

How Much Do You Know About Religion?

In conjunction with "God in America" producers, the Pew Forum on Religion in Public Life surveyed Americans' religious literacy. It revealed that most Americans lack a basic knowledge of religion, their own and their neighbors'.

Pew asked 32 questions about religious belief and religious history. The average person got just 16 answers right, just half.

Of the 3,400 people who took the test, just eight got all the answers right. About 70 percent knew Jesus was born in Bethlehem. But only 47 percent knew the Dalai Lama is a Buddhist. Just over half could identify the Koran as the holy book of Islam.

--Ray Suarez, PBS NewsHour
*Despite Religious Roots, Americans Struggle
to Understand Others' Beliefs*

***Want to Take the Test and Compare Your Answers
with the Original Study Participants?***

If So, Visit this Link:

<http://features.pewforum.org/quiz/us-religious-knowledge/index.php>

Overview from Pew Research

As the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks approaches, a comprehensive public opinion survey finds no indication of increased alienation or anger among Muslim Americans in response to concerns about home-grown Islamic terrorists, controversies about the building of mosques and other pressures that have been brought to bear on this high-profile minority group in recent years.

There also is no evidence of rising support for Islamic extremism among Muslim Americans.

On the contrary, as found in the Pew Research Center's 2007 survey, Muslims in the United States continue to reject extremism by much larger margins than most Muslim publics surveyed this year by the Pew Global Attitudes Project.

And majorities of Muslim Americans express concern about the possible rise of Islamic extremism, both here and abroad.

What the Public Knows About Religion

At least two-thirds know...

Public school teachers cannot lead class in prayer	89%
Atheist is someone who does not believe in God	85
Mother Teresa was Catholic	82
Moses was the Bible figure who led the exodus from Egypt	72
Jesus was born in Bethlehem	71
Constitution says government shall neither establish nor interfere with religion	68
Most people in Pakistan are Muslim	68

About half know...

Golden rule is not one of Ten Commandments	55
Koran is the Islamic holy book	54
Ramadan is the Islamic holy month	52
Joseph Smith was Mormon	51
Dalai Lama is Buddhist	47
Martin Luther inspired Reformation	46
Jewish Sabbath begins on Friday	45
Four Gospels are Matthew, Mark, Luke, John	45

Less than a third know...

Most people in Indonesia are Muslim	27
Public school teachers can read from Bible as example of literature	23
Only Protestants (not Catholics) traditionally teach salvation comes through faith alone	16
Jonathan Edwards participated in First Great Awakening	11
Maimonides was Jewish	8

See survey topline (Appendix B) for full question wording and results for all questions.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S
FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE May 19-June 6, 2010

***Resource Links to Various Pew Research Study Results:
(Including Graphs Provided in This Document)***

[http://pewforum.org/Muslim/Mapping-the-Global-Muslim-Population\(3\).aspx](http://pewforum.org/Muslim/Mapping-the-Global-Muslim-Population(3).aspx)

**(2009) Mapping the Global Muslim Population:
A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World's Muslim Population**

<http://pewforum.org/How-Religious-Is-Your-State-.aspx>

(2009) How Religious is Your State? (Interactive Graphic—Works Best in Mozilla Firefox)

<http://pewforum.org/other-beliefs-and-practices/u-s-religious-knowledge-survey.aspx>

(2010) Study Results Report Accompanying the U.S. Knowledge Survey Quiz

<http://people-press.org/2011/08/30/a-portrait-of-muslim-americans/>

**(2011) Muslim Americans: No Signs of Growth in Alienation or Support for Extremism.
An Interesting *Infographic* Pictorial to Accompany Research Conducted on Muslim-
Americans with the Advent of the September 11, 2011 Anniversary.**

<http://pewforum.org/Muslim/Muslims-Widely-Seen-As-Facing-Discrimination.aspx>

**(2009) Muslims Widely Seen As Facing Discrimination: Views of Religious Similarities and
Differences**

<http://www.pewforum.org/Muslim/Public-Remains-Conflicted-Over-Islam.aspx>

**(2010) Public Remains Conflicted Over Islam: NYC Mosque Opposed, Muslims' Right to
Build Mosques Favored**

**THIS EXHIBIT ON PEW RESEARCH CONCERNING MUSLIMS GLOBALLY AND IN AMERICA WAS
BROUGHT TO YOU, COURTESY OF THE [DIVERSITY COMMITTEE](#) AT PINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE.**

Diversity Exhibits: The exhibit area in the main hall changes seasonally as the Diversity Committee highlights different themes in diversity. Past themes highlighted in the display include American Black History Month, Native American History Month, Women's History Month, World Aids Day, and more. Faculty and students are encouraged to display exhibits with diverse themes discussed within their classroom/curriculum.

