

THE TORCH

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Understanding Islam and its History

The following article is the first in a two-part series on Islam in Texas.

Two billion people in the world today practice Islam. That's one-in-four. Most of the world's nearly 50 Muslim-majority countries are governed according to Islamic principles, customs, and laws; 57 countries are members of the global Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Virtually all major Western countries rely on oil from Islamic countries and pursue liberal immigration policies encouraging Muslim migration into the West. As a result of those policies, many Texas communities, educational institutions, and companies are experiencing unprecedented growth in their Muslim populations.

But how much do we know about Islam, its beliefs, values, and history? Would a survey of Islam show a religion aligned or at-odds with Western values? Does Islam recognize a separation between religion and politics? Would the history of Islam show a pattern of coexistence or conquest?

Many well-meaning people wish to avoid the appearance of being prejudicial, so they opt instead for loosely held opinions which, in reality, amount to little more than untested assumptions and wishful thinking. They assume that mutual respect, common decency, and peaceful tolerance are universally-shared values.

Such assumptions might be beneficial on a day-to-day personal level. But when well-intended assumptions, unchecked by reality, become the basis for our political and policy decisions rather than truth, we can soon find ourselves facing the harsh consequences of ignorance.

This two-part series explores the impact Muslim migration is having on Texas. In Part One, we begin with a survey of Islam and its history. Part Two will expose the current situation in Texas as a result of the state's growing population of unassimilated Muslims, and outline the important steps we must take to protect our state, communities, and families.

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A Survey of Islam and its History

The religion of Islam was established in the 7th century by Mohammed, an Arab man who lived in what is today Saudi Arabia. Born in Mecca in 570AD, orphaned as a toddler, and cared for by poor bedouins in the Arabian desert, Mohammed claimed to have his first mystical experience as a young child. (His foster mother believed the child was demon-possessed.) When he was in his early 20s, Mohammed married into a wealthy family of a powerful tribe, the Quraysh.

In 610AD, at age 40, Mohammed claimed the angel Gabriel visited him in the cave of Hira, gave him the power to read and write, and declared him to be the “Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets” (the last prophet) on a mission to restore worship of *Allah* (god) throughout the world. *Islam* is an Arabic word that can be literally translated as “submission.” *Muslim* is a cognate of Islam meaning “one who submits.” Mohammed’s early followers were among the slaves, poor, and oppressed of Mecca.

The sacred text of Islam is the *Quran* (“recitation”), a collection of 114 revelations supposedly given to Mohammed by Gabriel from Allah. Each revelation corresponds to one chapter (*sura*) in the Quran (Q). The suras are organized by the number of verses (*ayahs*), longest to shortest, rather than chronologically. In Islamic teaching, the Quran supplants previous holy scriptures, namely the Law of Moses, the Psalms of David, and the *Injil* – the Gospels. Where the Quran contradicts the Bible, Muslims believe the Quran is correct. Additional teachings from Mohammed on proper ways of living were collected by his companions (*Sahaba*) and compiled in the *Hadith*, which Islamic scholars use as the basis for Islamic society and law (*Sharia*). Today, Sharia law is either the primary or significant source of law in 30 countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Indonesia.

For nearly a decade, Mohammed’s influence in Mecca continued to grow. But when his wife died in 619AD, Mohammed lost the protection his advantageous marriage had afforded him. In 622AD, he and his followers fled north from persecution to the Jewish city of Yathrib (present-day Medina) where Mohammed established his *caliphate* (Islamic nation), slaughtered 800 Jewish men, confiscated their property, and took women and children as slaves. Known as the original *hijrah* (migration), this is considered the beginning of Islam as an organized religion and is year zero of the Islamic calendar (*hijri*; 2026AD corresponds to 1447/8AH).

Today, *hijrah* is the religious obligation on Muslims to migrate to Muslim countries from non-Muslim countries if they are not able to openly practice their religion (Q.4:97). For those who choose to remain, however, several hadiths forbid them from integrating into non-Muslim society. “Whoever settles in the lands of the non-Muslims, celebrates their festivals, and imitates them, and then dies whilst in that state will be gathered with them (i.e. counted as a non-believer) on the Day of Resurrection” (*The Truthful Script*, Book One of the Hadith). Muslim theologian Ibn al-Qayyim warned: “[Congratulating non-Muslims on their Christian or secular holidays] is as grave a sin as... murdering someone, or having illicit sexual relations. Whoever congratulates a person on his disobedience to Allah... imperils himself to the wrath... of Allah.”

