

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
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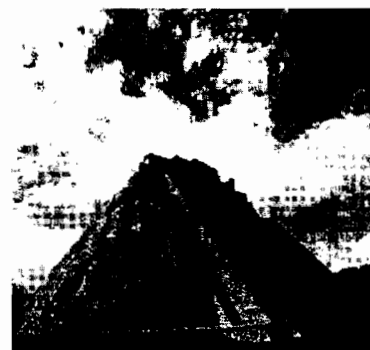
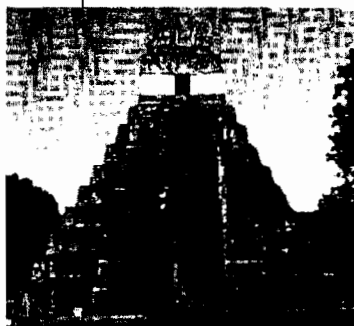
Investigative Interviewing in the Religious Extremist Community

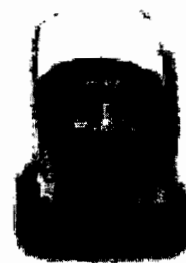
SSA [REDACTED] LECU
FBI Academy
Revision: 01/15/2009
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Tools that give the interrogator the psychological advantage:

An Ancient Mayan Legend of the Spinning Pyramid



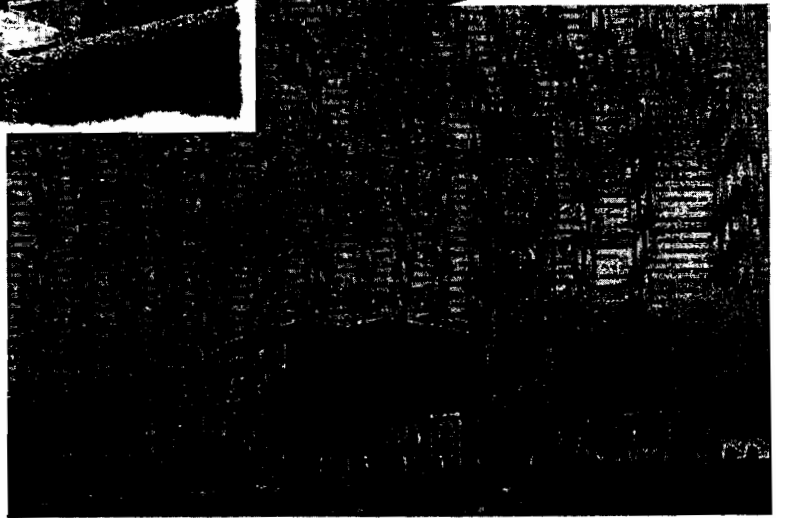
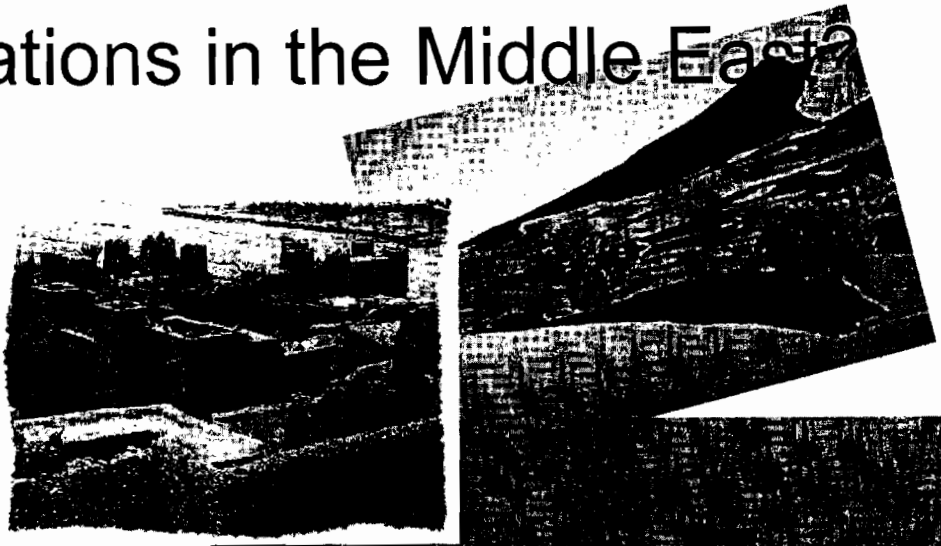


**"All that is required for evil to triumph is
for a few good men to do nothing."**

Edmund Burke



What are some of the cultural considerations in the Middle East?



