Rarely or never justified" is a misleading option to give in a survey regarding violence/suicide bombing against civilians. There are miles between rarely and never. Shame on you Pew. I am sure if given the choice, most Muslims would say that suicide bombing is NEVER justified. This is a misleading report.

[Reply](#)



Samuel J. Alano • 1 month ago (#comment-663322)

I found the research paper to be informative and easily understood by those of us who may not be as familiar as we should with demographic statistics as they relate to Muslims in general. I would strongly suggest that America's leadership, education institutes and media become familiar with the contents of the aforementioned research. Great work to all who contributed to this research. Merry Christmas to all.

[Reply](#)



Mark • 1 month ago (#comment-663317)

I appreciate your work, but when you ask /poll a Muslim , they are encouraged to lie through their religious doctrine, so how do you know they are being truthful? Food for thought? I'm just saying.....

[Reply](#)



Guy7 Coffee • 1 month ago (#comment-663298)

Great study. Keep p the good work. Seasons greetings.

[Reply](#)



Ann Pickett • 1 month ago (#comment-663293)

Very imformative. Thank you

[Reply](#)



jo • 1 month ago (#comment-663284)

what a shame this world is getting,its scarey for the younger generallations. hope god comes back quietly before it gets really worse.god bless the united states please.

[Reply](#)



Jason Smith • 1 month ago (#comment-663277)

A few months ago I asked a good friend of mine what he knew about Islam. He loaned me The Generous Qur'an by Usama Dakdok. It's a very literal translation with annotations. Wow. It really opened my eyes. When I read the words "Allah is the best deceiver" I was floored!!! No one ever taught me in my childhood that GOD is a LIAR!

I'm a teacher and we have probably 10 – 15% Muslims in our school. How am I supposed to react when I find out that their culture tells them God is the best liar and that they can lie to non-Muslims?

That was really all I needed to know, but I have continued reading it from time to time when I have the strength to handle that much sad and depressing truth. It turns my stomach, but I encourage everyone to read the book because that's the only way we will know what our politicians are getting us into (like it or not) by importing the third world to America.

[Reply](#)



Eugenia • 1 month ago (#comment-663310)

That is true! They are allowed to deny they are muslim if it means their life or death. Ask your friend about the book of hadiths. Supposed saying of muhammad. That's an eye opener. The ONE TRUE GOD never lies! What this fight is really about is whose God is right.

[Reply](#)



Chris Collins • 1 month ago (#comment-663331)

I don't think of this as splitting hairs. There is either one God or not so the point about which God is correct isn't really a question. It was the debate/lecture about the rationality of God that the former pope Benedict was addressing in his speech to students at his former alma mater in Regensburg. Quoted out of context and widely propagated in the Muslim media it was addressed summarily in a wonderful document composed by the nephew of the King of Jordan. I highly suggest a quick read of the document formally produced by this scholar of Al Ahzar University in Alexandria titled "A Common Word Between Us and You" or a quick glance at the wiki article concerning the same. Religious tolerance is predicated on trust. Friendship on trust. Trust on understanding. Lasting peace predicated on religious tolerance.

[Reply](#)



Francis McAnarney • 1 month ago (#comment-663402)

I guess you do not remember the Crusades do you.

[Reply](#)



Mary • 1 month ago (#comment-663345)

SHAME on you ! That book is written by Muslim HATERS... The translations are FALSE !!! Read the translation done by, say, the Noble Koran. I had never heard of your rendition of translation of the Koran, so looked it up, and before you even buy the book they are saying they will show how evil the book is... Is that what you want to read before you buy a Bible? That it is a false book, etc.? The Koran is NOT like the Protestants do with the Bible, where they take things out of context and decide it means this or that... The reason I say this is because the Orthodox (original) Christians have their Priests go to a Seminary to learn what the anecdotes and analogies MEAN... That is why a Muslim is supposed to learn Arabic and be taught what the verses mean, and to know which verses were history, which were etiquette ! Your comments made me sad, and I was reminded of a quote by Dear Abby : Anyone's religion, other than yours, is usually seen as a Cult.

[Reply](#)



Leonard Church • 1 month ago (#comment-663579)

I have a Quran given to me by CAIR as part of an ecumenical outreach program several years ago. I was speaking with some devout Muslim friends of mine and showed them the beautifully bound and illustrated book. As they read it their faces were getting redder and redder. One finally told me through clenched teeth that the book I had was a blasphemy that it had altered entire passages and several key verses about the Prophet were entirely changed making the resulting indicative false. They encouraged me to burn the book and would not enter my home if the book was still in the room. I have since moved it to a different room. But if we are to accept Islam as a religion of peace which Islam are we going to compare it too. The false one presented by CAIR in an effort to say 'look we are just like you' or the one that my friends present with warts and all ... both the good the bad and the horrendous truths about its origins.

[Reply](#)



Kris K Hinson • 4 weeks ago (#comment-663690)

What you've written is so beautiful except it's contradiction of events on the ground. Islam has spawned so many terrorist groups who insist they are the real Muslims. We often hear of radical Imams, radical this and radical that. We also hear of "strict interpretation" of Islam but you are telling us about how perfect the learning of the Qur'an is. Something is amiss here. It could be called a lie, but for now I wouldn't.

You make a point of casting the first stone at Protestants.... You may have a point but it doesn't make Christianity false. And, I do not see any reason why the Qur'an should be translated into any other language or languages if God only speaks and Angels only narrate in Arabic. There's a problem here, Mary.

[Reply](#)



Mark L • 3 weeks ago (#comment-663752)

Terrorists are mis-using the Koran to justify their violent actions. It is their translation of any document which should be scrutinized. Terrorists claiming to be guided by the Koran are a tiny fraction of the billions of Muslims on the earth. That's like claiming that all Christians are violent extremists who support the indiscriminate bombing of abortion clinics. Only a small fraction of Christians do, the vast majority believe that taking anyone's life is wrong. The same logic applies to Muslims as does Christians.

[Reply](#)



ola • 1 month ago (#comment-663379)

This translation is wrong. We translate the meaning not the word. The word here means good planner .. who want to kill the prophet plan to kill him and God plan to protect his prophet

[Reply](#)



Isaac Bean • 1 month ago (#comment-663387)

I feel I should remind us all that the Bible is not a book filled exclusively with love and roses. It commands things that we consider absolutely horrible today, but most modern Christians don't follow those rules – just as most modern Muslims don't follow their rules of that nature.

Your role as a teacher should be concerned with ensuring your students are able to get a good education in a safe environment; their religion should not impact your ability to teach them. Do you look at Christian children and think of how their God commanded his people to demolish every city and kill every person and their livestock who wasn't Jewish? No, because his religion is not relevant to his education. Prejudices should not be allowed regardless of the student or their religion.

[Reply](#)



Kris K Hinson • 4 weeks ago (#comment-663692)

Please when we talk about violence in the Qur'an try not to mention the Holy Bible, it won't work unless you are hell-bent on distorting the truth. You must learn to compare like for like. The God of the H Bible gives specific instructions of the kind to specific person / persons for specific period and seasons in almost every instance. One striking worrying trend in the Qur'an is the business about folks murdering those who dare to draw cartoons about the prophet of Islam. It is for all times and all seasons. Please correct me if I've got it wrong; I am always learning to be a better follower of Jesus Christ, my hope and aspirations are to be perfect as our Father in heaven. Jesus Christ said, we should be perfect as our Father in heaven; He cannot lie.

[Reply](#)



Alistair McMillan • 1 month ago (#comment-663413)

Very interesting, Muslim character in keeping with this belief (generally speaking). Truth is not important to them, but whatever they see as expedient, is.

[Reply](#)



C Braun • 1 month ago (#comment-663482)

See, I have a problem with anyone who starts using a blanket "them" when speaking of another people, religion, nation, race. That's the start down a path of "us versus them" thinking that is never productive.

[Reply](#)



Bayk • 1 month ago (#comment-663416)

You are right my beloved friend Jason. It is "a very literal translation" of that verse. Don't take my word but keep reading yourself. I can also recommend Yusuf Ali translation which is one of the first translations into English and very well-known. As you said we need to read the rest so we can come with a better analyses of a single verse. You will also find two other main sources. One is already mentioned by Eugenia. Muhammed(pbuh) himself interpreted Qur'an by his words and actions in his life time. Ex. He said refering to God : " I am as my servant things of me" meaning that if we believe that God is Most Merciful and Most Compassionate we are more deserving to receive his mercy(this is my undertanding, I am not a scholar". This could be just one of those "hadith" that she referred to which may help further. Second one is the thousands of "exegesis" on Quran which explains the roots of the words, the revelation time and society and event of the verse. Then it can only be possible to come with a balanced understanding of a universal text which is shaping lives of 1.5 billion people all around the world.

[Reply](#)



Yusuf Keskin • 1 month ago (#comment-663428)



Hey i am a muslim and that's funniest thing i have ever heard Please, tell me where is it so I can see.

Your quota is also out of context. What is the context then?

If i say "i will corrupt your seed and spread dung upon your faces" from bible? -You can check, god says that, according to bible-. But i don't know the context of it. For some parts of bible, you can't even speak them in front of open public.

Please, you are reading a translation and it can be anyone's corruption. So check from somewhere else for example Abdullah Yusuf Ali's translation. Or just find a guy knows arabic. We have the newer changed original script of it for over 1400 years.

No more hatred please. Every society has their own black sheeps. We all people are just misreading, misunderstanding and misleading ourselves and dragging the world to destruction.

If you believe all you heard and read you'll be just supporting that head cutter bloodthirsty middle east animals, because the remaining of muslim society will see you an insulter.

[Reply](#)



Gloria Landron • 1 month ago (#comment-663436)

Jason,

As a teacher you must know you have to keep your personal thoughts and feelings to yourself and not try to influence your students with your own personal views. That being said, here is an eye-opener: ALL children lie!