Early on, Mohammed gave the appearance of welcoming diversity: “Let there be no compulsion in religion” (Q.2:256). But this liberality of mind quickly gave way to much harsher attitudes towards people who refused to convert. “Fight and slay the idolaters wherever you find them... besiege them... lie in wait for them” (Q.9:5). Mohammed also took a hard line on those who resisted Islamic control. “The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His Apostle, and strive with might... for mischief through the land is: execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from the land” (Q.5:33). Indeed, early Muslims believed it was their sacred duty to murder anyone who refused to submit to Islamic conquerors (Q.2:216; 9:29).



It is a common misconception that Muslims and Christians believe in the same God, but the Quran makes it clear that this is not so. According to Walter Martin, “The Muslim God is unapproachable by sinful man... [He] is a god of judgment, not grace; a god of wrath, rather than love. The Muslim’s desire is to submit to the point where he can hold back the judging arm of Allah and, perhaps through the capricious whim of Allah, inherit eternal life in an earthly paradise of gluttony and sexual gratification” (*The Kingdom of the Cults*, pg. 366).

The Quran teaches that Jesus Christ is not the Son of God, but rather a prophet of Allah (Q.4:171), who did not die but was taken to heaven in bodily form (Q.4:157). These claims directly contradict the historical facts of the Gospel. In the Quran, Jews are called people “who will listen to any lie” (Q.5:41), and anyone who believes Jesus is God is an infidel (Q.5:73) and an enemy (Q.5:14). The Quran even forbids Muslims from having Jewish or Christian friends (Q.5:51).

After consolidating his power in Medina, Mohammed conquered Mecca in 630AD, solidifying Muslim control of Arabia. For the next century, Islam continued to spread by the sword across the Middle East, parts of India, the north of Africa, and even into Europe (modern-day Sicily and Spain), where Christians were forced to pay a *jizya* (tax on non-believers) in exchange for limited freedom as second-class citizens (*dhimmi*). This two-tiered society included such restrictions on Christians as: forbidding the new construction or restoration of churches; public displays of faith (e.g. ringing church bells, erecting crosses); proselytizing; preventing the conversion to Islam of a family member or friend; dressing like a Muslim; carrying weapons or riding horses. If a Christian broke any of the laws against them, Muslims “are allowed to do [to them] what [they] are allowed [to do] to people of defiance (*kafir*) and rebellion” (Pact of Umar, 634AD), which is to say, kill them.

Mohammed’s personal life was as tumultuous as his empire. He committed multiple transgressions against the Quran he helped write, but, in every instance, Mohammed claimed Allah gave him special dispensation (Q.33:36-40). For example, even though the Quran limits the number of wives to four (Q.4:3), Mohammed had thirteen wives, several of which were either war widows or women taken from conquered Arab and Jewish tribes. Mohammed even took his daughter-in-law for a wife (forbidden, Q.4:31), after his son was killed.

But not all of Mohammed’s choices in wives went against the Quran. At age 50, Mohammed took six-year old Aisha as a bride and consummated the marriage when she was only nine (permitted, Q.65:4). Mohammed also had two sex slaves (permitted, Q.4:34; 23:5-6), including a Jewish captive named Rayhana, and Maria, an Egyptian Coptic (Christian). With the exception of his first wife,



Khadija, with whom he was monogamous for over 20 years, Mohammed’s polygamous marriages were the results of his military conquests and consolidation of power in Arabia.

Following Mohammed’s death in 632AD, Islam split into two major branches, Shi’i and Sunni, over the succession of legitimate *caliphs* (leaders). For Shia Muslims (i.e. Shi’ite), Mohammed’s son-in-law and fourth caliph Ali is the first in a line of *imams* (spiritual leaders) that ended with the twelfth imam, who disappeared in 878AD. Shias believe *al-Mahdi*, the Hidden Imam, will return as a messianic figure and usher in a golden age of Islam before the destruction of the world. Until then, they look to an *ayatollah* (cleric) for spiritual authority. Worldwide, the Shia population is estimated to be between 150-200 million. Iran is the largest Shia country. Other Muslim countries with significant Shia populations include Bahrain, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, and Yemen.