Views of General Public in Pew Research Studies

How Much Do You Know about Muslim Religion?

	Nov 2001	March 2002	July 2003	July 2005	Aug 2007	Aug 2010
	%	%	%	%	%	%
A great deal	6	5	4	5	7	9
Some	32	29	27	28	34	35
Not very much	37	37	39	36	33	30
Nothing at all	24	28	29	30	25	25
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 19-22, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Which Religion Most Violent?

	Christianity	Islam	Judaism	Hinduism	None (Vol)/ DK
	%	%	%	%	%
U.S.	9	70	2	3	16
Britain	5	75	2	3	16
France	2	90	4	1	3
Germany	7	79	2	3	10
Spain	3	87	4	1	5
Russia	10	67	10	3	9
Israel	3	91	3	0	3
Turkey	45	2	41	2	10
Egypt	4	1	93	1	0
Jordan	2	1	97	0	0
Lebanon	20	0	77	1	2
Palest. ter.	1	0	88	10	1
Indonesia	6	32	56	1	6
Pakistan	9	3	54	29	5

Asked only of those who say some religions are more prone to violence than others.

In predominantly Muslim countries, figures are for Muslims only.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q32.

Views of General Public in Pew Research Studies

Nearly six-in-ten adults (58%) say that Muslims are subject to a lot of discrimination, far more than say the same about Jews, evangelical Christians, atheists or Mormons. In fact, of all the groups asked about, only gays and lesbians are seen as facing more discrimination than Muslims, with nearly two-thirds (64%) of the public saying there is a lot of discrimination against homosexuals.

The poll also finds that two-thirds of non-Muslims (65%) say that Islam and their own faith are either very different or somewhat different, while just 17% take the view that Islam and their own religion are somewhat or very similar. But Islam is not the only religion that Americans see as mostly different from their own.

Muslim Stereotypes Among Non-Muslims

	Fanatical %	Violent %	Arrogant %
U.S.	41	45	34
Britain	43	32	38
France	52	44	39
Germany	68	54	35
Spain	80	61	48
Russia	64	54	51
MEDIAN	58	50	39

	Selfish %	Immoral %	Greedy %
U.S.	29	24	20
Britain	29	18	16
France	26	22	14
Germany	42	22	19
Spain	49	34	32
Russia	40	24	31
MEDIAN	35	23	20

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q47b-d & Q47f-h.

Is There a Lot of Discrimination Against...

	Yes %	No %
Muslims	58	29
Jews	35	54
Evang. Christians	27	56
Atheists	26	59
Mormons	24	56
Gays and lesbians	64	30
Hispanics	52	41
Blacks	49	46
Women	37	59

Figures read across. Q170.

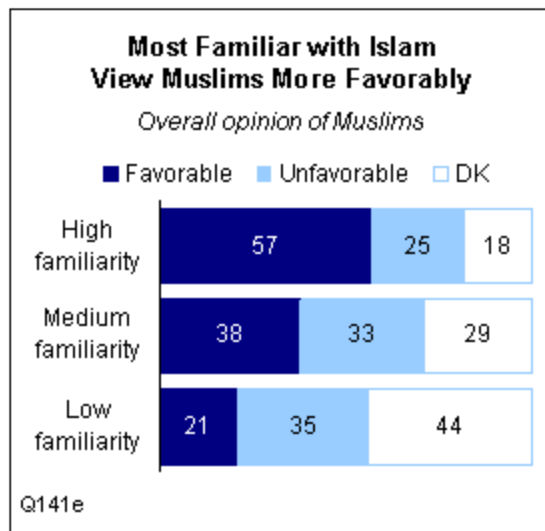
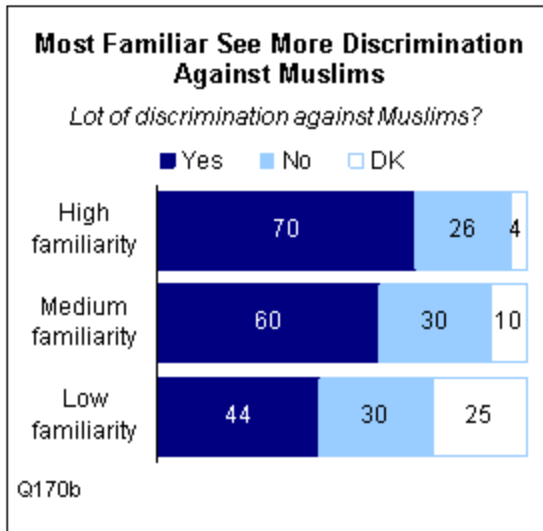
Positive Characteristics Associated With Muslims By Non-Muslims

	Honest %	Generous %	Tolerant %	Respectful of women %
U.S.	49	33	33	19
Britain	60	43	40	24
France	62	61	38	24
Germany	53	45	25	17
Spain	45	38	21	9
Russia	16	20	27	28
MEDIAN	51	41	30	22

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q47a, Q47e & Q47i-j.