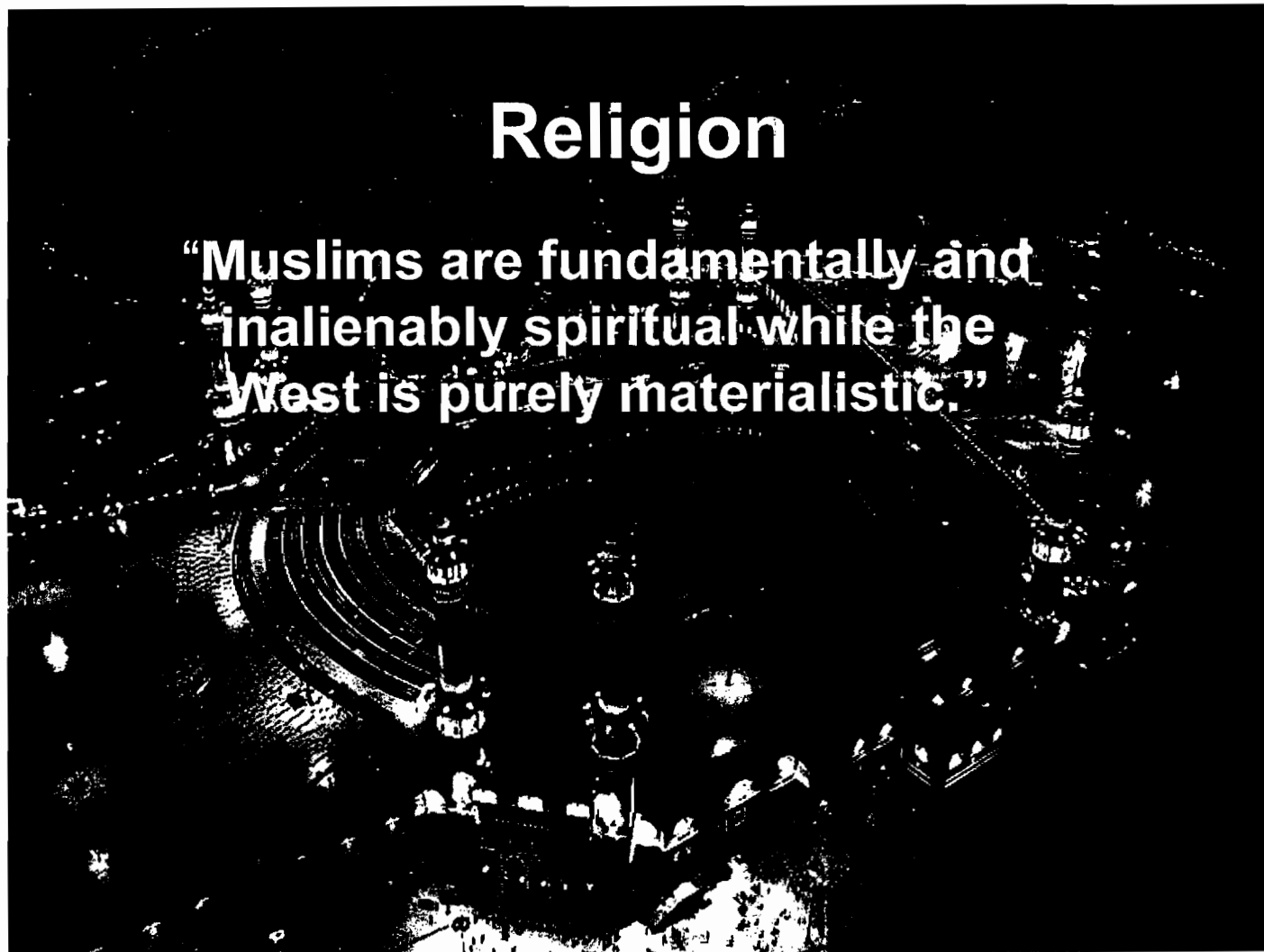
Things to use/consider for
successful
interviews/interrogations
with individuals from the M.E.

Ceremonial part
of a Muslim
circumcision
ritual in the
village of
Lazhnitsa in the
Rhodope
mountains,
some 300km
(186 miles)
south of the
Bulgarian capital
Sofia, October
26, 2008.
REUTERS



Religion

“Muslims are fundamentally and inalienably spiritual while the West is purely materialistic.”



Basics of Islam

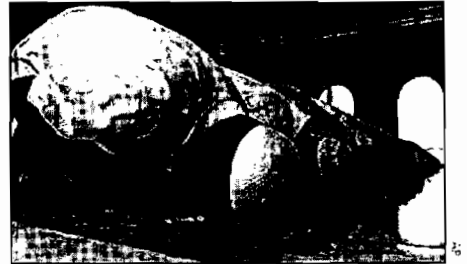
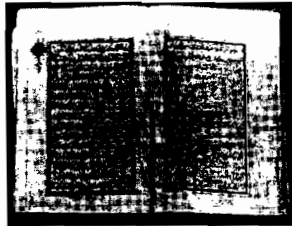
- 2nd largest religion
- Considered Abrahamic
- Believe other prophets and in life after death

The Kaaba



Islam Basics (Quran)

- **Holy book of Islam**
- (in addition to the Hadith or oral traditions of the prophet.)
- **114 chapters (Surat), 6,000 verses (Ayat)**
- **Muslims believe written by Allah in Heaven (Perfect Arabic)**
- **Suras not chronological**



Notes on Quran/Hadith

- Muslims may not be knowledgeable of contents
- Rely on Ulema (Sheikh, Imam, etc)
- Believe Quran is eternal, uncreated, uncorrupted, perfect Arabic, should not be translated
- “Hafez” – One who commits entire Quran to memory



“JIHAD”

- Sometimes referred to as the 6th Pillar of Islam
- **Greater Jihad**: To realize Allah’s will, lead a virtuous life, to fulfill the universal mission of Islam, and to spread the Islamic Community
- **Lesser Jihad**: Struggle to defend Islam, Holy War



*The Teaching Company, 2003

Shari'ah – Islamic Law

- Arabic: "the way to water."
- Governs all aspects of life, from how to dress to inheritance.
- Viewed as the only embodiment of true justice.
- Huge variance in practice and interpretation in Muslim societies today.