[Reply](#)



Dan • 1 month ago (#comment-663462)

I read and studied the Koran thoroughly and logically. I can speak Arabic fairly well so I cross referenced when something was one sentence in Arabic and multiple in English or vice versa. The book literally tries to scare you into believing it as the truth or else suffer the wrath of Allah... I wouldn't recommend it to anyone who is not strong mentally and emotionally as they will accept it out of fear of the claimed consequences. Allah lies, deceives, swears, contradicts, and apparently doesn't have a good concept of time and history. The writing is very reflective of the Arab culture of its day and a lot of what radicals and extremists hold on to mirror that. The positive parts of the Koran are spread out and are often contradicted in other Surahs. The preaching of Mohammed in Mecca is very different from that which he preached after he became militant in Medina. If you read the Koran in the order that the Surahs were written, you'll see that it parallels his life events. Of course the book is assembled completely out of order to hide what would otherwise be very obvious.

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663464)

Jason,
it is unfair to quote a supposedly Islamic document rendered by a man who says clearly that his publishing company specializes in the publication of material that equips Christians to be effective witnesses of Jesus Christ. see for yourself what he publishes at [usamapublishing.com](http://www.usamapublishing.com)
(<http://www.usamapublishing.com/>)

[Reply](#)



Fran Atkinson • 1 month ago (#comment-663255)

All the moe reason to start having alter calls again in all Christian churches. Many have stopped them and think they are possibly even harmful. We are not God or the judge who decides whether they are sincere or coerced. God has ask us via way of Bible examples by telling how many were added to the number of believers after His sermon.

[Reply](#)



Mary • 1 month ago (#comment-663316)

I have friends who are Protestant missionaries, but they are trying to convert other Christians all over the globe rather than non-Abrahamic people or atheists. If you believe in Jesus Christ, you would think they would be happy and try to introduce Him to those who do not know Him, rather than go after those who “sing different hymns”...

[Reply](#)



Danni H • 1 month ago (#comment-663421)

Thankfully I attended a bible believing church and our pastor does an alter call every Sunday. Too many pastors are afraid to talk about sin, confession and repentance.

[Reply](#)



Kathy Cook • 1 month ago (#comment-663245)

Recently Sheriff Arpaio that runs “Tent City” in Arizona made a speech asking all responsible citizens that own guns, to take a stand if they (we) see any suspicious terrorist activity and keep ourselves aware. I made a comment, saying, I don’t own a gun, but I’m thinking about getting one due to all the violence going on. Especially against women with all the violence against them (us). Within 1 day I received 3,000 likes. In the 1st hour I received 500 likes. This tells me I’m not alone in feeling this way!

[Reply](#)



Mary • 1 month ago (#comment-663336)

But out of the over 300 mass killings (meaning 4 or more died) in the last year ALONE, in the USA, only @ 7 were related ti Islam... the rest were Domestic Extremists... Some days there were THREE in one day... So who do we fear? Anyone who buys an automatic rifle that can shoot thru armor scares me !!!

[Reply](#)



Denise Kelly • 1 month ago (#comment-663229)

Frightening numbers. My recent 25th Wedding Anniversary was a Stainless Steel S&W 38 Revolver. Now looking at a 9mm small Glock. This is what our lack of Leadership on both sides of the aisle has forced on American Citizens. Sad!!! But well armed and trained.

[Reply](#)



Robert • 1 month ago (#comment-663377)

Good for you and Kathy both!. Stay safe and aware out there. I agree that the citizens of our country are no longer represented by either party. It's shameful really.

[Reply](#)



Frances • 1 month ago (#comment-663147)

Just to further my earlier question, I guess so much depends on the wording of the question — if it was “Is suicide bombing acceptable if one knows with 100% certainty that it would save the lives of 100 people...?”

[Reply](#)



Steve • 1 month ago (#comment-663203)

Frances,

I'm honestly just asking, also. So, are asking if it would be OK to be a suicide bomber, that would kill 100 people, if you could be 100% sure that 100 other people would live..?

[Reply](#)



RevRickMcAfee • 1 month ago (#comment-663270)

We had the top Christian to give his life for the entire world to have opportunity to eternal life. He did not blow himself up in the mist of hundreds or thousands of people putting them in harms way. Will a Christian give his life to save others? I believe we still have Christians that without a doubt would give their life to save others if they knew for sure it would. I said if they knew it would because Christianity is not an ignorant belief.

Now, how many muslims have given only their own life to save others?

[Reply](#)



Gloria • 1 month ago (#comment-663364)

Actually, Jesus was a Jew.

[Reply](#)



WBG • 1 month ago (#comment-663390)

Jesus was a Jew, not a Christian.

[Reply](#)



Debby T. • 1 month ago (#comment-663438)

Reverend... really?? The top Christian? The Messiah, the Savior of the World, was a Jewish man, from the line of David. Worship in spirit and in Truth !! A Jewish man, the one who came only for the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel. WHO is Israel?? The moment we decide to believe and follow the God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob ... who was renamed Israel... we become Israel. We are grafted in, adopted, accepted as the native born... the wild branches grafted into the Olive Tree, of which our Messiah is the root and the sap. Israel is, and has always been a People (a mixed multitude that were brought forth out of Egypt). Israel has never been a piece of land. That is biblical Truth.

[Reply](#)



Frances • 1 month ago (#comment-663140)

I'm honestly just asking this. Did this survey ask Christians, Jews, Buddhists, etc. about what percentage of the time such tactics are justified? How many Catholics said "suicide bombings are sometimes justified?" etc. I'm just curious. It seems important. Did the survey ask these questions of other religious groups? Seems crucial.

"86% of Muslims say that such tactics are rarely or never justified. An additional 7% say suicide bombings are sometimes justified and 1% say they are often justified..."

[Reply](#)



Gregor Lammer • 1 month ago (#comment-663227)

There is virtually not a single Atheist, Jewish or Christian suicide bomber in history. Nobody of these faiths / non-faith would get the stupid idea to blow themselves up.

[Reply](#)



zak • 1 month ago (#comment-663256)

you must be forgetting the first one at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, by the Israelis against the British.

[Reply](#)



poop • 1 month ago (#comment-663274)

even if Atheist, Jewish and Christian views are just as bad that dose not make it OK that most Muslims have these veiws

[Reply](#)



Rebekah • 1 month ago (#comment-663386)

“There is virtually not a single Atheist, Jewish or Christian suicide bomber in history. Nobody of these faiths / non-faith would get the stupid idea to blow themselves up”.

The above from Gregor Lammer : This above statement of yours is totally untrue! There are extremist people and a variety of groups that have used terror/suicide particularly and this does not belong to the Islamic Jihadist mantra alone... The history of such groups or and/persons has been presented to an extent: but here are a few who have: Another frequently examined precedent is that of Japanese Kamikaze pilots in World War II: There are, for example, those who have immolated themselves to protest government actions and wars. A most recent example is that of Malachi Ritscher, a Chicago musician who immolated himself on November 3, 2006 to protest the war in Iraq. And, don't forget Timothy McVeigh and his sidekick who were willing to die for their delusional cause (they came out of the bible belt)-and managed to kill/or and maim several US citizens in 1993 or 95 was it (the Oklahoma bombing)!! The world leader in suicide terrorism is the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka – they're a Marxist group, a secular group, a Hindu group. The Tamil Tigers have committed more suicide terrorist attacks than Hamas or Islamic Jihad both. Instead, what more than 95 percent of all suicide terrorist attacks since 1980 have in common is not religion, but a specific secular goal: to compel modern democracies to withdraw military forces from the territory the terrorists view as their homeland. From Lebanon to Chechnya to Kashmir to Sri Lanka to the West Bank, every suicide terrorist campaign since 1980 has had as its main objective to compel a democratic state to withdraw combat forces from territory that the terrorists prize.

[Reply](#)



C Braun • 1 month ago (#comment-663483)

Are we conveniently overlooking the so-called “good Christians” who bomb Planned Parenthood clinics and murder doctors and patients there? Absolutely no difference in the violent extremism.

[Reply](#)



Christopher Shaker • 1 month ago (#comment-663537)

I love the false equivalence between mentally ill white people, like the most recent murderer in the Planned Parenthood in Colorado, and Jihadis. That man was convicted of atrocities against animals, too, and was muttering to himself as he shot people. Or, are you contending that ALL Jihadi's are also mentally ill?

I'm not sure that Muslims would like your comparing insane white people to Jihadis



Steve • 1 month ago (#comment-663269)

For God's sake Frances, the only acceptable result to the question should be 0% to either sometimes or always justified. Your position that allows you to "just ask" is why this is getting out of control. Treasuring life – including one's own – over glorifying death, is the difference between what is taught in all other religions.

There will never be lives saved by suicide bombings as demands will never be met by this tactic. So your "just asking" question is not only idiotic but very dangerous.

[Reply](#)



Clayton • 1 month ago (#comment-663273)

Does this mean 94% think rarely, or more often, it would be acceptable? That would mean only 6% think it would never be acceptable.

[Reply](#)



Shoab • 1 month ago (#comment-663114)

99% of Afghans favor Sharia to be the law of the country??

Such a conclusion is definitely wrong and dangerously misleading.

Let's forget about the impossibilities of conducting reliable surveys in a highly insecure country like Afghanistan, I wonder in what context the researchers asked people about Sharia and who were the respondents. Before this survey, Pew should have conducted a research to find out what percentage of Afghans really understand Sharia's stand on issues like state, government and public law. A large majority of normal afghan people perceive Sharia merely as a holey part of Islam, without understanding what it exactly says about a system of state. Therefore, it is very possible to get a "yes" answer when one asks an ordinary person in the street "do you want Sharia to rule?". The same person will also say "yes", if one asks him "do you like democracy to be the systems of your government?".

[Reply](#)



steve • 1 month ago (#comment-663257)

I do need to ask, what exactly are the Afgans used to. I believe Taliban did rule before the US went in. Are they based on Sharia?