Views of General Public in Pew Research Studies

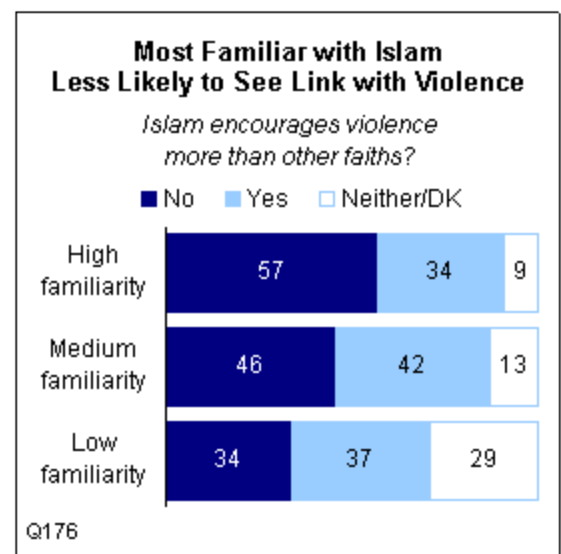
Roughly a fourth of Americans (26%) have a relatively high level of familiarity with Islam, that is, they know the names Muslims use to refer to God and to their sacred text, and they are also personally acquainted with a Muslim.



The survey shows that higher levels of familiarity with Islam, and especially knowing someone who is Muslim, are associated with more positive views toward the religion. For example, among the group with the highest level of familiarity with Islam, most reject the idea that Islam encourages violence (57%).

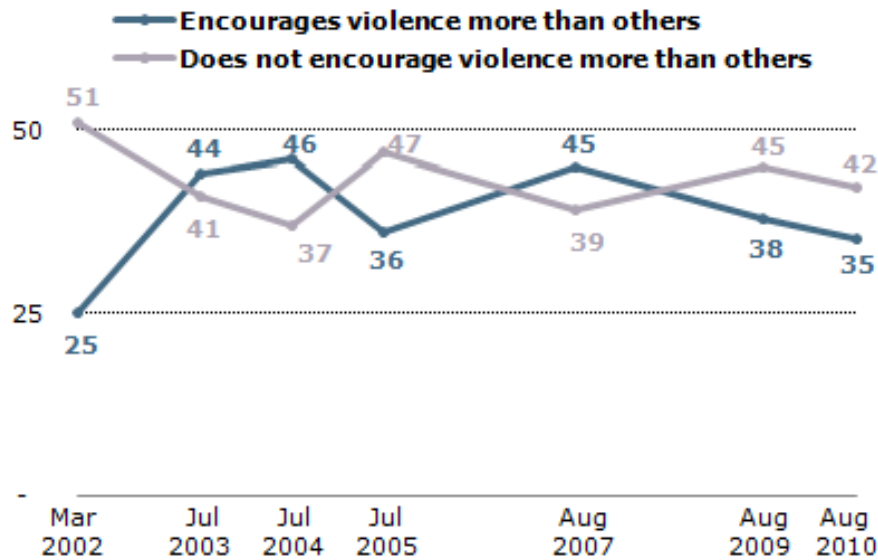
By contrast, fewer than half of those with medium familiarity with Islam (46%) and one-third of those with little familiarity (34%) reject the idea of a link between Islam and violence.

Still, as with knowing a Muslim personally, education makes the greatest difference: Almost two-thirds of college graduates (64%) answered both questions about Islam correctly, compared with less than half of those with some college (48%) and 24% of those who have not attended college.



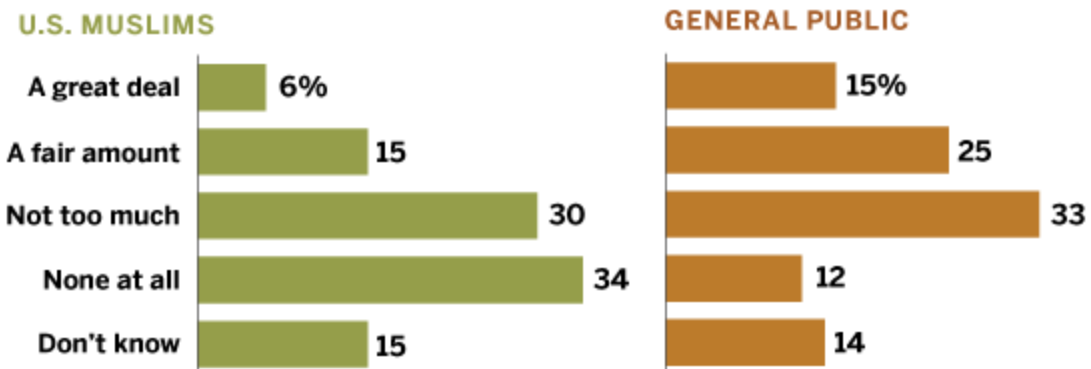
Views of General Public in Pew Research Studies

Little Change in Views About Whether Islam Encourages Violence More than Other Religions



PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 19-22, 2010.