Shari'ah

- **Apostasy:**

- [a] "Then whosoever will, let him believe, and whosoever will, let him disbelieve" and "There is no compulsion in religion" on the one hand, and
- [b] the punishment of apostasy in Islam is death.

- **Justification: belief and punishments are 2 separate issues.**

Godfathers of Jihad

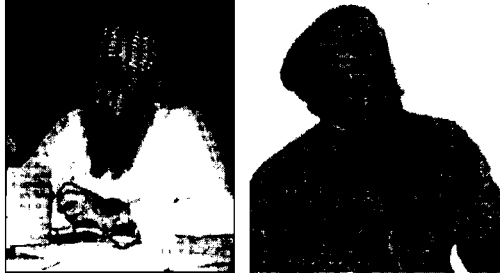
Hassan Al Banna
Founder of Muslim Brotherhood
Murdered in 1948 at age 43



Sayed Qutb
Hanged for beliefs in 1966
Thus becoming martyr for caus



Abdullah Azzam
Killed in car bomb explosion in 1989



Sayyid Maududi
Most read Muslim in modern history.
Sentenced to death in 1953 in Pakistan
Sentence commuted.
He died in 1979 in Buffalo, NY

Important Dates in Islam

- 570 Birth of Mohammad
- 610 Mohammad receives first revelation
- 622 Hijra; Mohammad and early Muslim community immigrate to Medina
- 624 Battle of Badr
- 627 Battle of Trench
- 632 Death of Mohammad
- 632-661 Reign of 4 Rightly Guided Prophets
- 8th /9th Cent's Major Sunni law schools founded

Shari'ah - Sunni

- **Sources of authority:**
 1. **Qur'an**
 2. **Sunnah (Mohammad's living example of God's will, mostly written in books of Hadith.**
 2. **Ijtihad (Reasoning and judgment to determine shari'ah, where Qur'an and Hadith are silent).**
 3. **Ijma'ah (Consensus of Muslim scholars or of the entire Ummah)**

Shari'ah: The Way to God, pub Islamic Foundation (1981)

Islam Basics (Muhammad)

- **Age 40/Vision of the Archangel Gabriel**
- **610-622: Time period marked by resistance and persecution**
- **Muhammad's ministry set over 2 periods (Mecca [610-622] and Medina [622-632])**