[Reply](#)



Justin McCarthy • 1 month ago (#comment-663096)

A core problem is Salafism and Wahhabism within Islam which are reform movements or return to a fundamental, the correct, or pure Islam promoting living in a manner consistent with the the Prophet Mohammed and the first Muslims (the pure ones or “best” examples of how to live the true Islam for Muslims). Note that much of the money flowing into the United States and the world to promote Islam and support Islamic Mosques flows from Saudi Arabia or Salafist sources.

Read the history of Mohammed and compare his words and deeds to those of Jesus, Buddha, Baha’u’llah, the founder of the Bahai faith, or Patanjali’s work “How to Know God” in yogic philosophy. Or, even read the works of Rumi a Sufi Muslim mystic. Read their concepts versus Mohammed’s and draw your own conclusions.

Google and watch the speech by the current President of Egypt regarding Islam’s need to not be such a threat to the rest of the world and look closely at the response of the Islamic clerics.

Islam like many religions began to be influenced by other religions as it expanded. However, there was a successful rejection of what were considered “innovations”.

Visit the Gatestone Foundation website and read up on a new reform movement of Muslims who wish to reform Islam in terms of its compatibility with secular values and other religions. So there are indications that many Muslims understand the challenges within their religion.

Read up on the concept of “Abrogation” in Islam in which the later words of Mohammed are deemed to supersede earlier teachings if there is a conflict or inconsistency. Unfortunately many of the “Sword” verses are later teachings. This appears to be a significant theological and philosophical challenge vis a vis other religions and a Muslim reformation process.

Also, understand that Islam has a concept of deception in regards to dealings with other religions which may or may not influence how Muslims respond to the PEW surveys.

We are going to be dealing with Islam for a long time. Educate yourself.

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663223)

friend, I hope you try sincerely to get a balanced view about the matter. please visit the blog of professor Juan Cole “the informed comment”. you will do yourself and the readers a good service. cheers!

[Reply](#)



Clayton • 1 month ago (#comment-663280)

I wouldn’t want to rely on the perspective of one living person. I started reading about the coming Islamic Invasion back in the early 1990’s from a book by Dr. Robert Morey. The Quran speaks for itself, and it’s not a pretty picture, nor are the activities of many modern day Muslims.

[Reply](#)

**Chris** • 1 month ago (#comment-663351)

Juan Cole is financed by Wahabbis, as are most Middle East Studies programs at colleges and universities. Any leftist is going to side with islam against Christianity and the United States and its principles. Muslims are allowed to lie to shield themselves from scrutiny. Their prophet said, "War is deceit." Islam is in a perpetual state of war with non-muslims (dar al-Harb vs dar al-Islam). Their idea of "peace" is not the same as Western thinking. Muslims see peace as when the whole world is converted or brought into submission to Islam.

[Reply](#)**layman** • 1 month ago (#comment-663455)

balanced view implies you listen to people on both sides then you try your best to reach an honest conclusion. citing professor Cole in my comment is just an effort to open your eyes to the other side. it is up to you to embrace any creed or dogma you like but, please, maintain integrity and do not tarnish the whole nation or group of people just because you do not like them.

as for lying, I will leave it for you to imagine this and decide for yourself whether you would lie if you were living couple of centuries ago and were in the hands of witch-hunters in Salim, or in the middle ages and were in the custody of the inquisition office in Spain

[Reply](#)**Narendran Cp** • 1 month ago (#comment-663439)

Patanjali's god is not spelt with an upper case 'G'. The reason is very simple: his god/s never gave a divine command such as 'ye shall have no other gods before me'.

[Reply](#)**A. Turan** • 1 month ago (#comment-663094)

I have been raised as sunni muslim . Muslims rate westerns as immoral because their morals mostly around woman sexuality. If you cover woman, pray 5 times and fast during Ramadan, you are a good muslim. Otherwise everything is alright. In Turkey majority of conservatives vote for Erdogan. They accept he corrupted government but says he steals but hard working and probably will use that money for muslims..See it is very easy to justify their religion.

[Reply](#)**Chris** • 1 month ago (#comment-663352)

Explains why they would vote for Obama or Hillary Clinton.

[Reply](#)



theBuckWheat • 1 month ago (#comment-663087)

You cannot understand the Muslim worldview and mindset until you accept that they believe that the Koran is the word of God in a far more strict sense than any fundamentalist Christian might. Muslims are told that nobody can question the meaning of a passage in the Koran. Any Muslim who says in public that they disagree with a passage marks himself as an apostate who is worth of death, knowing that other faithful Muslims will then be obligated to murder him to protect the honor of Islam.

If we demand that Muslims must give up the idea that they must slay the unbeliever as a condition of living in western liberal societies, we are asking them to declare themselves to be apostate and worthy of death, which in itself is ironic.

The same goes for the requirement to assimilate into western society.

Islam is fundamentally hostile to liberal western values. That will be true for as long as it is a capital offense to disagree with the plain words of the Koran.

[Reply](#)



anakbetawi • 1 month ago (#comment-663175)

Hmm – this is a typical, ill informed, megaphonic view of Islam. The first sentence is a fair comment, but the rest is sheer nonsense and only “makes sense” to someone who knows nothing of Islam. Muslims debate the meaning of the Qur’an all the time! There are entire conferences devoted to it! It is by no means written in “plain words”, but a complex document written in an archaic and florid literary style, which enables a great deal of leeway in its interpretation, not dissimilar to the Bible or the Torah. What is not debated is whether it is the literal word of God, as conveyed through Mohammed. Few Muslims would argue that it is otherwise. Death by apostasy is only a risk in a very small percentage of Islamic theocracies – notably Saudi Arabia, Iran, and some of the more remote and lawless parts of Africa, but even there it is rarely carried out. It is hardly a risk in the majority of the Islamic world, providing you don’t make a public point of announcing it. Discretion would certainly be the better part of valor in that context. Assimilation into Western society typically occurs with second generation immigrants – do not expect first generation immigrants to do as you do. Would you immediately adopt the shalwar kameez and learn Urdu if you emigrated to Pakistan? Probably not, but your kids might. Most second and subsequent generation Muslims are a highly integral part of society – no less so than any other group with distinct cultural traits, of which there are very many in the United States. As with most things, reality is much more nuanced – a concept that conservatives often seem to struggle with.

[Reply](#)



ForemanJF1 • 1 month ago (#comment-663197)

Good retort. However, this still sounds like a theocratic restriction of 1A free speech rights.”... providing you don’t make a public point of announcing it.” With regards to challenging of a teachings interpretation or meaning... within these Muslim theocracies.

So that is still a fundamental compatibility issue.

[Reply](#)



Michael • 1 month ago (#comment-663232)

Yes, there are some debates as to the passages; however, the book does claim to be clearly laid out in its meaning: Quran 11:1 “(This is) a Book, with verses basic or fundamental (of established meaning), further explained in detail,- from One Who is Wise and Well-acquainted (with all things)”; 12:1 “These are the symbols (or Verses) of the perspicuous Book.” 26:2 “These are verses of the Book that makes (things) clear.” And many others.

[Reply](#)



Steve • 1 month ago (#comment-663261)

I would like to ask you then, which Koran are you talking about, the original or the revised that came out after mohammed’s death? It is a fact that the koran has changed, although many leaders will deny it. I am not attacking the koran, simply saying it is changed.

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663469)

Steve,

It would be very helpful to cite the source which confirm your assumption that Quran has changed after the death of Muhammed.

[Reply](#)



mach37 • 1 month ago (#comment-663338)

If I were to immigrate to Pakistan, or any other country, I would do my best to learn the local language and customs and live by them. Even if my immigration was involuntary, for simple survival I would do those things. What turns off most Westerners is the apparent reluctance of Muslims to assimilate into cultures that they have moved into.

[Reply](#)



Chris • 1 month ago (#comment-663357)

It is often second generation muslims who choose the orthodox, and what Westerners call “radical”, islam. Not always though, as we saw from the jihadi woman who slaughtered Christians in San Bernardino. There is also the Times Square bomber; another Pakistani, and refugees like the Tsarnayev brothers. The guy in Idaho who claimed to be a Christian to gain access to the US.

[Reply](#)



Clayton • 1 month ago (#comment-663286)

I agree with most of what you say, especially regarding Muslims. Now, your comment about Christians and what they believe in: I'm assuming you're referring to the Holy Bible. Since the age of 12 yrs. when I was "born-again" (John 3:3) I have believed that the Bible is the word of God, not the same god as inspired the Quran.

[Reply](#)



Mark • 1 month ago (#comment-663323)

The 'Quran teaches them it's okay to lie, so how do the Pew people know if the Muslims they polled were lying? Interesting, eh?

[Reply](#)



Chris • 1 month ago (#comment-663354)

Outstanding summation BuckWheat.

[Reply](#)



Peter • 1 month ago (#comment-663401)

@anakbetawi @theBuckWheat

There are radical differences between Islamic and Christian interpretation of revelation. The differences are anthropological as much as theological and present themselves historically and temperamentally.

The Islamic conviction is that the Qur'an and Sunnah comprise the complete and final revelation of Allah, and that interpretation (tafsir) is done primarily by *taqlid*, or following a scholar. The practice of *ijtihad*, or independent scholarly reasoning all but died a millennium ago. Many prevailing interpretations of the Qur'an are rightly seen as highly legalistic, further muddled by the concept of abrogation or Naskh (نسخ). A core Islamic conviction is that Allah's will is ultimately a mystery.

Christianity is in stark contrast. Their core conviction is that God reveals Himself as a man; born, died, and resurrected in first century AD. In this, they see God and His will as intimately knowable. Their scripture presents itself as a grand narrative, a textual representation of the Word, and the beauty and wisdom of the cosmos as a material representation. The essence of God, as seen by traditional Christianity is a mystery, but his energies, or material revelations, may be experienced.

Christians and Muslims alike have struggled with the apparent contradictions in their traditions, theology, and lived experience. Most of the West is utterly ignorant of Islam, its leaders included. It seems that the same may be said of Christianity. The dual ironies seem that when (nominally) Christian societies fail to follow their religious proscriptions, Bad Things® happen. When Muslim societies follow theirs...