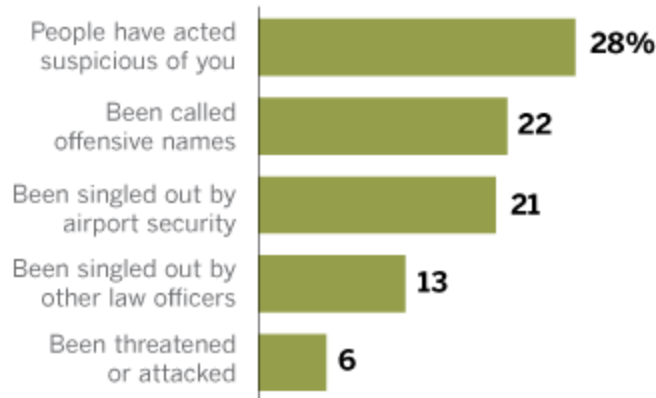
Perceived amount of support for extremism among Muslims living in the U.S.



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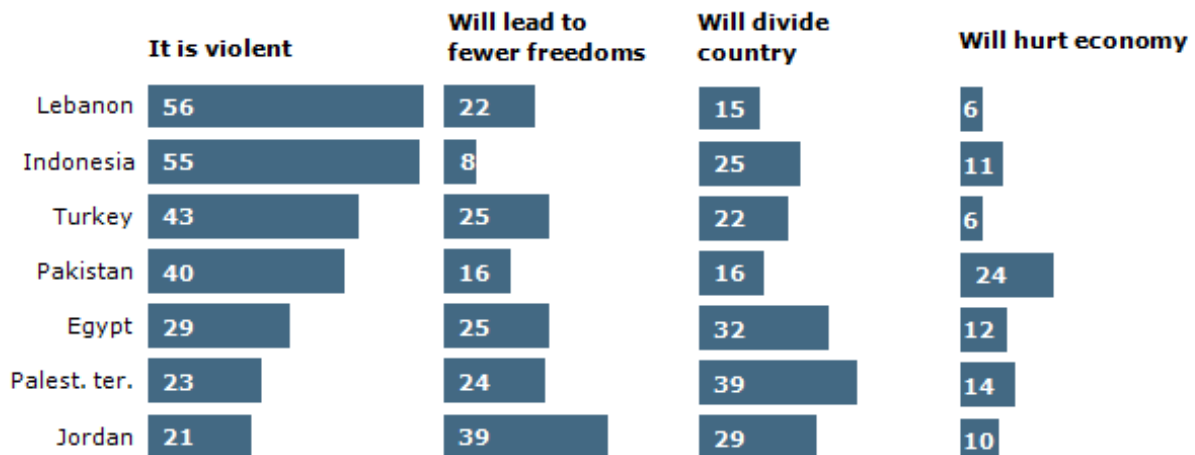
Views of Global Muslims in Pew Research Studies

% of Muslim Americans who have experienced each of the following in the last year



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What Concerns You Most About Islamic Extremism?



Based on Muslims only.

Asked only of those who are concerned about Islamic extremism in their country.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q45.



Overwhelming Majority Say Suicide Bombing Never Justified

Views of U.S. and Global Muslims in Pew Research Studies

Suicide bombing/other violence against civilians is justified to defend Islam from its enemies...

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	DK
U.S. Muslims	%	%	%	%	%
2011	1	7	5	81	6=100
2007	1	7	5	78	9=100
<i>Muslims in ...</i>					
Palestinian terr.	31	37	10	19	3=100
Egypt	12	16	34	38	1=100
Lebanon	12	23	25	39	0=100
Jordan	4	9	31	55	2=100
Turkey	2	5	14	60	19=100
Indonesia	2	8	11	77	2=100
Pakistan	3	2	3	85	6=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER 2011 Muslim American Survey, Q90. Muslim countries' results from Spring 2011 surveys by the Pew Global Attitudes Project. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

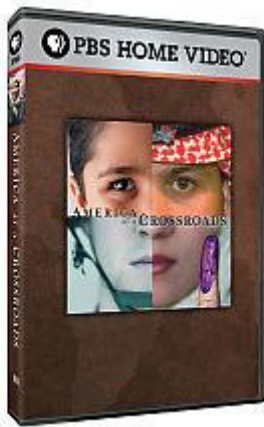
Very Unfavorable Views of al Qaeda Increase