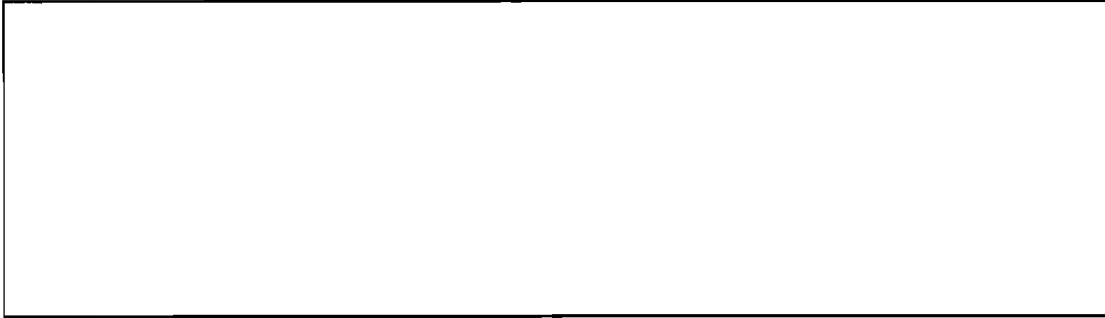


Naskh

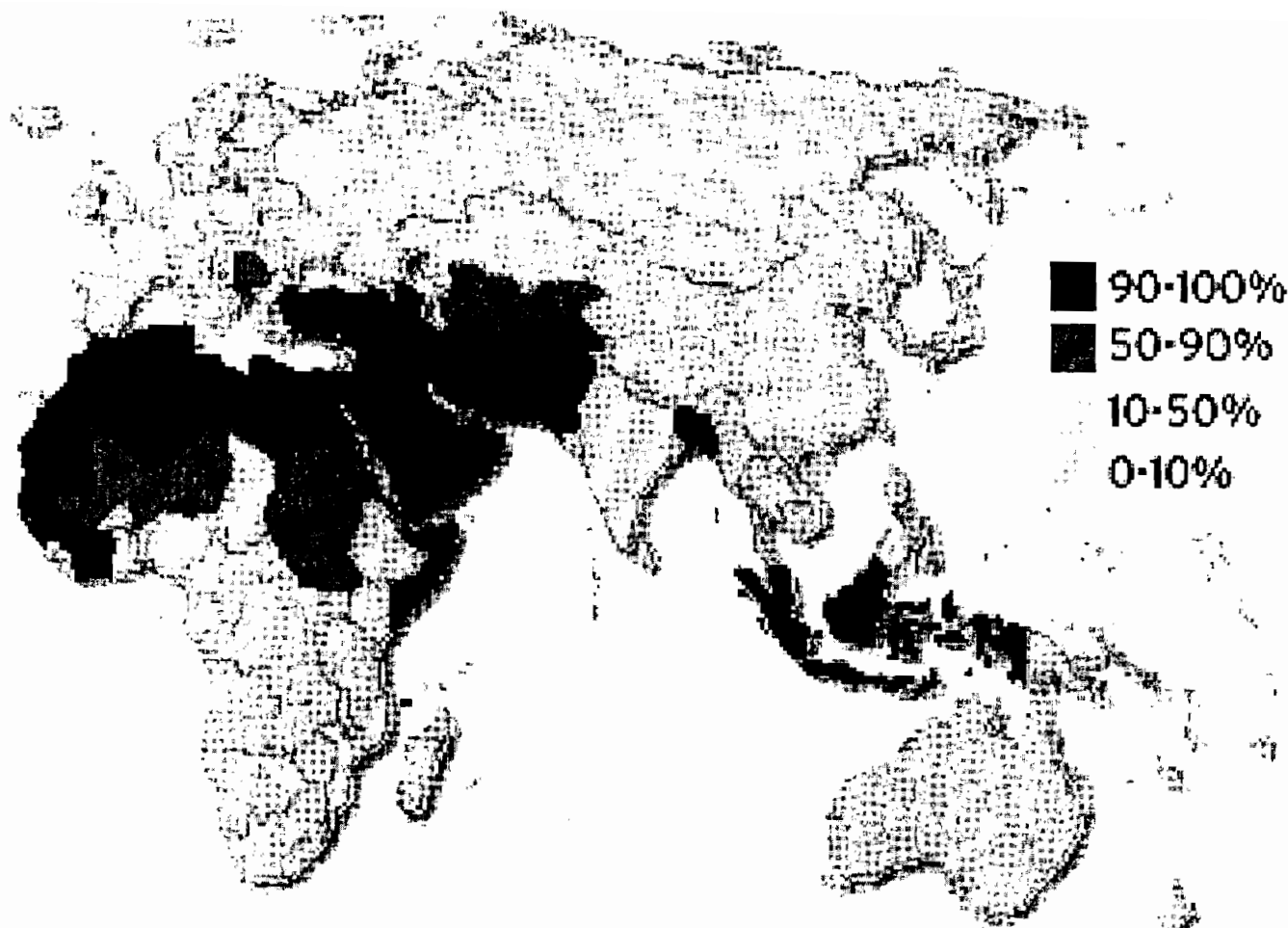
- ~~Abrogation: Later verses cancel out or 'update' earlier verses~~
- Sura 2:106 a later verse "substitutes something better"
- Sura 5:33 Last verse written, "For those who do not submit to Allah their punishment is.. execution or crucifixion, or cutting off of hands and feet.."

Details of Domestic Islamic Attacks (Since 9/11)

- February 12, 2007: Sulejman Talovic (Bosnian) opened fire in a Salt Lake City shopping mall
- (5) Fatalities

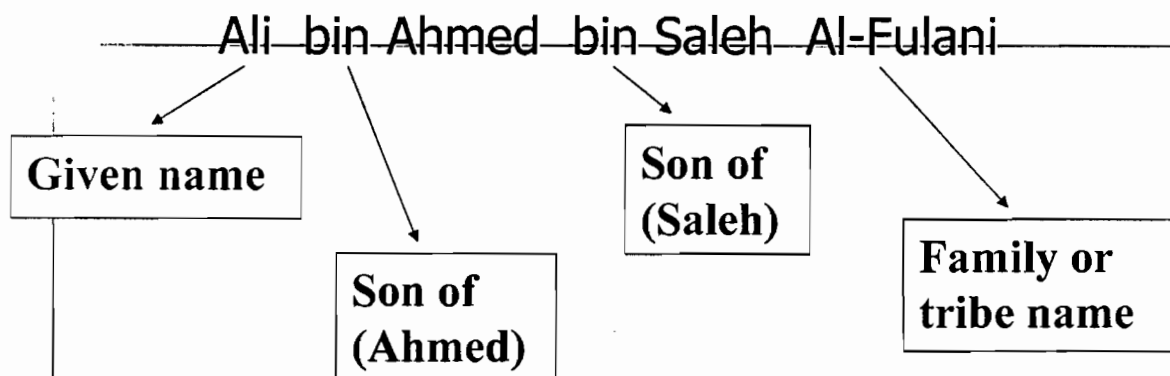


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Distribution of Muslim Populations

Arab Naming Convention



Bin = ibn = ould (N. Africa).

Statistics

- 12% of world's Muslims are Arabs
- U.S. has 20th largest Muslim population
- Egypt is the most populous Arab Muslim nation
- Islamic holy sites: Ka'ba (Mecca), Medina, Jerusalem

Islamic Terms

- **Dar al Harb v Dar al Islam**: Islamic fundamentalists see the world divided into these 2 spheres
- **Dar al Harb (House of War)**: Should be the target of jihad; prevents a true Islamic state; Includes all infidel areas that must be conquered; Includes all areas (countries) not ruled by the Sharia.