90% of Muslims in the world (1.7-1.8 billion) are Sunni, the largest religious denomination in the world. Sunni Muslims view Shia Islam with suspicion. Some Sunni scholars portray Shia Muslims as heretics, a characterization which has fueled sectarian violence in Islamic countries. Nearly every major Islamic terrorist group to make recent headlines in the West is Sunni: Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Boko Haram, the Taliban, the Muslim Brotherhood, and Al-Shabaab.

In the late 19th century, a strict fundamentalist movement arose within Sunni Islam known as Salafism, which aimed at a renewal of Muslim life through Sharia Law, and the restoration of the caliphate through political influence and *jihad* (holy war). Today, Salafism is the fastest growing Islamic movement, representing an estimated 12% of Sunnis worldwide. Saudi Arabia is the center of the Salafist movement and, along with Qatar, is the primary source of funding for spreading its influence around the world. ➡

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EAGLE *Eye on News*

Legacy Media Pays Fawning Tribute to Khamenei - If you thought The Washington Post's infamous decision to describe ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as an "austere religious scholar" was a once in a lifetime lapse in editorial judgement, you were mistaken. With the death of Iran's brutal dictatorial supreme leader, both The New York Times and The Post are back to remind you that legacy media still has no shame. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's longtime supreme leader responsible for executions, censorship, repression, and sponsoring terrorist groups worldwide, was killed in an airstrike on Saturday. His death comes weeks after his regime oversaw the execution of tens of thousands of Iranians who took to the streets to protest his very rule. A WaPo obituary paints a rosy picture of Khamenei as a "revered mentor... fond of poetry and classic Western novels... who liked to eat bread and raisins." The NYT was equally domestic. In its obituary, Khamenei is remembered for living "modestly in a home-office complex where he met with heads of state in a sparsely furnished room with a beige carpet, a sofa and a few wooden chairs." SOURCE: Brianna Lyman, TheFederalist.com, March 2026.

The Security of Our Homeland is Not a Game - U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials have warned for a while that the Biden administration's open-border policies have exposed the nation to thousands of known and suspected terrorists among the millions of illegal immigrants that poured into the United States between 2021 and early 2025. How many will be emboldened to die for the jihadist cause and harm Americans inside America? What are their marching orders now that the leader of the world's top sponsor of terrorism is dead and his regime is under attack by the two nations Khamenei and crew have vowed to wipe off the map? One thing should be clear: This is a really bad time to defund the Department of Homeland Security. "[I]f there was ever a moment when the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) intelligence functions should be fully operational and prepared to thwart attacks against soft targets in the United States, this is it," Ira Mehlman of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, wrote just four days before the U.S. military launched Operation Epic Fury. SOURCE: M.D. Kittle, TheFederalist.com, March 2026.

NYC Surrenders the Public Square to Islamists - Literally - On Feb. 20, Times Square was filled with men kneeling shoulder to shoulder on prayer rugs for Ramadan's nightly Taraweeh prayers. New York City's most famous intersection, a place meant for commerce and tourism, had become a place for religious ritual, as it has since 2022. When hundreds of men block the center of Times Square they aren't just practicing a faith. They are marking a conquest of the public square. They are turning the literal crossroads of the Western world into an outdoor mosque for radical Islam. Standing before the cameras, Zohran Mamdani framed the disruption of the city as a moment of triumph. He called Ramadan his "favorite month of the year." He dismissed the physical blockage of Broadway as a mere byproduct of a "month of reflection" and a "month of solidarity." SOURCE: Yuan Goh, TheFederalist.com, March 2026.

GREAT AMERICAN QUOTE

"The Christian religion is the basis, or rather the source, of all genuine freedom in government. I am persuaded that no civil government of a republican form can exist and be durable in which the principles of Christianity have not a controlling influence."

Noah Webster, Founding Father

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Free speech is not an Islamic value. Free expression is not an Islamic value. It's actually the exact opposite. Submission is an Islamic value. That's literally what Islam means."

Charlie Kirk

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