View of al Qaeda ...	Fav %	Somewhat unfav %	Very unfav %	DK %
U.S. Muslims				
2011	5	11	70	14=100
2007	5	10	58	27=100
Native born	10	15	62	13=100
African Amer.	11	21	56	12=100
Other	9	11	67	13=100
Foreign born	3	9	75	14=100
<i>Muslims in ...</i>				
Palest. terr.	28	48	20	4=100
Indonesia	22	34	21	22=100
Egypt	21	33	41	5=100
Jordan	15	39	38	8=100
Turkey	4	10	67	18=100
Lebanon	2	*	92	2=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER 2011 Muslim American Survey, Q93. Muslim countries' results from Spring 2011 surveys by the Pew Global Attitudes Project. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.



*Views of
U.S.
Muslims
in Pew
Research
Studies*

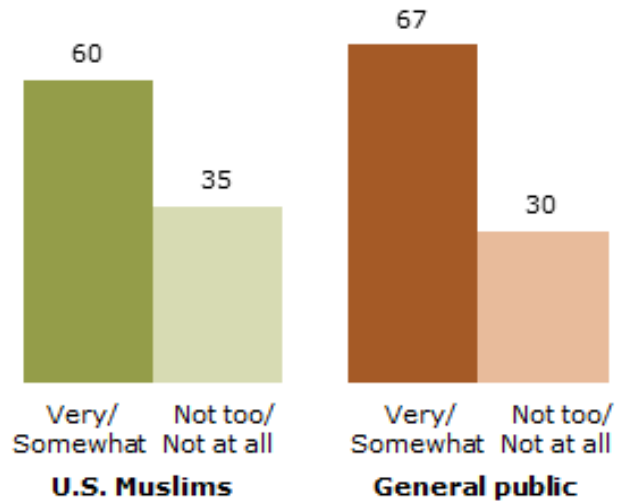


America at a Crossroads: The Muslim Americans (Not Rated, 60 minutes)

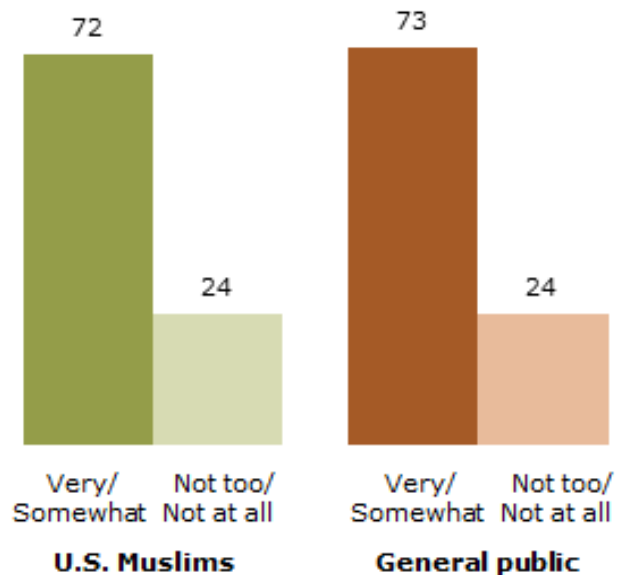
This episode explores the diversity of Muslims in America today, focusing on communities' experience after 9/11 and contrasting life for Muslims here in the United states with Muslims in Britain and Europe. The film looks at the ongoing conversation American Muslims are having about life in the United States, including assimilation, discrimination, Muslim youth, religion and politics.

Muslim Americans as Concerned as Public about Islamic Extremism

Concerned about possible rise of Islamic extremism in the U.S.



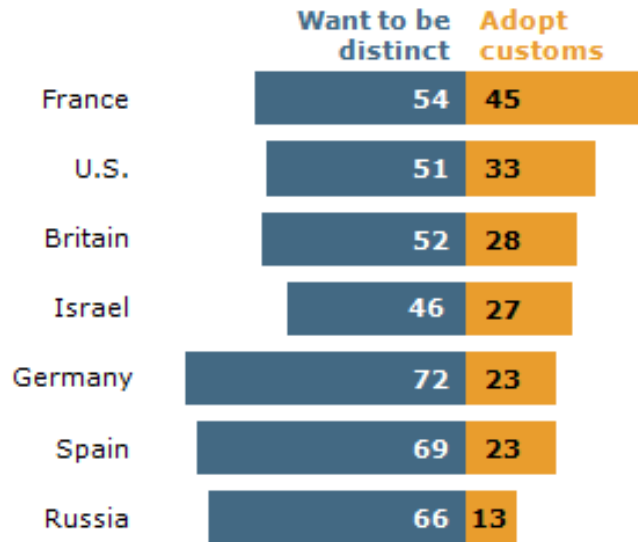
Concerned about rise of Islamic extremism around the world



PEW RESEARCH CENTER 2011 Muslim American Survey, Q75-76. General public results from July 2011 survey by Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

Views of General Public Globally and in U.S. (2011)

Most See Muslims in Country as Wanting to Be Distinct From Society



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q43.



