



**ISLAM EXPOSED :
FACTS AND MYTHS**

SPRING 2018

OVERVIEW

- VICTORIA UGUR CLARE

 - Pronounced (OOR)

- ugurclare@gmail.com

- Googleclassroom

- Topics:

Basic beliefs and practices, Quran, Prophet, Women in Islam, Jihad, Violence, Terrorism, Sunni and Shia, Sharia, Muslims contributions

MY GOAL

- Restore the truth about Islam
- Interfaith dialogue is no longer a luxury. It's a necessity for peace and harmony
- Christianity, Judaism and Islam make up over 60% of the world population
- "There can be no peace among the nations without peace among the religions. No peace among the religions without dialogue among the religions"

- Hans Kung

TERMINOLOGY

- ISLAM root letters (S L M)
 - Lexical meaning: Submission; Surrender, Purity and Peace
- MUSLIM: One who submits to the will of God
- ALLAH means “the God” (no plural/no gender)
 - the sole God—creator, sustainer, and restorer of the world. NOT A MOON GOD
 - Same God of Abraham, Moses, and Jesus
- MOSQUE is place of worship for Muslims

IS ISLAM A RELIGION?

- Islam is a universal and inclusive religion
- One of the Abrahamic Religions

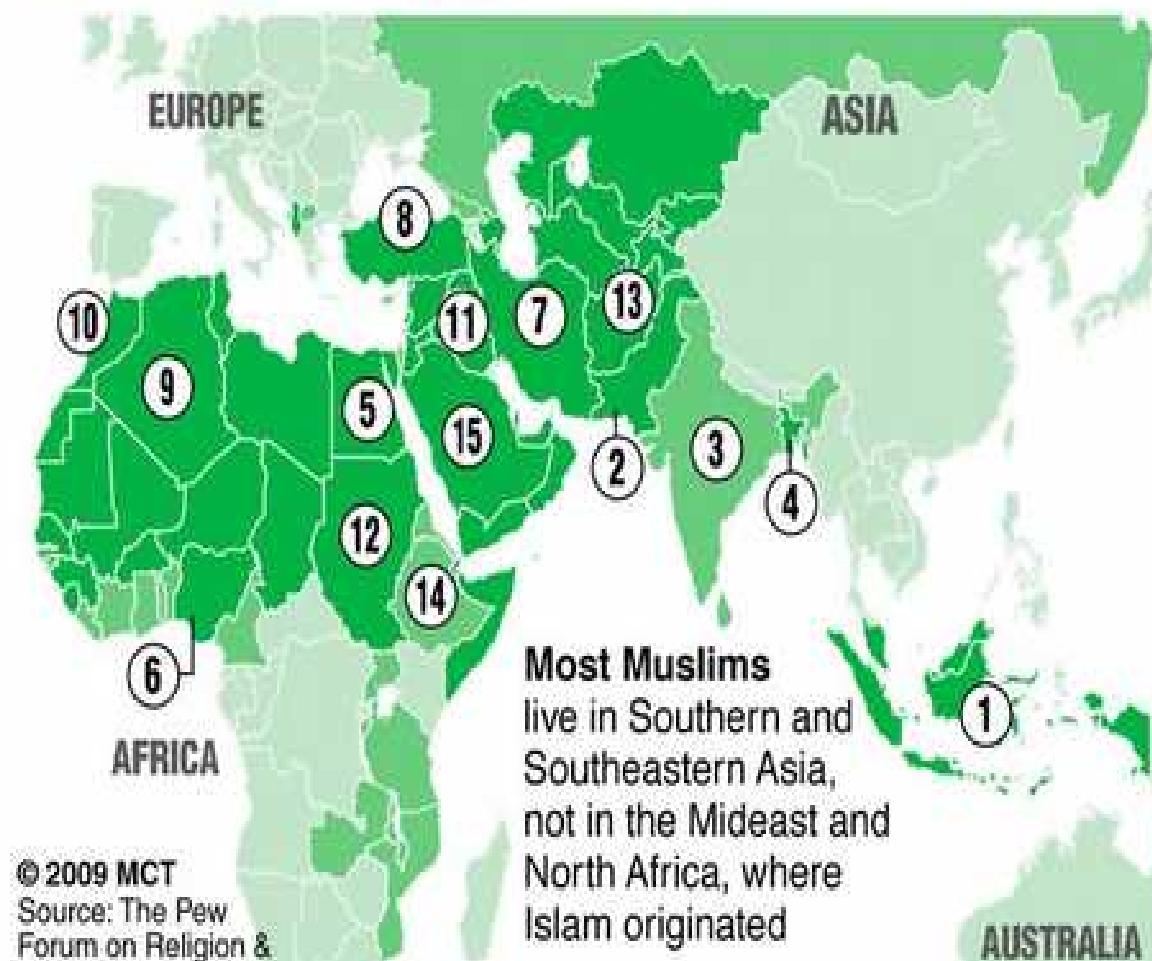
“Then We revealed to you [Muhammad], ‘Follow the creed of Abraham, a man of pure faith’” (Quran, 16:123)

- Islam complements and completes the “revelations” attributed to earlier prophets.
- Muhammad is NOT the founder of Islam
- We are NOT “Mohammedans”, we DO NOT worship Muhammad
- Is Islam the newest and the oldest religion?