[Reply](#)



Dr Noswal • 1 month ago (#comment-663068)

Shariah is good? Go to youtube nad search for "Woman stoned to death". If you dare.

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663224)

I can't imagine a serious debate is based on youtube search! furthermore, do you accept that fanatic militia-men in the southern bible belt represent the American way of life or they are the embodiment of the constitution of United States?

[Reply](#)



Gregor Lammer • 1 month ago (#comment-663228)

the KKK is truly a minority.

check and see how many muslims according to the statistics support the sharia. 99% in Afghanistan. Thats not just a minority.

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663250)

What Sharia law means to Afghani country man is different of what you perceive. give it a thought.

[Reply](#)



mach37 • 1 month ago (#comment-663341)

Do you KNOW what sharia means to Gregor, vs what it means to an Afghani man? Give THAT a thought.



Dr Noswal • 1 month ago (#comment-663064)

I don't think Americans hate or are fearful of Islam or Muslims. But they don't want to commit suicide to prove how open and accepting they are. Look at the Tsarnaev family, they came here as persecuted immigrants. They took public assistance, schooling, housing, etc., and all the while planned to kill. As did the Farook family in Ca.

A free society is not compatible with Islam and Sharia.

I know that the vast majority of Americans will still welcome anyone who wants to come here to become Americans, but not those who want to turn America into the Caiphate.

We should help them by creating a safe zone in their region, and let them "shelter in place".

I am educated, in my mid 60's, and love the USA.

[Reply](#)



itsme • 1 month ago (#comment-663138)

I agree with what you say.

[Reply](#)



Jeff • 1 month ago (#comment-663162)

I feel like a major conclusion of the data presented is that Islam can be compatible with a free society. One of the reasons time and effort is invested in aggregating statistics is that you are forced to look beyond the sensationalized case studies and think critically about what motivates an entire group of people. To list two families and then claim that an entire religious group is incompatible with a free society is a disingenuous generalization, and further more it defeats the whole point of this article.

I am smart more often than I am stupid, much younger than you are, and am considerably well hung.

[Reply](#)



Ellen • 1 month ago (#comment-663216)

Nice.

[Reply](#)



Welliam • 1 month ago (#comment-663236)

Ditto...

[Reply](#)



F.R. Newbrough • 1 month ago (#comment-663047)

I have no personal animus towards Muslims. I've worked with many Muslims and I even have a female friend who converted to Islam whose wedding I attended. I've never in my time working with Muslims heard them promote violence in anyway though in my friend who converted she became very sympathetic to Hamas and somewhat anti-Semitic after converting. I also spent some time studying Islam as well as other religions in college. I'm by no means an expert on every detail of Islam but there is a BIG glaring difference in Islam compared to most other religions and that is the promotion of killing in the service of religion as general practice. The prescription is fairly consistent, you insult or commit blasphemy against "Muhammad" and or Allah you are to be executed, you commit apostasy (leave the religion) you are to be executed. Recently in Saudi Arabia (the birth place of most of the 9-11 attackers) a 20 year old man was sentenced under Sharia Law to death for apostasy. He had renounced his faith and tore up a Quran hitting it with a shoe. This is not an abnormal thing in Islamic countries. This illustrates exactly the incompatibility of Islam with the West. Its not that all Muslims are bad but its also true that the vast majority support the idea and goal of implementing Sharia law in their new host societies not just for themselves but ultimately for everyone. The Quran is not just the "Good news" of Islam to be accepted freely to achieve salvation in the afterlife it is a revolutionary tome meant to transform and unite all in a worldwide Caliphate governed under Sharia. While there are many Muslims who do not wish to be ruled under Sharia or Caliphate only a fool could deny that those things are core features not exceptions of Islam. I personally believe we should exclude any and all refugees that are sympathetic or support Sharia or Caliphate and terrorism to accomplish those goals. Refugees and Immigrants should have to pass an interrogation including a lie detection test to determine if they support such things and a zero tolerance rule should be applied. We CAN NOT be importing people who believe killing people because of cartoon insults is normal. The people we want as immigrants and refugees are people who want to ESCAPE sharia and the nut jobs pronouncing death sentences on Pregnant women who renounce Islam.

[Reply](#)



anakbetawi • 1 month ago (#comment-663177)

Lots of nonsense being spoken here. Saudi should never be held up as a poster child for Islam as a whole. It is an extremist theocracy with extremist views and an extremist legal system, supported solely by the West's addiction to oil. If we chose not to support them by buying our oil elsewhere, they would disappear from the world stage overnight. While it's true that the majority (about 70%, not the VAST majority) of Muslims would prefer to be judged by Sharia law, the VAST majority (and now I mean >90%) would not be adversely affected by it at all. It is not an arbitrary system, and like most of us, they would not be subject to prosecution unless they did something criminal! While the VAST majority (and now I'm talking 98%) of American citizens are non-Muslim, it is absolutely a non-issue. No Muslims support implementing Sharia law to rule non-Muslim-dominated societies, since it is a religious legal system and isn't intended for that purpose. There are several highly populous Muslim majority countries with secular governments (Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia) which do not care to implement Sharia law, because it would require parallel legal systems – one for Muslims and one for non-Muslims, with all the associated cost and overhead.

[Reply](#)



steve • 1 month ago (#comment-663264)

The muslim would not be affected by sharia law, but the believer in Jesus Christ sure would. This is the distinction between Christianity and Islam. One has a God that they need only to believe in with all their heart and they attain salvation, the other one has a god that they need to work for, to earn their salvation if it is gods will. I believe this is the simple reason so many turn to Christ when they learn of Gods love.

[Reply](#)



Pat • 1 month ago (#comment-663361)

You should check your facts before you make a comment. Indonesia and Malaysia recognize Sharia for many cases (divorce, apostasy, family, inheritance) for Muslims (the vast majority of citizens). Islam is the state religion in Malaysia and only Muslims can be Malays. A large part of Malaysia recognizes Sharia as the law of the land and states have the power to implement it. In the UK, muslim communities are seeking the implementation of Sharia for sharia based cases (such as family issues), thereby creating a dual system. Another point, in statistics, 70% represents a vast majority, highly significant, since 50% is the threshold.

[Reply](#)



Clayton • 1 month ago (#comment-663297)

Very well written. Also, since Taqiyya , or deceiving, is taught in the Quran even a lie-detector test may not be enough. So, they should be monitored for a period of time.

[Reply](#)



AI Maki • 1 month ago (#comment-663046)

The key point for me is the one about birth rates. I recall reading a study that said the best indicator of the rate of violence in a society was the percentage of unemployed young males. Having lots of children in countries with almost no economic opportunities is a recipe for violence and in my view the primary cause of problems in the middle east today. Until birth rates in Muslim countries come down the spiral of desperation and violence will continue. But there's no motivation to bring them down so the violence will go on.

[Reply](#)



Dr. Ahmed • 1 month ago (#comment-663034)

American Muslims are Americans, Russian Muslims are Russians, Indian Muslims are Indians and so on just like Russian Christians, German Christians and American Christians. Some beliefs are shared and yet different. American Muslims are different than American Muslim immigrants. Just like it if the religion was Christian. Please note that the above information in the article is about ISLAM and that does not mean that other groups around the world don't have the goods and bads as well. The media over expose the criminal and terrorist actions by Islamic terrorists yet under cover such actions done by Christian or Jewish terrorists or any other groups. Yet, the numbers killed by non Muslim Terrorists is much greater than those killed by the former. Terrorists are our enemies so we can't side with any terrorist or any criminal group for political or cultural gains.

[Reply](#)



Caitlin • 1 month ago (#comment-663129)

Please try to find me statistical evidence on here, and show me of the most recent 27,000 acts of terror committed world-wide (just because we need a cut-off point somewhere) that shows any of it committed in the name of Judaism or Christianity. And let me remind you, not the religious background of the suspect, but where the religion was the motive to commit the atrocity. Done in the name of the murderer's religion. Done for that religion's advancement. I have a hard time finding any of that hardcore evidence anywhere of Judeo-Christian 'Jihad' terrorism (if any) out-weighting Islamic terrorism whenever that statement is brought up. Please help me understand your line of reasoning.

[Reply](#)



Dr. Ahmed • 1 month ago (#comment-663029)

i am an American Muslim, devoted, and studied ISLAM. The U.S. is my country and my home and most of my friends are not Muslims. I am a strong believer in the American way of life, yet I never had any conflict with Sharia Law. I believe that the American constitution and Sharia Law are parallel and guarantee human rights, peace, equality and social justice. That is the reason ISLAM spread so fast around the world 1400 years ago during the most savage and lawless time in human history where killing people was a sport all around the globe. Yet, some people like Trump may quote parts of the U.S. Constitution out of context to promote their hate to others. You can't describe global population in few numbers mentioned above. But we can say that bad people are bad, good people are good regardless of ideology or religion.

[Reply](#)



John M Coffey • 1 month ago (#comment-663060)

It would be interesting to see how the Constitution & Sharia law are parallel, except that they are law? Your definition of human rights, peace, equality & social justice would enlighten & help understand your comment.

[Reply](#)



steve • 1 month ago (#comment-663265)

Great point, sharia is intended for muslims, while our constitution is for everyone.

[Reply](#)



anonymous • 1 month ago (#comment-663288)

No, no, no , you're understating is not entirely accurate. Actually, it's for everyone on this earth including you and me, whether we like it or not. That's the ultimate goal of the majority of Muslims as this survey clearly shows. Islam means total submission to Allah, Muhammad, and now his Caliphate Al-Bagdadi of IS. Who appointed him? Allah did. Allah is some sort of I-do-not-really-know-what thing, and Muhammad is dead, and therefore, it's the duty of the Caliphate and his decibels to subdue the earth. This is main-stream Muslim thought, not only advocated by the terrorists, but by the "Think Tank" of the Muslim Brotherhood which originated in Egypt in the 1930s. And that organization is all over the world.