You can learn more about various faiths, often by seeking out interfaith dialogue groups. For instance, the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN offers many workshops and events through their Muslim-Christian Dialogue Center.

Views of Muslim-Americans (2011) and 51% of American Public Believes Muslims want to be Distinct

56%

of **Muslim Americans** say that most Muslims who come to the U.S. today want to adopt American customs and ways of life. In contrast, only ...

33%

of the **general public** believes that Muslims who come to the United States want to adopt American customs.



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The Three Abrahamic Faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam

*Also referred to
as the
Three Monotheistic Religions*



Abraham is considered to be the founder of **Judaism**, as he was called by G-d to make sacrifices and pray in sacred places.

G-d called Abraham to sacrifice his only son to him as an offering. Abraham was willing to do this and once G-d knew that He trusted him completely, so He seized the sacrifice and provided a lamb as an offering.

This story is very significant to Judaism as it is the first time G-d spoke to the people in the Torah.

Note, believers in the faith of Judaism, referred to as Jews, do not spell out the name of the deity and use "G-d" in written form.

The Three Abrahamic Faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam



In **Christianity**, Abraham is important because he is the father of the people of Israel and therefore a forbear of Jesus Christ.

Paul the Apostle wrote in the New Testament's Epistle to the Romans of that faith of our father Abraham:

God ordered Abraham to take his son Isaac and sacrifice him. Then, God's messenger called out from the heavens acknowledging Abraham feared God.



A ram, caught by its horns in a nearby thicket, was presented as a burnt offering instead of Isaac.

The Three Abrahamic Faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam



In **Islam**, the Eid Al-Adha festival marks the completion of the *hajj* (pilgrimage) rites in Saudi Arabia, but is also observed by Muslims throughout the world to commemorate the faith of Ibrahim (Abraham).

About 2 million Muslims complete the *hajj* each year.

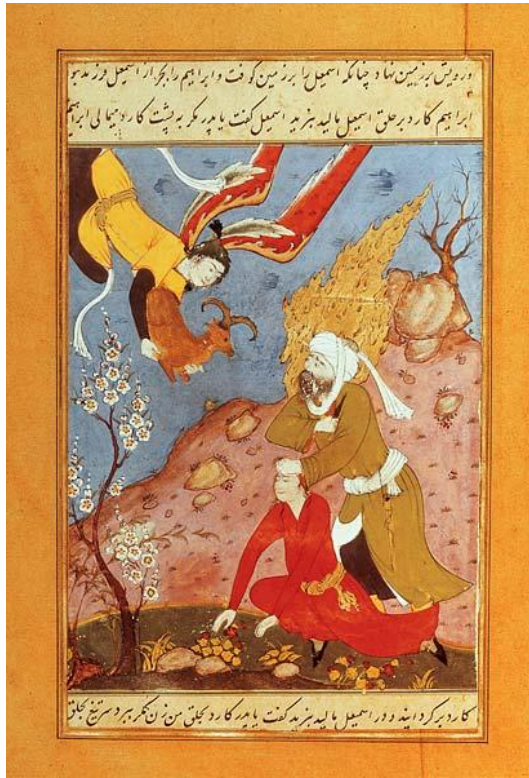
It is a festival commemorating God's gift of a ram in place of Isma'il (Ishmael), whom God had commanded Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice.

(In Judaism and Christianity, the child in the rendition is Ishmael's brother Isaac.)

Satan tried to persuade Ibrahim to disobey God and not to sacrifice his beloved son, but Ibrahim stayed absolutely obedient to God and drove the devil away.

Eid al-Adha is a celebration of this supreme example of submission to God, which is the cornerstone of the Islamic faith (*Islam* means "submission").