* Middle East Terrorism: A Primer, W. Zaideman

Geography 101 (and other interesting facts..)

- 60 % of the earth's oil reserves in or near Arabian Peninsula
- 200 million Arabs worldwide
- Arab world includes Muslims, Christians, and Jews
- Arab disunity often based on: Tribal/Ethnic concerns, Israel, Rivalry, Sunni/Shia, Oil
- Jordan, Syria, and Egypt still relatively poor

*Tradoc, 2006

Letter Name	Isolated Form	Final Form	Medial Form	Initial Form
Alef	ا	ا		
Ba	ب	ب	ب	ب
Ta	ت	ت	ت	ت
Tha	ث	ث	ث	ث
Jeem	ج	ج	ج	ج
Ha	ح	ح	ح	ح
Kha	خ	خ	خ	خ
Dal	د	د		
Thal	ذ	ذ		
Ra	ر	ر		
Zai	ز	ز		
Seen	س	س	س	س
Sheen	ش	ش	ش	ش
Sad	ص	ص	ص	ص
Dad	ض	ض	ض	ض
Toa	ط	ط	ط	ط
Zhoa	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ
Ain	ع	ع	ع	ع
Ghain	غ	غ	غ	غ
Fa	ف	ف	ف	ف
Qaf	ق	ق	ق	ق
Kaf	ك	ك	ك	ك
Lam	ل	ل	ل	ل
Meem	م	م	م	م
Nun	ن	ن	ن	ن
He	ه	ه	ه	ه
Waw	و	و		
Ya	ي	ي	ي	ي

©Mamoun Sakka 1997

Arabic Alphabet

- 28 characters
- Reads right to left
- Some characters do not connect
- Considered special language
- Purely phonetic
- 3/4 letter derivative

Arabic Alphabet

(Special Language)

Letter Name	Isolated Form	Final Form	Medial Form	Initial Form
Alef	ا	ا		
Ba	ب	ب	ب	ب
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Kha	خ	خ	خ	خ
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Ra	ر	ر		
Zai	ز	ز		
Seen	س	س	س	س
Sheen	ش	ش	ش	ش
Sad	ص	ص	ص	ص
Dad	ض	ض	ض	ض
Toa	ط	ط	ط	ط
Zhoa	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ
Ain	ع	ع	ع	ع
Ghain	غ	غ	غ	غ
Fa	ف	ف	ف	ف
Qaf	ق	ق	ق	ق
Kaf	ك	ك	ك	ك
Lam	ل	ل	ل	ل
Meem	م	م	م	م
Nun	ن	ن	ن	ن
He	ه	ه	ه	ه
Waw	و	و		
Ya	ي	ي	ي	ي

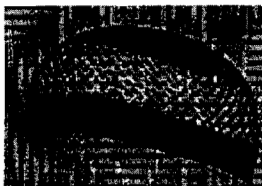
Languages (In the region)

- Pakistan – Urdu
- Afghanistan – Pashtu, Dari, numerous others
- Iran – Farsi, Dari
- Turkey – Turkish
- India – Hindi, Punjabi
- Arab Nations – Arabic, French
- Africa – Arabic, Swahili, numerous others

Arab dress



Galibiyya



Kufi



Hijab



Hijab

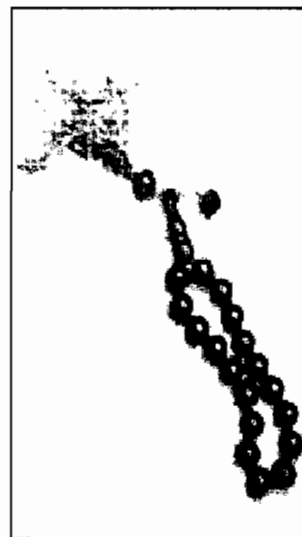


Salwar Kameez



Kufi

Dikhr Beads (Worry beads)



Sects (Mathabs) of Sunni Islam

- **Hanbali**: Founder Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal; Considered least tolerant school of thought regarding social and personal rules. Practiced in Saudi Arabia. 15% of Muslims.
- **Malaki**: Founder Malik ibn Anas; jurist from Medina/based on practices of the people of Medina; predominant in N. and W. Africa as well as Egypt; 2nd largest sect (25%)
- **Shafii**: Founder Muhammad al-Shafii; Considered most tolerant; Predominant in E. Africa, Indon, and SE Asia. Followed by 15% of Muslims.
- **Hanafi**: Founder Imam Abu Hanifa; major school of Iraqi Arabs; considered tolerant school and largest following; predominant in ME, India, Pak/Afgh. 45% of Muslims.

Islamic Schools of Thought

**Most
Tolerant**

**Least
Tolerant**

Shafii

Hanafi

Maliki

Hanbali

Salafi

Salafi Jihadi



Origins

Countries

-22 Arab nations

Is Iran an Arab country?

- Iran descended from the Persian empire and has a different language (Farsi)
- Iran is an Islamic country

What are the main language groups of the Middle East?