[Reply](#)



Phil • 1 month ago (#comment-663072)

"The American Constitution and Sharia Law are parallel?" Really? You actually think that? Sharia Law flies in the face of the 1st Amendment completely. I would say that American Constitution and Sharia Law are obtuse at best. Please do yourself and others a favor and read the Bill of Rights. I mean what the hell...! Only Muslims choose to follow Sharia Law. So basically what your saying is that we could replace the US Constitution right now....but.....everyone would have to convert! Just stop. Please.

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663230)

Man fears what he ignores!

reading few pages about Sharia laws written by an ill-informed, academic-like sources negates your genuine search for authentic knowledge.

Sharia, in a nutshell, is a comprehensive set of principles yet dynamic enough to accommodate changes of time and cultures. those who interpret these principles are by the end of the day are humans and vulnerable to all human ills. claims by this or that to be the only source of Sharia's understanding is baseless.

Please keep seeking the other point of view and the truth shall free you!

[Reply](#)



Clayton • 1 month ago (#comment-663388)

So, am I correct in assuming this dynamic Sharia law now no longer equates a Muslim man's testimony to two Muslim women's testimonies and a multitude of infidel men's testimonies.

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663479)

Regarding testimonial equivalency. what you referred to is applicable mainly to Business and financial activities. Centuries ago it was very uncommon for women to be involved in these jobs, this limited their skills in this field. the confusion stems from copying what has been prevalent at that time and applying it now.

indeed, in many areas woman's testimony was regarded as more relevant and higher in the scale than man's one, such as questions pertaining to family matters and women's affairs where an absent, busy man has no clue.

for the "infidel's" testimony, again the issue at hand is what type of testimony and the status of this person in terms of his alliance to the state where the law is applied. However, most of this discussion belongs to the realm of the "ever-changing" not the "written-in-stone".



A. Turan • 1 month ago (#comment-663105)

I am raised as Turkish sunni Muslim. 98% of Turks are muslim but constitution is secular and not based on Sharia LAW at least for now. Sheria Law is based on Quarn and Muhammad sunnah or teachings. These teachings currently are not even justifiable in a country with majority muslim like Turkey. I had a laugh when you said USA constitution and Sheria Law are compatible. Let's start; a) man can marry with multiple woman in specific circumstances-in practice tough these circumstances very open for justification b) if you are a girl only your brothers can get a sharing from parent's wealth c) woman cannot leave their marriage without husband's will . Our exemplary profit Muhammad married to his step son's (ZayD's) wife but a bit scared at first from people's reaction. Then the GOD sent the verse in Quran to make it easy for him. Open the Quran and find the Al-Ahzab Verse No:37." Say to the person to whom you and God have granted favor, "Keep your wife and have fear of God. You hide within yourself what God wants to make public. You are afraid of people while it is God whom one should fear." When Zayd set her free, We gave her in marriage to you so that the believers would not face difficulties about the wives of their adopted sons when they are divorced. God's decree has already been issued."

For non-believers, Quran has many conflicting information. In one verse says leave the nonbelievers alone in another killing them would bring you heaven & so on..Finally Jihad-Greater jihad and lesser. Jihad justify killing to spread your religion. Let's be honest here about our religion muslims.

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663231)

I wonder if this comment is truly written by a “Turkish sunni Muslim”. Many knowledge gaps are there in the stories and “facts” provided. They may appeal to those who are unfamiliar with Quran and Muhammed’s life, but a fair dialogue needs authenticity and better efforts to find more about what you attack.

[Reply](#)



sweetie23 • 1 month ago (#comment-663124)

You’ve studied Islam and consider it peaceful? Tell us then, just how many war verses there are compared to peaceful ones. Equality? Flat out lie. If you really think Islam is about equality, I’ve got a bridge in Brooklyn to sell to you. Tell us all about the jizya you people levy on those that are non Muslims, then tell us how ‘equal’ we all are. AND – your religion does most certainly speak of the 72 virgins in heaven. Tell me something, that sounds great if you’re a man – what happens to you if you’re a woman, hm?

Tell us how many times the story of Exodus is retold in the Koran – Mohammed really liked that story huh? Tell us how you’re allowed to lie to further the goals of Islam, right up to and including denying Mohammed himself if it’s necessary. It’s WRITTEN in your own religion that you can, funny how you people always seem to skip that part though.

The very word “Islam” means “to submit” and “Muslim” means “the submitted.” Funny, that doesn’t sound very peaceful to me right off the bat. Also, since you know SO MUCH about Islam, please tell everyone how many times a day you’re supposed to pray – as in, WHERE IS IT WRITTEN? In the Koran? The hadithes? The answer is, you don’t know, because it’s not written down anywhere in your false religion. They usually tell people around 5 times a day maybe? The truth is, you and the rest of the Muslims have absolutely no idea how many times you’re supposed to pray to get into heaven.

Your ‘god’ is not the Christian God of the Bible. If He was, then he would be contradicting Himself left and right when you compare the Koran and the hadithes to the Christian Bible. God’s names are listed in the Bible – “Allah” is not one of them, nor is it found in any of the translations.

Everything I have said here can be proven if people care enough to do the research. Don’t fall for the Muslim lies!

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663233)

sweetie23,
please by a copy of English translation of the Quran and read it for yourself instead of making short cut in trying to approach the field of comparative religion. you will have a clearer view and stronger argument.

[Reply](#)



itsme • 1 month ago (#comment-663139)

You may have citizenship but you are not American. You said it yourself. If you were American you would call yourself a muslim American. Instead you refer to yourself as an American muslim. So no, you don't get it. You're not part of it. You're just a dam tourist. Oh one last thing, "No" sharia law is not compatible with the Constitution of the United States of America.

[Reply](#)



anonymous • 1 month ago (#comment-663272)

"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the one who cannot read them." - Mark Twain

I better read that constitution again, because my memory is failing here: So the US constitution imposes flogging, amputations, stoning, and beheading in public as the folks emerge from church? Does it also behead apostates who have a dose of common sense to question myths, superstitions, and lies in the Bible? Or, my daughter will get half the inheritance while my son gets twice as much? and I can also marry 4 wives? And when I divorce them, yeah those four wives, I can marry 4 more, AND keep the children and throw out the wives on the street with nothing? And a woman can't be in the jury box because she's only half the man and her memory is too weak and she's not that smart AS the man? And the wife must be obedient to her husband and follow his lead? How about this one? This constitution of ours is very interesting now that I am learning about it from the enlightened: that my wife is filthy when she's having her monthly time, she can't pray, go to church, or touch the bible? And this is the one I really like: she can't leave the house without my permission and guardianship? ... I had no idea this was in the US constitution. I feel so enlightened. I am so proud of this constitution.

[Reply](#)



anonymous • 1 month ago (#comment-663276)

The US constitution and Sharia law are indeed parallel: they never meet. Just because you believe something, it doesn't make so. For, there is a huge distinction between belief and truth. A good book my help in this regard, it's abstruse philosophy though: Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding by Hume. Your parallelism is an oxymoron, just like the miracle of reason.

[Reply](#)



Clayton • 1 month ago (#comment-663300)

You certainly haven't convinced me. What does Sharia require in the relationship between a husband and his wife? ...all of it!

[Reply](#)



mach37 • 1 month ago (#comment-663342)

The First Amendment is totally opposite to what the Koran teaches. The Koran is so schizophrenic, it is hard to find a verse that doesn't conflict with itself between the opening passages and the concluding passages.

[Reply](#)



Dolph Bowers • 1 month ago (#comment-663007)

Some comments say this has addressed Sharia law but I don't read that here. Feels like Sharia law is the elephant in the room.

[Reply](#)



Kari • 1 month ago (#comment-663032)

This report is small. Pew did a large study which contains 226 pages in 2013. You can view part of the study from this website or you can download the .pdf which contains all of the study results. The 2013 study does contain information on sharia law in detail.

Report entitled: The World's Muslims: Religion, Politics and Society. Report dated: April 30, 2013.

[Reply](#)



Dolph Bowers • 1 month ago (#comment-663006)

I confess, I know little about Muslims. I would like to understand Sharia Law. Once thing seems clear and that is difficult to find a reputable source for this.

From the little I've read, it does appear that Sharia law is in conflict with our laws, and violent.

I don't feel this article addresses Sharia Law.

There is so much fear now, and it is difficult to determine the truth.

I wish Pew would address this.

[Reply](#)



Sadia • 1 month ago (#comment-663052)

Having just written a research paper in Sharia law, I may be able to offer a little insight. Sharia literally means “the way” in Arabic, thus it is the way of God, or his divine will. That divine will encompasses the basic concepts of justice and equality for Muslims. Fiqh, on the other hand is the human attempt to interpret and understand sharia. Muslim jurists attempt to use primary sources(Quran), secondary sources, and the consensus of the community to agree upon Islamic law or fiqh. Because interpretation is involved, and because legal derivation is a human construct, there is room for error and need for change. There is no such thing as one universal Islamic law being applied in every single Muslim nation, and most Muslim majority nations have multiple legal systems and civil courts. Sharia law is no more in conflict with democracy as Canonical laws are, however fiqh, as implemented in some countries can be viewed as patriarchal and predated.

Here are some sources that I am deriving my post from:

Islamism and Islam by Bassam Tibi

Muslim Women’s Quest for Equality: Between Islamic Law and Feminism by Ziba Mir-Hosseini

Sharia Incorporated: A Comparative Overview of the Legal Systems of Twelve Muslim Countries in Past and Present edited by Jan Michiel Otto

I hope this helps on your road to understanding one aspect of Islamic jurisprudence, thank you for attempting to understand.

[Reply](#)



Wri7913 • 1 month ago (#comment-663053)

For those looking for information on Sharia Law and what it states, check out a book called “Reliance of the Traveller” which describes in detail. It is the authoritative book on Sharia for Muslims who are non-arabic speaking and speak English.

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663237)

the book you are referring to is written the 14th century. it deals mostly with one school of thought in sunni islamic laws “Shafei school”. you may need to read further in more recent books and Sadia’s comment above is a sure help.