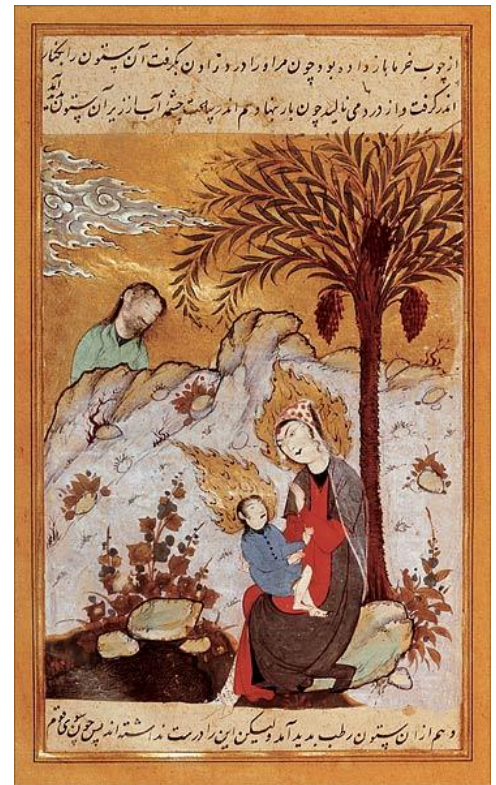
Sacrifice of Ibrahim (Abraham)
(*Qur'an: 37 Verses 100–107*)



The 19th chapter of the Qur'an is named after Maryam (Mary) and begins with two narrations of the 'miraculous births' of God's Elect: Yahya (John the Baptist) and Isa (Jesus).

The two readings (from the Bible and the Qur'an) of this episode are complementary. (Wikipedia)

Mariam & Isa (Mary & Jesus) under a palm tree (Qur'an: 19 Verses 23-26)



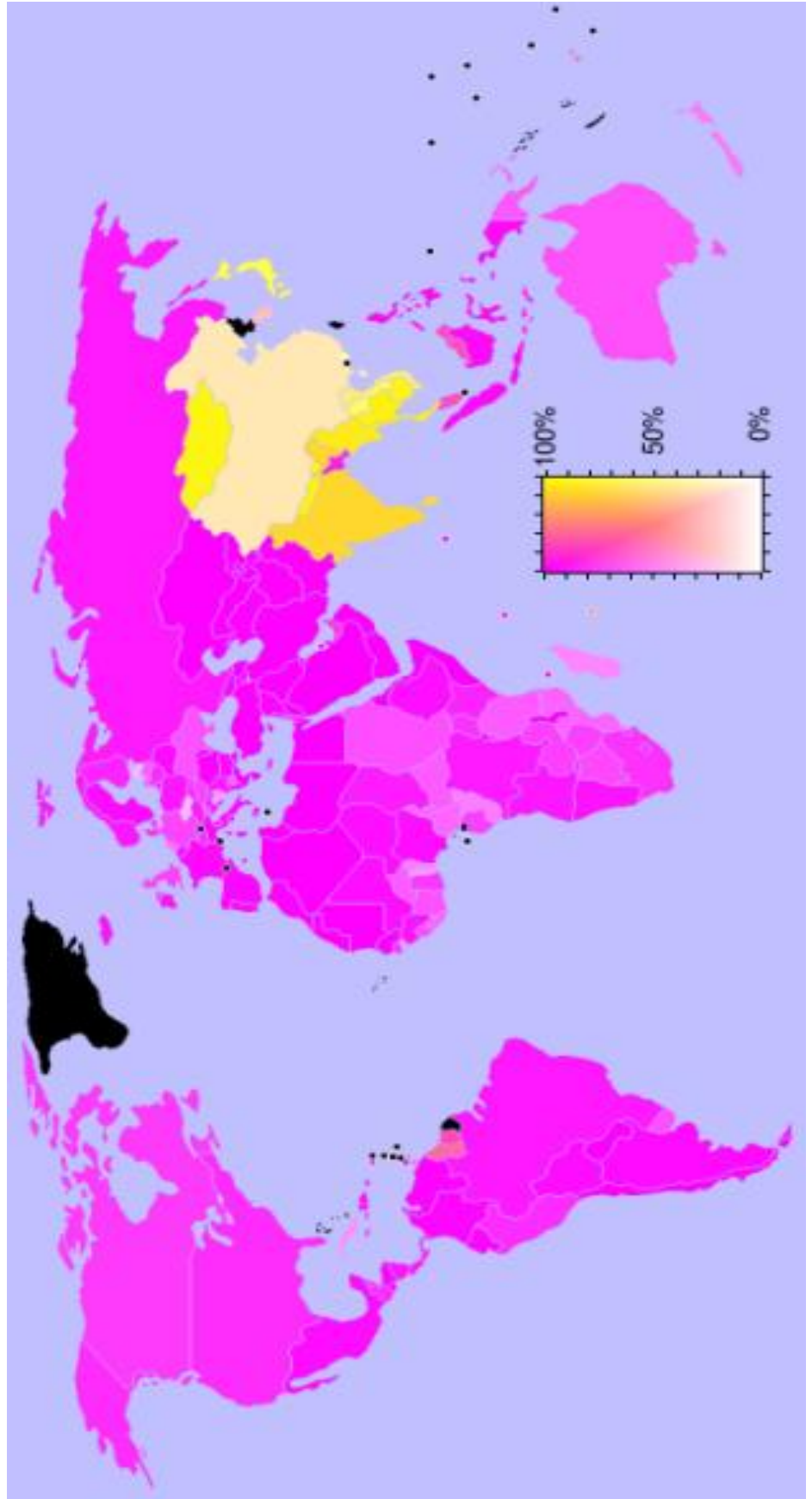
Isa (Jesus) bringing down heavenly food to his disciples (Qur'an: 5 Verses 111-115) (Bible: John, Chapter 6)



WHAT IS ISLAM?