- Arabic, Hebrew, Persian (Farsi), Turkish
- Arabs are the largest in terms of population and land holdings



Origins (cont)

Arabs - Individuals born in or who trace their ancestry to Arabic speaking places in southwestern Asia, northern Africa, and Middle East.

Population in U.S. - Estimates of 3 million Arab-Americans

Do Arabs have a shared language?

-The Arabic language is one of the great unifying and distinguishing characteristics of Arab people



Islam

- **1.3 Billion Muslims in the world**
- **Majority in Indonesia**
- **22 Arab nations in the Middle East**



Islam (Derivation)

- **S-L-M : Submit**
- **Muslim: One who submits**
- **K-T-B: Write**
- **J-H-D?**



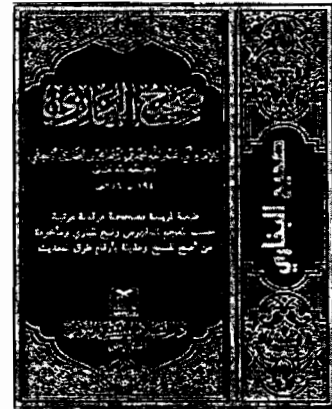
Islam 101

- **No separation between church and state**
- **Hard for Westerners to understand**
- **Transforms country's culture into 7th century Arabian ways**
- **Regulates most aspects of life**



Islam Basics (Hadith)

- Other Islamic “Bible”;
- Collection of early Muslim traditions which record the words and deeds of Muhammad
- Captured by wives, family, friends and Muslim leaders
- With Quran, establishes the basis for Islamic law



Islam Basics (Hadith)

- **Not vague, tells reader exactly what to do, how to do it, and in what order**
- **What Mohammad said, did, and approved of**
- **Shia have four collections**
- **Provides extensive information about Muhammad**



Sunni v. Shia

- **85% Sunni; Identified with the importance of the Sunna (Hadith)**
- **Based on believed caliphate descendents of Mohammad**
 - Sunni - Abu Bakr, Umer, Uthman, Ali
 - Shia - Ali ibn Abi Talib
- **Shia believe only a descendent of Mohammed has the right to rule (Follow Ali: last Caliphate to be elected)**



Sunni/Shia cont..

- Shia may pray only 3 times a day/include praise for Ali in prayers
- Believe in more of a “priesthood” (ie Ayatullah) regarding leadership
- Differ on leadership, doctrine, practice and scriptural issues
- Shia dominated country: Iran



Sunni v. Shia

- Shia rely on opinions of their Imams, who are descendents of Mohammad
- Sunni rely more on the traditions (Hadith)
- Shia are further divided by the recognition of the Twelvers, Seveners (Ismailis).



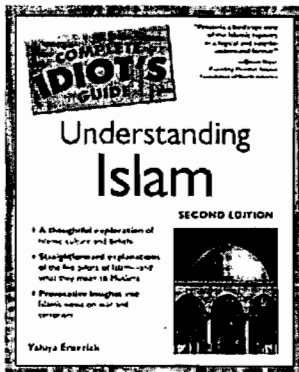
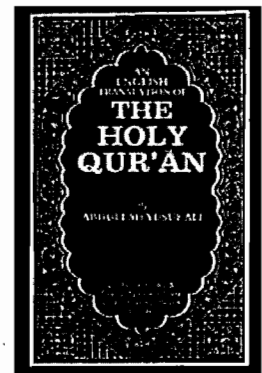
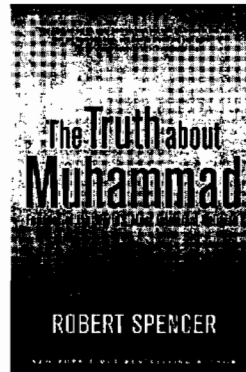
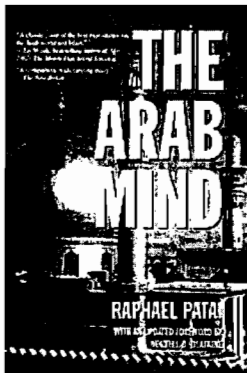
Wahabi Sect

- Founder Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahab (1703-1792)
- Called for strict adherence to Tawheed (Monotheism)
- Opposed to Shia and Sufi
- Considered by some to be Salafi
- Believe in literal sense of Qur'an and Ijtihad (deduction apart from 4 schools)