[Reply](#)



BBC • 1 month ago (#comment-662983)

Can you imagine any “religion” where 14% of followers (14 out of 100.... 140,000 out of 1,000,000, etc) condone violence against civilians? What can possibly justify this?

[Reply](#)



MF • 1 month ago (#comment-663077)

No justification. But I can imagine another “religion” whose followers condone violence against civilians. I don’t have any percentages but I know too many “christians” who believe that Israel is completely justified in killing any/all Palestinain civilians. I was told that “God’s chosen people can do whatever they want, they will answer to God in the end” Pretty sick if you ask me.

[Reply](#)



A. Turan • 1 month ago (#comment-663110)

I absolutely agree! Majority muslims are not Arabic and follow an idolized version of Islam. Quran is written in Arabic and muslims pray in Arabic even tough they do not know Arabic. They just memorize the words or learn decoding in Arabic. So they do not understand any word of it. My mom prays 5 times a day with purest feelings. The other day she confessed” I do not want to read Quran in Turkish because I am afraid I can lose my faith. ” She tried reading a few verse & was very disappointed with the true meanings of them. Therefore thanks GOD majority of muslims does not understand Quran. Otherwise, those numbers would be even more. The ones who understand & internalize word of Quran began to be radicalized. Have you thought why Arab muslims are the ones more fundamentals than others in general? That is why.. they understand the QURAN at a very young age and internalize it.

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663238)

Sorry to say this. it is quite opposite to what we just said. those radicals who attacked innocent people in coffee-shops and theaters in Paris lately were all French-raised and educated. I guess if they were raised bay a kind Turkish mother like yours and were well-educated about their religion they would have been quite different

[Reply](#)



TP • 1 month ago (#comment-662968)

1.8 million of 2.7 million Muslims in US are adults.

In the United States, a 2011 survey found that 86% of Muslims say that such tactics are rarely or never justified. An additional 7% say suicide bombings are sometimes justified and 1% say they are often justified in these circumstances.

7% and 1% of 1.8 million – say that above tactics sometimes justified or often justified.

105,000 and 18,000 Muslims living in US sometimes or often justified.

Did I interpret this incorrectly and what if any concerns and/ or conclusions might be drawn re potential threat if some folks are “radicalized”?

[Reply](#)



John Consiglio • 1 month ago (#comment-663035)

That's a pretty high horse you're riding on...didn't our country drop a couple of gigantic bombs on Japan? I wonder how many Americans thought that was justified? I'd say more than half.

[Reply](#)



Wri7913 • 1 month ago (#comment-663054)

Certainly the bombing was justified. We bombed Dresden Germany and many innocent people were killed but the Germans at that time were the ENEMY.

The same was true with the Japanese who were the ENEMY. We certainly were justified to bomb them to end a bloody war.

[Reply](#)



McG • 1 month ago (#comment-663078)

Their government was the enemy! Not the innocent people that were killed.

[Reply](#)



Jack • 1 month ago (#comment-663085)

You make his point.

[Reply](#)



Clayton • 1 month ago (#comment-663305)

My niece-in-law's grandmother was injured in Hiroshima, but I do believe ending the war as we did saved a million Japanese lives and a quarter million Am. lives.

[Reply](#)



Jeff • 1 month ago (#comment-662958)

Rather than the complete Islamaphobia exhibited by Mr Trump, maybe it is worth considering accepting Muslims but also placing some "reasonable" restrictions on how they practice their religion in America? Such as no Apostasy (I consider that more like gang behavior where they will kill you if you choose to leave a gang; people here should be able to freely choose and change religions), and maybe a few others (I assume somebody has a list of Muslim practices incompatible with U.S. democratic societal norms). We impose restrictions on the Mormons (monogamy, etc). Maybe that would be an acceptable compromise?

[Reply](#)



Wri7913 • 1 month ago (#comment-663055)

We can attempt to place reasonable restrictions on Muslims and their practice of Sharia in the US. It won't matter in the end though because as many terrorists state, they simply don't follow man made law and would rather follow Sharia.

So we have people who commit honor killings because their Mosque tells them its ok. We have people who kill apostates because the Mosque tells them its ok. We have Muslims who commit acts of terror because the Mosque actively encourages them to do so.

Where do you draw the line?

[Reply](#)



steve • 1 month ago (#comment-663266)

Islam, as defined means "complete submission to allah" I guess I qualify as an Islamophobe, because I do fear complete submission to a god I have to work for any salvation if he feels like it.

[Reply](#)



Kerry • 1 month ago (#comment-662938)

Where does Trump's info come from? that 25% of US Muslims justify Jihad-related violence against the US? is it a total lie?

[Reply](#)



Will • 1 month ago (#comment-662997)

Trump's info came from a survey done by the Center for Security Policy. But there are problems with it.

1. The Center is infamous for being an extremist think tank with very negative Muslim views. The founder is known as a misinformation expert, has dabbled in conspiracy theories, and has made false rumors before.
2. Georgetown's Bridge Initiative has stated that the poll was an opt-in online survey. Which, if true, means that pretty much anybody can take the survey. Even non-Muslims.

Sources:

[bridge.georgetown.edu/new-poll-o...](http://bridge.georgetown.edu/new-poll-on-american-muslims-is-grounded-in-bias-riddled-with-flaws/) (<http://bridge.georgetown.edu/new-poll-on-american-muslims-is-grounded-in-bias-riddled-with-flaws/>)

[washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/...](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2015/12/07/donald-trumps-call-to-ban-muslims-from-coming-to-the-u-s-has-a-very-bad-poll-at-its-center/) (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2015/12/07/donald-trumps-call-to-ban-muslims-from-coming-to-the-u-s-has-a-very-bad-poll-at-its-center/>)

[Reply](#)



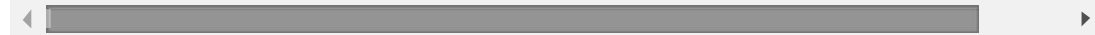
Craig Pennington • 1 month ago (#comment-663017)

It comes from an online opt-in “poll” of 600 self-identified muslims claiming to live in the US commissioned by The Center for Security Policy (run by noted conspiracy theorist Frank Gaffney — see salon.com/2014/10/01/far_right_b...

(http://www.salon.com/2014/10/01/far_right_birthers_secret_funders_look_whos_backing_islamophobe_frank for an idea of exactly how wacky the guy is.)

In addition to the 25% number, said “poll” claims 39% of American Muslims think that US Muslims should not be subject to American courts.

Reply



Kari • 1 month ago (#comment-663033)

Pew did a large study which contains 226 pages in 2013. You can view part of the study from this website or you can download the .pdf which contains all of the study results. It is a very illuminating report. Report entitled: The World’s Muslims: Religion, Politics and Society. Report dated: April 30, 2013.

Reply



Robert • 1 month ago (#comment-662921)

You didn’t think it was relevant to show what percentage of American Muslims want or support sharia and suicide bombings?

Reply



nno • 1 month ago (#comment-662939)

umm... that’s what the whole middle of the report deals with.

Reply



Rudy • 1 month ago (#comment-663026)

The biggest questions for liberal democracies are about Shariah, which defines what tolerance looks like within Muslim-dominated societies, and answers questions about legitimate violence. One source for the missing information is here bit.ly/10uEI8G (<http://bit.ly/10uEI8G>)

Reply



Mohamed • 1 month ago (#comment-662919)

France Gave 72% Favourable views of muslims.From that we can easily understand Why ISIS Targeted Paris.And we already know their next target is London (Britain 64%).And that it will be Germany.

Reply



Pete • 1 month ago (#comment-662914)

Please publish stats on minority % in muslims dominated countries. Hindus, Christians, others are murdered in Pakistan, Bangaldesh, entire Africa and there are almost none in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan etc. Wake up everyone. All other religions need to unite

[Reply](#)



Dowell Myers • 1 month ago (#comment-662912)

What a great set of facts are provided here, both about the count of how many Muslims and where they live, and also their opinions on many matters. Such a range and such clarity! In our current political moment your “fact tank” is a vital resource. Thank you.

[Reply](#)



benross • 1 month ago (#comment-662906)

Dear People of the world,
 People of the world.....
 Do you know the truth about..... Islam?
 Or do you think it's about
 Bombing planes and killing innocent people.....?
 Forget about the lies.....
 I' am here to tell you how it really is.....
 You deserve to know the truth
 About this beautiful way of life.....
 People of the world
 Islam is all about peace
 Terrorism it doesn't teach
 Its all about love and family and charity
 And praying to one God
 This is Islam
 It's something you should know.....
 I know it's really helped me grow
 It does away with greed, filth, arrogance
 And teaches us morality
 A perfect way to live.....
 So don't believe all you see and hear
 Too many people wear a title of a Muslim.....
 But they don't practice Islam.....
 People of the world
 Islam is all about peace
 Terrorism it doesn't teach
 Its all about love and family and charity
 And praying to one God
 This is Islam
 And it teaches us the creator's made this life for us a test.....
 And if we follow truth and do good deeds, He'll reward us in the Next.....
 If we remember God & teach each other the truth and patience in His way
 Together we can live.....in peace.....
 This is Islam
 Please Google Islamic research foundation and visit the FAQ section for answers to questions you may have
 about Islam.
 I am sure that you will find that Islam is a religion of peace, tolerance, justice, kindness, charity, love and
 worshipping one God.
 Best regards.