The
combined
Three
Abrahamic
Faiths
comprise the
largest
percentage
of the
world's
religions, as
depicted in
this map.



The Three Abrahamic Faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam

ReligionFacts.com:

Islam is the second largest religion in the world after Christianity. As a monotheistic faith that originated in the Middle East, Islam holds many beliefs and practices in common with Judaism and Christianity.



Judaism, Islam and Christianity are collectively known as "Abrahamic religions" because they trace their history to the covenant God made with Abraham in the Hebrew Bible.

The Prophet Muhammad met both Jews and Christians during his lifetime, and Islam has come into frequent contact with both of its fellow monotheistic faiths throughout most of its history.

As a brief guide of the similarities and differences of Islam, Judaism and Christianity, the following chart compares the statistics, origins, history and religious beliefs of these three great monotheistic faiths.

Please note that, as with all charts of this kind, the information is oversimplified and should not be used as a sole resource.

Note, for purposes of spacing a couple rows were deleted in charts, available in original format at source:

http://www.religionfacts.com/islam/comparison_charts/islam_judaism_christianity.htm



Comparison of Statistics and Basics

	Islam	Judaism	Christianity
adherents called	Muslims	Jews	Christians
current adherents	1.3 billion	14 million	2 billion
current size rank	2nd largest	12th largest	largest
major concentration	Middle East, Southeast Asia	Israel, Europe, USA	Europe, North and South America, rapid growth in Africa
sacred text	Qur'an (Koran)	Bible	Bible (Jewish Bible + New Testament)
other written authority	Hadith	Talmud, Midrash, Responsa	church fathers, church councils, papal decrees (Catholic only)
religious law	Sharia	Halakhah	Canon Law
clergy	imams	rabbis	priests, ministers, pastors, bishops
house of worship	mosque	synagogue	church, chapel, cathedral
main day of worship	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
church and state	integrated	separate	separate

Comparison of Origins and History

	Islam	Judaism	Christianity
date founded	622 CE	unknown	c. 33 CE
place founded	Saudi Arabia	Palestine (def)	Palestine
founder	Muhammad	Moses or Abraham	Jesus
original language(s)	Arabic	Hebrew	Aramaic, Greek
early expansion	within 12 years, entire Arabian peninsula; within 100 years, Muslim world stretched from the Atlantic to China	little expansion; mostly confined to Palestine	within 60 years, churches in major cities in Palestine, Turkey, Greece and Rome (map); entire Roman Empire by end of 4th cent.



Comparison of Religious Beliefs

	Islam	Judaism	Christianity
type of theism	strict monotheism	strict monotheism	Trinitarian monotheism
ultimate reality	one God	one God	one God
names of God	Allah (Arabic for God)	Yahweh, Elohim	Yahweh, the Holy Trinity
other spiritual beings	angels, demons, jinn	angels and demons	angels and demons
revered humans	prophets, imams (especially in Shia)	prophets	saints, church fathers
identity of Jesus	true prophet of God, whose message has been corrupted	false prophet	Son of God, God incarnate, savior of the world
birth of Jesus	virgin birth	normal birth	virgin birth
death of Jesus	did not die, but ascended into heaven during crucifixion	death by crucifixion	death by crucifixion
resurrection of Jesus	denied	denied	affirmed
second coming of Jesus	affirmed	denied	affirmed
divine revelation	through Muhammad, recorded in Qur'an	through Prophets, recorded in Bible	through Prophets and Jesus (as God Himself), recorded in Bible
view of sacred text	inspired, literal word of God, inerrant in original languages	views vary	inspired, some believe inerrant in original languages
human nature	equal ability to do good or evil	two equal impulses, one good and one bad	"original sin" inherited from Adam - tendency towards evil
God's role in salvation	predestination	divine revelation and forgiveness	predestination, various forms of grace
view of fellow Abrahamic religions	Jews and Christians are respected as "People of the Book," but they have wrong beliefs and only partial revelation.	Islam and Christianity are false interpretations and extensions of Judaism.	Judaism is a true religion, but with incomplete revelation. Islam is a false religion.