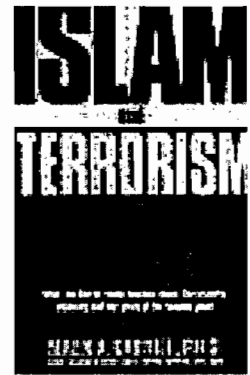
Recommended Reading



MILESTONES

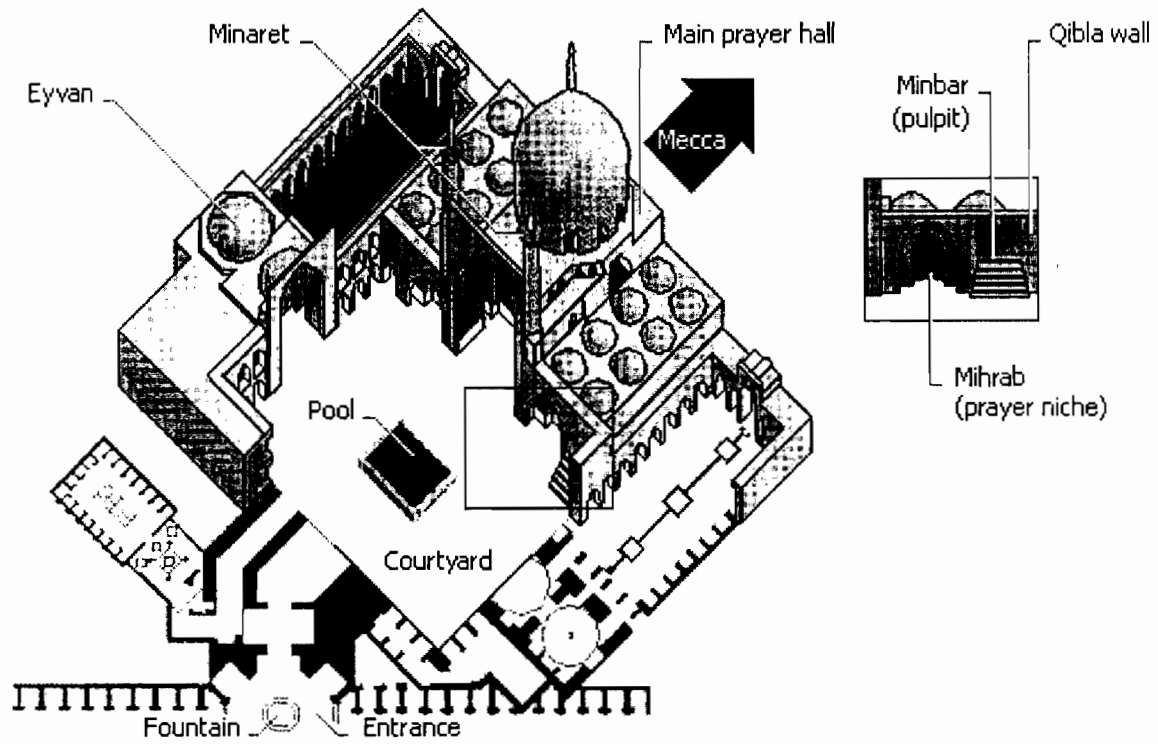


Milestones Group



Keys to Proactive Approach

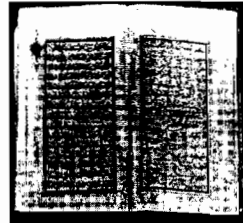
- Know culture
- Know (some of the) language
- Street information
- Intentional/Respectful liaison
- Aggressive/Innovative investigation



Mosque Layout

Islam Basics (Muhammad)

- **Prophet Muhammad born in Mecca**
- **Quraysh tribe/Custodian of Kabba (“Cube”)**
- **Held positions as religious, political and military leader of a community state.**



Wahhabism (Arabic: *Al-Wahhābīyya* الوهابية) or **Wahabism** is a name sometimes applied to the conservative 18th century reformist call of Sunni Islam attributed to Muhammad ibn Abd-al-Wahhab, an Islamic scholar from what is today known as Saudi Arabia, who became known for advocating a return to the practices of the first three generations of Islamic history. Wahhabism formed the creed upon which the kingdom of Saudi Arabia was founded [1] and is the dominant form of Islam found in Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, [2] as well as some pockets of Somalia, Algeria and Mauritania. [citation needed] It is now often referred to as a "sect" [2] or "branch" [3] of Islam, though its supporters reject such a designation.

U.S. Muslim Population Centers

- Most Muslims live in CA, NY, IL, NJ, IA, MI, VA, TX, OH, MD
- 1,200 mosques in the U.S.
- 9,000+ Muslims on active duty in the U.S. armed services

Arab Naming Convention

Maha bint Ahmed bin Saleh Al-Fulani

Given name

Son of
(Saleh)

Daughter
of (Ahmed)

Family or
tribe name

Or... Maha Ahmed Saleh Al-Fulani

Bint = girl

Outline for Arab/Islamic Training

- Day One Understand the Culture
 Comprehend the Threat – Intro
to Militant Interrogation.

