

The Ideological Face of Islam

Islamic Theocracy

Articles & Pillars of Faith

Five Articles of Faith

1. Belief in God
2. Belief in Angels
3. Belief in Prophets
4. Belief in Scripture
5. Belief in Last Day
6. Predestination

Five Pillars of Faith

1. Shahadah – Witness
2. Salat – Prayer
3. Sawm – Fasting
4. Zakat – Almsgiving
5. Hajj – Pilgrimage
6. Jihad – Struggle/War

Five Faces of Islam

1. The Missionary Face – Islamic Da’wah or Call/invitation to the “straight path”
2. The Mystical Face –Sufism/*Tasawwaf* – Islam as a spiritual path (*tariqa*), eclectic
3. The Ideological Face –Islamism or political Islam – Islam in public sphere, emphasize Islamic state/law
4. The Militant Face –Physical struggle in the path of Allah for the sake of Islam to establish Islamic governance
5. The Progressive Face – Critical re-reading of Qur’an, Traditions and calls for reformation in Islam

Ideological/Political Islam



- Emphasis on the legal and political content of Islam. Popular maxims include: "Islam is a complete way of life". Objective to "Islamize the public sphere".
- The Qur'an is the only true constitution. All other systems are manmade & false and have to be replaced. "Qur'an and Sunna alone"!

Qur'anic Basis

- “Your Guardian-Lord is Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth in six days, and is firmly established on the throne (of authority) ... He created the sun, the moon, and the stars, (all) governed by laws under His command. Is it not His to create and to govern?” (7:54)
- “Ye are the best community that hath been raised up for mankind. Ye enjoin right conduct and forbid indecency.” (3:110)

Theological Foundations

Islam

- God as Ruler
- Humankind are servants
- Human problem is ignorance
- Human need is guidance
- God fully reveals God's Will in the Qur'an – as Guide
- The *umma* takes the role of divine agency

Christianity

- God as Father
- Humankind are children
- Human problem is sin
- Human need is a savior
- God fully reveals God-self in Jesus – as Savior
- The Holy Spirit takes the role of divine agency

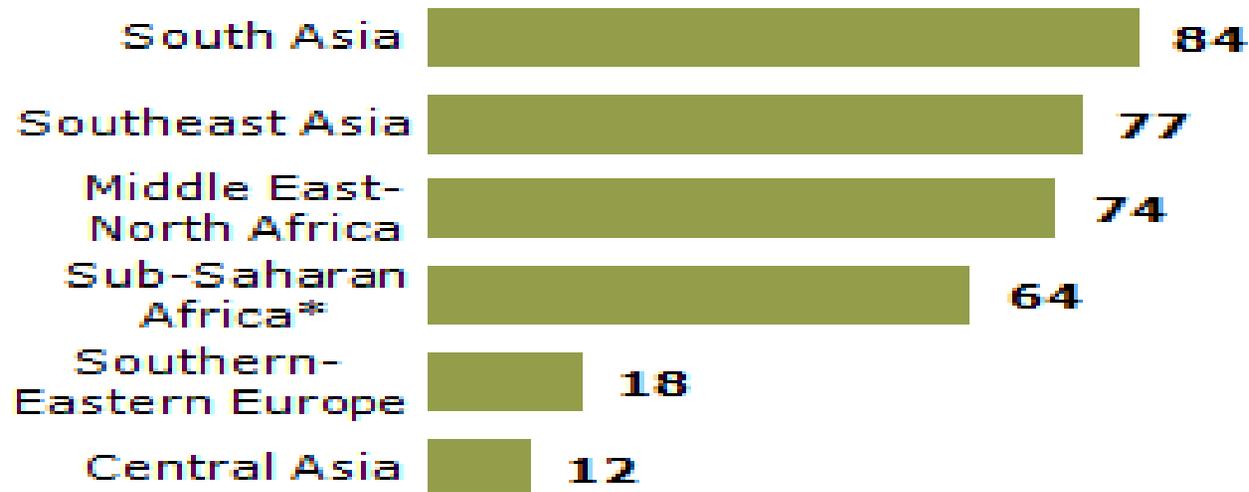
Law in Islam

- “Islamic Law is the epitome of Islamic thought, the most typical manifestation of the Islamic way of life, the core and kernel of Islam itself.” (Schacht: 1982:1)
- “The Shari’a instructs man on how he should eat, receive visitors, buy and sell, slaughter animals, clean himself, sleep, go to the toilet, lead a government, practise justice, pray, and perform other acts of *ibadat* [worship]”. (Badru Kateregga)

Support for Shari'a

Many Back Sharia as Official Law

Median % of Muslims who favor enshrining sharia



*Data for all countries except Niger from "Tolerance and Tension: Islam and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa."

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Ideological Islam

- Takes a very radical stance against other worldviews including Muslims who don't agree with them. These are not necessarily militant but believe in the replacement or overthrow of all non-Islamic systems for an Islamic order.
- Wahhabis and Salafis of Saudi Arabia, the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt and Sudan. Groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah are mainly ideological but have militant wings. Political Islam is the seedbed for militant Islam.
- Resources: "The Third Jihad"; "Who speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think"

Sayyid Qutb (1906-1966)



- Humans can choose only between Islam and *jahiliyya*.
- No middle ground exists in the struggle between God and Satan, good and evil, Islam and non-Islam, Muslim and non-Muslim.

Ideological Islam

- “A Muslim is not a person who merely believes, but rather a person who practises Islam and, in addition, hates unbelief, its symbols and men ... A person who, in spite of being a Muslim, fraternizes with unbelievers and innovators and [seeks] worldly benefit from them is, to all intents and purposes, a hypocrite. The people of the Sunna have to keep their distance from those who are the declared enemies of Allah.” (Ibrahim Sulaiman).

Lessons from Iran

- “Iran is the modern world’s first and only constitutional theocracy. It is also one of the least religious countries in the Middle East. Islam plays a smaller role in public life today than it did a decade ago. The daughter of a high cleric contends that ‘religious belief is mostly gone. Faith has been replaced by disgust.’”
- “The transformation of Shia Islam into an ideology undermined both the state and the mosque. The great irony of the Islamic revolution is that inadvertently it did more to secularise the country than the tyrannical shah, who ruled Iran after a coup in 1953 and persecuted clerics. By forcing religion on people it poisoned worship for many.”
(The Economist, Nov. 2014)

The Christian and Public Square



- “There is a great need for more Christian thinkers in contemporary society, who will throw themselves into the public debate... Their motivation will be thoroughly Christian – a vision of the God who cares about justice, compassion, honesty and freedom in society.”

Believers and Citizens

- The church needs to be engaged (not reactionary) to issues of public concern – forces and factors that shape and direct popular culture, film and entertainment industry, business, politics, media, education, legislation etc
- The church needs to: 1). maintain a winsome prophetic voice in the public sphere; 2). Take active interest in careers of Christian politicians, business people, educationists, media personnel, other professional groups and public servants.

Public Witness

- “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.” (Matt 5:13)
- “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.” (Matt 5: 13-15)