[Reply](#)



Benito Barres • 1 month ago (#comment-662990)

Christianity is a religion of peace, tolerance, love, forgiveness, charity and worshiping one God. There are some who call themselves Christians who are intolerant and judge others. But it's not for us to judge others. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, but through his son, Jesus who gave his life to cover the sin debt of all mankind, we may be forgiven, and experience eternal life. All we must do is repent and believe in what he did for us. Excepting Christ into one's life changes a person. It fills one's heart with peace, directs us to serve others and strengthens us to withstand the difficulties in life. I know that Islamic customs vary from country to country, and the case can be made that the majority of Muslims are not terrorists who claim that Islam instructs them to wage a holy war on all non-Muslims and kill infidels. However, the majority of peaceful Muslims are not at all vocal in condemning the radical terrorists that are trying to hijack and pervert their religion. In fact for being the majority, there are far fewer peaceful Muslims speaking out than terrorists committing atrocities. I have heard your description of Islam and have no reason to doubt that you believe with all your heart what you are saying, but as a peaceful Muslim can you please explain the following. Why do Muslim women in many countries; Saudi Arabia, Iran, countries in Northern Africa, and Afghanistan, experience such a lack of human rights? Why are they so devalued within these societies? Explain or defend honor killings, stoning for female adulterers and rape victims, killing of homosexuals, using children for sex and the description of the afterlife. Is it based on men being given virgins? So there is no heaven for women? It's difficult for many westerners to understand, and I have heard many supposedly moderate Muslims confirming and condoning these acts.

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663241)

My friend, the last few lines of your comment tell how confused a person might get if he listen to one side of the story, especially "right-winger" side. if it makes you feel better I would keep condemning this horrible lack of rights all the day long. But how can you judge the whole society based on any abhorred act done by some of its members (e.g. honor killing). Is it fair to consider the all American people are bigots based on what we hear everyday from the islamophobic talk-shows or the absurd nonsense of mr. trump? I don't.

[Reply](#)



DelivererofNews • 1 month ago (#comment-663249)

Excellent question and I have an answer...

The Quran does in fact say the man is somewhat over the women but does not state a woman has no rights. Women are to be treated equally as told in the Quran. Now, what you see in Saudi is NOT Islam it is actually a cultural thing! That practice comes from pre-Islamic Bedouin times. Islam states that both men and women need to just dress modestly and don't try to be provocative. Saudi Arabia is the equivalent to Iran in extremeism and should not be made as an example of Islam. They believe in a reformist movement called Wahhab. Anyway, what you see on the news about people getting killed for protests are not because of religion it is culture. Also the mass unemployment, crime, and instability has left many young men angry, hungry and looking for a scapegoat and they turn to the West. I am a Syrian American, born here. My dad is Syrian my mother is a white American. My father explicitly blamed his own culture as backwards and that it is not Islam.

Also, let us not alienate Islam for this. These events have only occurred throughout the last 60 years. People USING religion as an excuse for crimes against humanity are everywhere and are evident in history. The pope allowing the inquisition after the reconquista of Spain. King Mehmet II (who claimed to be ruler of the Muslim world) brutally massacred the people of Constantinople. The Jewish kingdoms of Israel...etc. Leave religions alone, judge the PEOPLE. The more we generalize, the more hatred from both societies increases. If you have any questions I'm happy to answer! Reply or I can give you my email if you'd like

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663435)

you really summed the whole debate in your comment! what we see is more cultural than religious. East and West have their load of historical atrocities, they need to admit courageously their respective responsibility of pain and suffering done to others. However, let us shy away from judging people based on their heritage. you, as Syrian descendent are not responsible for the crimes done to your fellow citizens, the way any American fellow is not responsible for the mass killing of Vietnamese or the drone attacks on poor villagers of Afghanistan while attending a wedding party.
have a pleasant day.

[Reply](#)



Klp • 1 month ago (#comment-662992)

Thank you for your comments. I really want to believe that Islam is a peaceful religion. You must understand that as a woman growing up in the US who sees Muslim women and how they must dress, it's confusing especially when I read about the law of Islam as taught from the Quran. How will this peaceful religion assimilate into American culture? I believe in women's rights and don't see Islam as being peaceful for women.

[Reply](#)



Rudy • 1 month ago (#comment-663016)

Thank you for the testimony, Benross. I would suggest to all that reading the Muslim holy book for themselves is a good way to determine what Islam teaches. Then compare the history of Islam with what you read there.

[Reply](#)



Clayton • 1 month ago (#comment-663311)

Are you saying Allah is the same as the God of Abraham, Jacob and Joseph who said: "This is My beloved Son (Jesus) in whom I am well pleased." If reading this causes a strange feeling in your being, simply say: "God of all creation, guide my path way." And, really mean it!

[Reply](#)



Rae • 1 month ago (#comment-663408)

God is good and his love is real! All you have to do is believe with all your heart and soul to be saved.

[Reply](#)



Michael • 1 month ago (#comment-662904)

From what I'm reading (and the research never gives an overall percent) the percentage of Muslims who view ISIS favorably is about 5 or 6% worldwide. Let's do the math here: 5% of 1.6 billion = 80 million Muslims who view these murderous radicals favorably. That's equal to roughly 10 times the population of New York City. And there's where word play comes in with polls like these to make things seem better than they really are: "Relatively small" numbers or "most... Muslims... have an unfavorable view of ISIS". The list goes on and on.

[Reply](#)



DelivererofNews • 1 month ago (#comment-663253)

Out of how many did you ask? In order to be accurate you need to interview a larger number

[Reply](#)



John Maxwell • 1 month ago (#comment-662902)

You conducted an interesting survey about attitudes of Muslims worldwide, but you did not produce an answer to a very important question — what percentage of the U.S. Muslim population advocates the adoption of Sharia law in the United States? This is very important because Sharia law is antithetical to American constitutional law, as well as maintaining basic human rights, liberty, and religious tolerance. Those U.S. Muslims who advocate the adoption of Sharia law in the United States fundamentally reject the basis of our country.

[Reply](#)



FAHRİ BAHADIR GÜLDİKEN • 1 month ago (#comment-662945)

I think you don't know about Islam or its history. Religious tolerance existed in Islam since the very first moment. Jews, Christians lived freely in Jerusalem (see Saladin), Istanbul during Ottoman Empire, Granada under Sharia etc. In Ottoman every religious group has its own courts & laws for trials between them. Umar (r.a.) one of khalifa of Rashidun (2nd after Prophet Mohammad (pbuh)) visited a church & bishop after capture of Jerusalem etc

[Reply](#)



Jebediah Springfield • 1 month ago (#comment-663011)

And I think you are deliberately not telling the truth.
Religious tolerance has never existed whenever Islam came.
Historically, there has always been Islamic supremacy and discrimination of non-Muslims, in the lands where Muslims ruled.
Defining that some people "lived freely" doesn't mean that the Islamic system was tolerant. Non-Muslims had to pay a special tax (jizya), had to be humiliated, didn't have the right to fix their churches or build new ones, etc.
Islamic religious tolerance is a myth.

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663246)

quick note. If Muslims were not tolerant you would have never seen a single non-Muslim in Islam-dominated countries. They would have vanished the way Jews and Muslims were eradicated from Iberian Peninsula in the Middle Ages.
Are Muslims, everywhere and every time, angels? Certainly not, however they are not mere devils as well.
Why do we see so much intolerance and violence in the Islamic countries these days? That is another story, however, like any multifactorial problem, it can not be ascribed to one cause.
But rest assured that the basic tenet of tolerance is deeply rooted in the most authentic source of Islam, the Quran. Please read it!

[Reply](#)



Derek Bauer • 1 month ago (#comment-663013)

But more importantly, does religious tolerance exist in Muslim countries today? For the most part, no.

[Reply](#)



mach37 • 1 month ago (#comment-663347)

According to the Koran, Christians in particular are allowed to live in Muslim lands only if they pay the “poor tax” and submit themselves to Muslims, and do not build new churches, nor repair old ones as they fall into disrepair. Christians must be submissive to Muslims. The alternative is for them to convert to Islam or Muslims will fight them, whatever that means. It is clear in the Koran.

[Reply](#)



Michael Lipka • 1 month ago (#comment-663048)

Thank you for your question. Our [2011 survey of Muslim Americans](#) did not ask respondents if they favor making sharia the official law of the land in the U.S. You can read more about the methodology and other aspects of our survey of Muslims in this [FAQ](#).

Michael Lipka

[Reply](#)



Hocking Hick • 1 month ago (#comment-663192)

The link to your FAQ doesn't work.

In addition, the question can be distilled down to one: Why did you not ask American Muslims the same questions as Muslims in other countries, including of course, the question on whether Sharia Law should be the law of the land.

[Reply](#)



Bruce Drake • 1 month ago (#comment-663211)

Try this link: pewrsr.ch/1TwSbvI (<http://pewrsr.ch/1TwSbvI>) It works for me

[Reply](#)



Michael Lipka • 1 month ago (#comment-663217)

Here is the full link: [pewforum.org/2013/05/09/the-worl...](http://www.pewforum.org/2013/05/09/the-worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-faq/)
(<http://www.pewforum.org/2013/05/09/the-worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-faq/>)

[Reply](#)



Astral • 1 month ago (#comment-662899)

The CFR estimated in 2012 that there were 2 million to 7 million Muslims living in the U.S. [cfr.org/united-states/muslims-un...](http://www.cfr.org/united-states/muslims-un...) (<http://www.cfr.org/united-states/muslims-united-states/p25927>)

5 million people is one heck of a difference. This article estimated 2.75 for people of all ages. Other articles choose different numbers. But they all admit that since religious data isn't collected by Census, then it's all just a guess.

The truth is they really don't know how many Muslims are living in the U.S.. And honestly, with all the Muslim haters in the world, some for good reason and some not, many Muslims may not admit their faith when asked anyway.

Not to mention that I am 43 years old and have never participated in a single poll that our government and other researchers like to get their figures from, no matter what the poll is for. If you look at much of the so called "research" data that they use, it's usually from a ridiculously small sample of the population and usually twisted to show the results that the researcher desired rather than actual facts.

All of these articles like to throw around so called "facts" like 70% do this and 60% do that. If they don't even know how many there are, then they are just spinning political nonsense trying to sway public opinion. This one quotes a whopping 1,033 people [people-press.org/2011/08/30/muslim...](http://www.people-press.org/2011/08/30/muslim-americans-no-signs-of-growth-in-alienation-or-support-for-extremism/) (<http://www.people-press.org/2011/08/30/muslim-americans-no-signs-of-growth-in-alienation-or-support-for-extremism/>) . 1k out of several million. Just think about how unfounded these percentages really are.