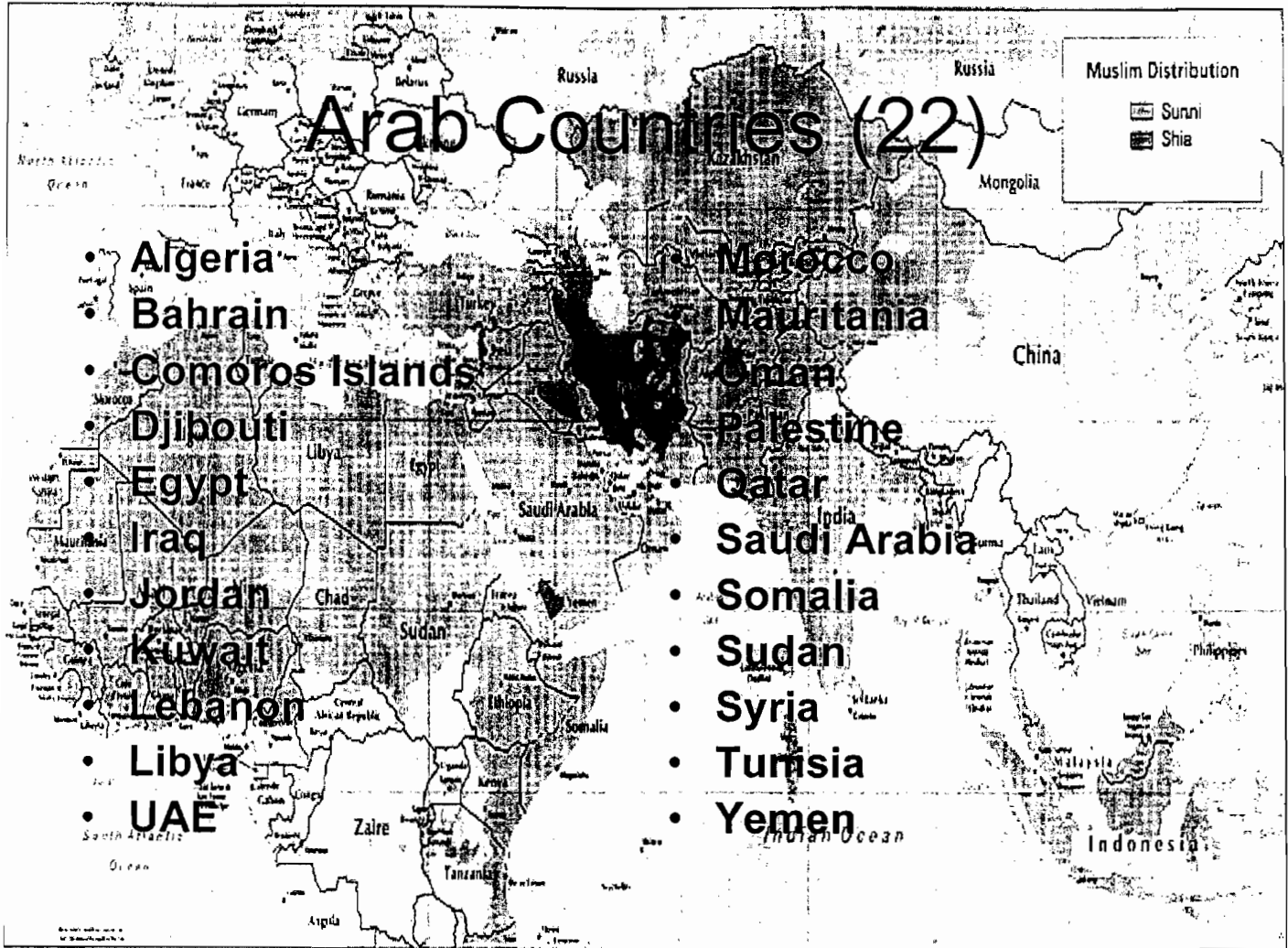
- Day Two Cross Cultural Interviewing
 (Focus on the Militant Believer)

Arab Countries (22)

Muslim Distribution



- Sunni
- Shia

- Algeria
- Bahrain
- Comoros Islands
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Libya
- UAE
- Morocco
- Mauritania
- Oman
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Syria
- Tunisia
- Yemen



Muslim Majority Countries

Muslim Distribution

-  Sunni
-  Shia

- Afghanistan
- Algeria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Bosnia/Herzegovina
- Burkina Faso
- Brunei
- Chad
- Comoros
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Djibouti
- Eritrea*
- Ethiopia
- Egypt
- Gambia
- Guinea
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Kazakhstan*
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Maldives
- Malaysia
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Syria
- Tajikistan
- Turkey
- Tunisia
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- United Arab Emirates
- Yemen

(CIA World Fact Book.)

*About half population is Muslim. Shi'a majority

Language

- Arabic is the primary factor that determines membership in the national aggregate.
- It is the characteristic of the Arabic mind to be swayed more by words than ideas and more by ideas than facts.
- Spoken words to Arabs are as music.

Stylistic Elaborateness

- ex: colloquial Arabic for thank you:
 - Allāh yukaththin khayraka – meaning: May allah increase your well-being.
 - Speedy recovery = ma alāk illā 'l – 'afīye in sha allāh which means: May there be upon you nothing but health, if allah wills.

When two Americans meet:

- One may say, “Good morning.” The other replies, “Good morning.”
- This would offend an Arabian by such an ignorant reply.
 - The first Arabian would phrase his good morning wishes as follows:
 - “Nehārkum sa’īd” which means “May your day be prosperous. To which the other will reply, “Nehārkum sa’īd wemubāarak. Meaning: “May your day be prosperous and blessed.”

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Interviewing and Interrogation in the Arab/Muslim Community



“Measuring Up”

- ⊙ The true measure of a man is how he spends his time when he doesn't have to do anything. David O. McKay – 1873-1970

- ⊙ You can use most any measure when speaking of success – houses, cars, jewelry – but the measure of real success is one you can't spend; it is the way your child describes you when talking to a friend. Martin Buxbaum 1912-1991.