Where Muslims live

Nearly one in four people worldwide is Muslim, or about 1.6 billion people; percent of country's population that is Muslim:

0-9% 10-49% 50-100%



Most Muslims live in Southern and Southeastern Asia, not in the Mideast and North Africa, where Islam originated

Largest Muslim populations

Rank	Muslims, in millions	Percent Muslim	
1	Indonesia	203	88%
2	Pakistan	174	96%
3	India	161	13%
4	Bangladesh	145	90%
5	Egypt	79	95%
6	Nigeria	78	50%
7	Iran	74	99%
8	Turkey	74	98%
9	Algeria	34	98%
10	Morocco	32	99%
11	Iraq	30	99%
12	Sudan	30	71%
13	Afghanistan	28	99%
14	Ethiopia	28	34%
15	Saudi Arabia	25	97%

WHAT DOES ISLAM TEACH?

- Love God and love of the creation
- Islam teaches people how to have a meaningful personal relationship with God, without any intermediaries
- How to reform and purify their souls, beautify their character
- How to be a productive member of a community
- Worship God thru acts of virtue, moral values, piety, love, and compassion to reach spiritual contentment
- Purpose of life
- How to live peacefully with the creation and practice religion in most MODERATE AND BALANCED WAY*
- Be kind to your neighbor and everyone around you

The Prophet Muhammad said

- *“The worshipper does not attain true faith until he loves for all humanity the same goodness that he loves for himself”*
- *“Whoever has true faith in God and the Last Day, then let him be kind to his neighbor. And whoever has true faith in God and the Last Day, then let him honor his guest. And whoever has true faith in God and the Last Day, then let him speak what is good or remain silent.”*
- *“The one who goes to sleep with a full stomach while his neighbor is hungry is not believer”*

MAIN MESSAGE OF ISLAM

- There is only one God to worship
- Prophets came with the same message: I am your Lord “worship” only Me...!
- Peace through willingly and lovingly submission to God
- Islam is a complete way of life
- People are free to choose their way of life
- Islam safeguards human welfare and oppose corruption and evil. Thus, everything that safeguards **faith, life, reason, wealth and lineage** are part of this human welfare that Islam protects. On the other hand, anything that endangers these five universal needs is a form of corruption that religion opposes and prohibits.

ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

- BELIEF IN ONENESS OF GOD- sole creator and sustainer of the universe
- *“Say, ‘He is God the One, God the eternal. He begot no one nor was He begotten. No one is comparable to Him.’” (112:1-4).*
- *“Worship God and associate nothing with Him, and treat with excellence your parents, and relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbor, the further neighbor, the companion at your side, the traveler, and the slaves” (4:36).*

CONCEPT OF GOD IN THE QURAN

- *“In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, Most lovingly Merciful. Praise be to Allah, the Lord of All the Worlds; the Beneficent, the Merciful. Master of the Day of Judgment.”* Quran 1:1-4
- *“He is Allah besides whom there is no god; the Knower of the unseen and the seen; He is the compassionate, the Merciful.” “He is the only Lord, the King, the Holy, the Peace, the Forgiver, the Watchful Guardian, the Majestic, the Dominant, and the Exalted.* Quran 59:22-23
- *He is Allah , the Creator, the Inventor, the Fashioner; to Him belong the best names. Whatever is in the heavens and earth is exalting Him. And He is the Exalted in Might, the Wise.* Quran 59:24

ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

- BELIEF IN ANGELS

- Created out of light
- Angels don't have freewill like the humans
- Angels worship God and carry out God's orders throughout the universe.
- The archangel Gabriel brought the divine revelation to all of the prophets.

ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

- BELIEF IN ALL OF THE PROPHETS & MESSENGERS
 - All prophets are noble
 - All came with the same message
 - 25 are mentioned by name in the Quran: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus
 - Muslims believe that Muhammad is the last in this line of prophets, sent for all humankind with the message of Islam

ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

- BELIEF IN THE “ORIGINAL” SACRET SCRIPTURES
 - The Quran (given to Muhammad),
 - The Torah (given to Moses),
 - The Gospel (given to Jesus),
 - The Psalms (given to David),
 - The Scrolls (given to Abraham).
 - To understand any scripture, need to study context (when, where, why, how was it applied)

ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

- BELIEF IN THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT
 - A day will come when all of creation will perish and resurrected
 - Humans will be held accountable by their (own) actions
 - God is ultimate judge and owner of the day of judgment
 - Concept of repentance / God's mercy
 - No original sin
 - Adam and Eve committed sin together
- HEAVEN AND HELL

ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

- BELIEF IN THE DIVINE DECREE (Fate/Destiny)
 - God has full power and knowledge of all things
 - Humans have freewill to choose good or evil
 - We don't know our faith but God does
 - Nothing happens except by His will and knowledge
 - We trust His divine wisdom
 - There is a blessing in every trial
 - Prayer can change destiny

FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

- DECLARATION OF FAITH
- 5 DAILY PRAYERS
 - Allahu Akbar means God is Great
 - Salah: Protection of sins, a reminder
 - Submission, humility, and adoration of God
- CHARITY (A private act)
 - Social welfare
 - God is owner of everything not man...Wealth is a trust from God.
- FASTING (Self-purification, empathy for the less fortunate, and practice of willpower)
 - 9th month in Lunar calendar
- PILGRIMAGE (symbolizes the unity of humankind, tradition of Abraham, Malcolm x)
 - (KABAH - QIBLA)
 - 2 RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS
 - Eid al-Fitr
 - Eid al Adha

HOW DOES ONE BECOME A MUSLIM

- **NO COMPULSION IN ISLAM**, freedom of belief is emphasized.

“Let there be no compulsion in religion. Truth stands out clear from error; whoever rejects evil and believes in Allah hath grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold that never breaks. And Allah heareth and knoweth all things.” Quran, 2:256

- There is no formal ceremony for conversion. People must merely believe in and recite the “shahada” to convert to Islam.
- Muslims are told not to criticize others' beliefs or engage in conflicts about matters of religion.

“And do not dispute with the People of the Scripture except in best manners, save for those who commit injustice among them, and say, “We believe in that which has been revealed to us and revealed to you. And our God and your God is one; and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him.” Quran, 29: 46

ROLE OF CLERGY

- No hierarchy of clergy in Islam
- “IMAM” leads prayers and provides counseling
- Muslim religious leaders DON’T have the power to forgive people of their sins
- Every individual has a direct relationship with God without any intermediary
- There are religious leaders or scholars, who have studied and are experts in different aspects of Islam, such as Sharia, Hadith, or Quranic recitation
- There is NO central Islamic authority; so there are differences among Muslim scholars

PROHIBITIONS

- Everything considered harmful either to the body, mind, soul or society is prohibited
 - Pork
 - Alcohol & Mind Altering Drugs
 - Gambling,
 - Taking Interest,
 - Fortune-telling,
 - Killing,
 - Suicide,
 - Lying,
 - Stealing,
 - Cheating,
 - Oppressing Or Abusing Others,
 - Being Greedy Or Stingy,
 - Engaging In Sex Outside Of Marriage,
 - Disrespecting Parents,
 - Mistreating People Such as Relatives, Orphans or Neighbors

LEARNING AND CRITICAL THINKING IS A REQUIREMENT IN ISLAM

- Quran mentions using logic and reasoning 135 times
- “and say: *My Lord! Increase me in knowledge*” [Quran, 20:114]
- “*Read! In the Name of your Lord Who has created (all that exists). He has created man from a clot. Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous. Who has taught (the writing) by the pen. He has taught man that which he knew not*” [Quran, 96: 1-5]
- Qur’an emphasizes and promotes the study of the universe. Science explains the reality and awesome nature of God to us*
- 750 verses in the Quran that encourage us to think about the universe and all that has been created within it and placed at our disposal. Learn to respect the power of the creator thru His creation
- The prophet said: “*Whoever follows a path in the pursuit of knowledge, GOD will make a path to Paradise easy for him.*” (Al-Bukhaari)

CONCEPT OF WORSHIP IN ISLAM

- **Worship is as broad as life itself**
- Worship includes everything that is beloved and pleasing to God
- Actions of worship has to be with the intention of pleasing God
- **“The best among you are those who have the best character.”**
- Spreading justice and compassion
- Smiling, visiting the sick, defending an innocent person, being kind, being generous, being helpful
- Obeying and respecting parents
- Raising morally upright children, caring for family
- Preservation of family ties

CONCEPT OF WORSHIP IN ISLAM

- Kind treatment of orphans, widows, travellers, and neighbors
- Doing your best at work, professional and philanthropic contributions to society
- Purification of the hearts from negative feelings
 - Arrogance, pride, ego, anger and selfishness
- Treating people with respect, mercy, and dignity
- Good manners and social relations
 - Tolerance, kindness, self-control, righteousness, and forgiveness
- Observing Islamic diet and clothing
- *“Every religion has an essential character and the essential character of Islam is modesty and humility.”*

VIDEO

**Islam Faith and History, Discover Islam
(28 min dvd)**