The proof of that is when they try to say that 70% of Muslim's in America are American citizen's. For starters, they don't know that because they don't even know how many are here. In 2012 there was a 5 million person gap in their guesses. Second, it's frightening that they try to say that 70% is a good thing. That means that almost 1/3 of Muslims in the U.S. aren't even citizens. That adds up to millions of people and that is what needs to stop.

I know that Trump's words aren't realistic when it comes to illegal aliens and Muslims, but when you really start to think about how many illegals we have in this country, from all over the world, it is pretty alarming. I personally think that anyone here that has not started the process of becoming a citizen within 1 year of arrival should be deported, regardless of country of origin, race, religion, sex. etc. . if they stop the process at any time, they should be deported as well. I know that the process sometimes takes many years to complete, but if they haven't even begun the process in one year, then they need to go back where they came from, because they are not here to be American citizens, they are here to mooch of the American system.

[Reply](#)



Sam • 1 month ago (#comment-662962)

There are already more than 7 million Muslims living in he USA

[Reply](#)



Johanna Benting • 1 month ago (#comment-663278)

i thank the president is alto to blame on all this fightening and poeple going to war.becuae he lets these muslims and other races into the united states.they behing in disease and take jobs away from the united states people who live here .this world going to hell.becuae of the president .there only one god ,and god doesnt believe in killing,

[Reply](#)



Francis • 1 month ago (#comment-662897)

very sad...Buddhism is dyeing in the world. world is going to hell

[Reply](#)



L. Carlton • 1 month ago (#comment-662894)

For Muslims in America, why does this survey shy away from important questions that Pew asks Muslims in other countries, such as: is Sharia law above national law, must a wife always obey her husband, are you in favor of stoning/dismembering/death for adulterers or homosexuals or apostates, etc. It seems as if this report mainly wants to assuage people's fears about what Muslims believe: for example, it says that a 2011 survey found that 86% of Muslims in the US say that suicide bombings are "rarely or never justified" – but you could also have written that 14% say that suicide bombings are indeed justified. And 14% of 2.75 million (your figure) is 385,000, which to my simple mind sounds like a whole lot.

[Reply](#)



Matt Zale • 1 month ago (#comment-662901)

This is one of the smartest, most poignant posts I've read in a long time

[Reply](#)



Michael • 1 month ago (#comment-662907)

I agree wholeheartedly with your comment. I've noticed that most polls like this use percentages to claim that only a small percent of Muslims favor ISIS or suicide bombings etc..., but real numbers are never shown (most likely in hopes that your average reader will look only at the ratios). It's good that some of us are doing the math and seeing that the situation isn't as flowery as some would have us believe.

[Reply](#)



Wri7913 • 1 month ago (#comment-663057)

15% to 20% of 1.4 billion people is still quite a lot of people to be concerned with.

If the numbers are correct, that would be approximately 300,000 people believe the same views as ISIS. That is the almost equivalent to the current population of the US!!

Not a small number at all!

[Reply](#)



Hocking Hick • 1 month ago (#comment-662909)

You didn't ask the same questions of US Muslims as Muslims residing in other countries.

Why is that?

What is the percentage of US Muslims who believe Sharia should be the law of the land?

It's simple, and it's also evident that you did not want to publicize the answer.

Honesty. How can anyone trust your polls if you knowingly leave some results out in order to skew the results?

[Reply](#)



autumn leaf • 1 month ago (#comment-662922)

ask an american if collateral damages in iraq were important or not...

because america killed thousands of civilians in irak.

so a break with your double standards !

[Reply](#)



Sam • 1 month ago (#comment-662963)

I agree, 40% of Americans think that if civilians die during an invasion is an acceptable loss, that would make the number more than 120,000,000. Double standard much?

[Reply](#)



Rudy • 1 month ago (#comment-663025)

Autumn: No double standard until someone is (a) defending collateral damage, and/or (b) admitting we are at war with Islam. I do not see either of those positions stated above, except you seem to imply the latter by your claim re double standard. Are you taking the position that jihad has been engaged against the West, US, etc?

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663027)

Now it is your turn to tell me.

What percentage of "peaceful" founding fathers condoned the slavery of the "pagan" blacks and the eradication of the "infidel" race of native Americans?

That was a very far history! OK, let us get to 20th century.

Could you tell the percentage of educated, refined Americans who disapproved bombing Japanese civilians with the "trinity" atomic bomb? or those who cared very much about gassing the villagers in rural Vietnam and carpet-bombing of Cambodia country side on the eve of christmas?

It is your house that is of glass!

[Reply](#)



Hocking Hick • 1 month ago (#comment-663061)

And that makes everything ok.

Two wrongs DO make a right.

Thank you for your enlightenment.

/s

[Reply](#)



layman • 1 month ago (#comment-663247)

Sorry, I don't mean to offend anyone in this respected forum. I agree that "two wrongs do NOT make right". all I wanted to say and make clear is that inferences driven from these percentages are misleading. In every nation on earth you will find hate-mongers and xenophobes. cheers!

[Reply](#)



jenlawjen • 1 month ago (#comment-662889)

Alarming. But you have excluded data from India on "Support for Sharia", which as far as other research has found is an outlier (marginal support). Somehow Muslims in India are far more tolerant and cultured than elsewhere. Is it because their Bollywood actors are all Muslims and hence portray an acceptable post modern world to the masses?

[Reply](#)



Indian Guy • 1 month ago (#comment-662911)

Who told you Muslims in India are "far more tolerant and cultured than elsewhere?"

Just a week back, offices of Lokmat newspaper in India were attacked by Muslim mobs for publishing a cartoon about ISIS.

The successive Indian governments led by Congress political party have been consistent Islam appeasers. Out of 14 federal/gazetted holidays in India, 4 are for Muslims (Hindus constituting 80% of population have only two!). Indian muslims have had their haj trip to Mecca subsidised by the Indian tax payers. India was the first country in the world to ban Salman Rushdie's Satanic Verses to placate the protesting Muslims. Muslims already have sharia-based personal laws (marriage, divorce, inheritance) for themselves as part of Indian constitution.

[Reply](#)



Syed Kamal • 1 month ago (#comment-662867)

- a. Besides cultural factors and religious teachings the reason for population growth among Muslims is lack of education and poverty. This has been proven true in population studies that poor and the poorly educated have more offspring.
- b. The shocking thing to me is the level of support for Sharia Law in Muslim majority countries inspite of adverse consequences (loss of freedom of thought and expression, loss of freedom of religion, curtailment of women's and children's rights, bizarre ideas on crime and punishment etc.) of its enactment in at least 2 countries Saudia Arabia and Pakistan.

[Reply](#)



Kat • 1 month ago (#comment-662910)

I would assume this level of support might be a result of fear – maybe survey respondents were afraid that if they said they did not approve, they would be thrown in jail. In these countries, like in the US, the government monitors online and phone conversations. I know a guy who was kicked out of UAE for posting a joke about the government online. Survey respondents may have been afraid to answer truthfully if the survey was administered through any electronic format. If it was administered through a person, they may have not trusted the person to not be from the government or to keep their responses confidential. People would much rather answer a survey untruthfully than be thrown in jail or kicked out of their homes.

[Reply](#)



Sam • 1 month ago (#comment-662964)

That answer is repulsive. Maybe you need to educate yourself about how polls are conducted. People with hate yourself can never bridge communities together.

[Reply](#)



A. Turan • 1 month ago (#comment-663113)

Not In Turkey. people in Turkey would not afraid to answer it because there is not sheria Law but number of Sheria Law supporters increased. After President Erdogan's administration of 13 years, even the most moderate muslims are becoming more religious. In the past Sheria supporters was very low in Turkey. Government had strong preventative measures for this. Now cemaats, kaltz or religios groups are spreading, opening schools, dorms, praying rooms in universities and doctrine very young children. It was forbidden before Erdogan or required a difficult permission process to open up such schools in Turkey.

[Reply](#)



A. Turan • 1 month ago (#comment-663116)

In my opinion, muslims are using your values of freedom and mutual respect to teach Islam and eventually hate. However if you truly understand Islam it has no respect to non-muslims at all. Quran has stories of how non-muslims will be punished & so on. However there needs to be ethnographic serious studies (not surveys) to understand what is the % of muslims do not value non-muslims, hate them, and would support violence against them. I predicts based on my observations of muslim society, numbers would be much higher than this survey results. I am not trying to create a generalization about muslims (because all of my relatives are muslims) but I know many dislike westerns and do not accept western values. This does not mean they support violence are not that crazy yet. Having said that that dislike is reinforced & became stronger by quietness of Westerns countries about Israel and Iraqi war. So, islam itself is problem but this hate is fed by western countries double standards and international policies. I am a muslim born and left my religion recently. Now I am infidel so my interpretations has no value for my muslim friends anymore so does yours! the latter is a summary of Islam.

[Reply](#)



Dallas Montgomery • 1 month ago (#comment-663169)

Thank you – then two peoples can co-exist when one clan is hell bent on killing the other. I'm not sure how that works. Maybe someone can convince some but not I.

My cultural factor is different than any other in the United States much less the rest of the world so I won't even go there.

But on a more important note, I too received religious teachings from a very early age. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Since then we have talks on a regular basis. He's brought me and my family through some tough times and saved my life on numerous occasions. You know, Jesus said, 'I am the way and the truth and the life... No one can come to the Father except through Me.' All you have to do is ask Him to forgive your sins and that you believe He died on the cross for your sins and rose in three days to go and prepare a place in heaven for you. I talk to others about Him and I hope some got through to them. I pray that anyway. I see how some can see the negatives on the population growth among Muslims and blame the lack of education and poverty. My difference is my faith in God over the population studies about the poor. The propaganda any person is subjected to, be is as negative as what the Muslim people are forced to, well I just wished they knew Jesus like do. Maybe if they did there wouldn't have to be adverse consequences (loss of freedom of thought and expression, loss of freedom of religion, curtailment of women's and children's rights, bizarre ideas on crime and punishment etc.) of its enactment in other countries as sharia law expands.

[Reply](#)