

Week 1
Culture and Race

Today Muslim often gets elided to “Arab” in an American mind. Only 15- 20% of Muslims, are in fact Arab.

Arab is a complex term. To be an Arab is to have a direct or partial ancestral relation to the nomadic indigenous inhabitants of the Arabian peninsula and the Syrian desert.

- Muslims are found all over the world, of every nation, color and race.
 - Malcolm X when he went on Hajj was dumbstruck that there were blond haired and blue eyed on Pilgrimage.

Largest Muslim countries in raw numbers-- Indonesia, home to 12.7% of the world's Muslims

2 nd	-	Pakistan (11.0%)
3 rd	-	India (10.9%)
4 th	-	Bangladesh (9.2%).

- Turkey is not an Arab nation.
 - It is a mix of ethnic Turks, Kurds, Armenian, Greeks, Assyrians, etc...
 - and Arabs account for 1/75th of the population
- Iran is **not** an Arab nation. Heavily Persian ---
 - Persians (61%), Azerbaijanis (16%), Kurds (10%), Lurs (6%), Arabs (2%)
- **But** Turkey and Iran are the largest Muslim-majority countries, but not the largest headcount of Muslims in the world.

In Africa – Egypt and Nigeria have most Muslims (more than 80% of Egyptians do not consider themselves ethnic arab- there is an Arab league but it is more for political convenience. Egyptians do speak Arabic)

Egypt	80,024,000	94.7	4.9% of Global
Nigeria	75,728,000	47.9	4.7% of Global

What about those Arab terrorists?

Afghanistan is 99.8% Muslim but accounts for less than 2% of the global Muslim demographic. And less than 1% is Arab by definition.

Terrorism is not defined by ethnicity. It is a social, political cancer that can form anywhere. Remember Timothy McVey as anglo as they come born in New York. The Boston bombers were Muslim but not Arab.

Muslim Stats

Afghanistan	29,047,000	99.8	1.8% of Global
Iran	74,819,000	99.6	4.6% of Global (Not Arab – Persian)

Iraq 31,108,000 98.9 1.9% of Global

Biggest nations for comparison

Indonesia	204,847,000	88.1	12.7% of Global <i>(number equivalent of ~2/3rd of total American population)</i>
Pakistan	178,097,000	96.4	11.0%
India	177,286,000	14.6	10.9%

United States

2,595,000 0.8 0.2%

There are more American Muslims than Episcopalians

Fun Fact-

There are 67 million Chinese Christians.

There are 64 million American Catholics

There are 16 million Baptists in America

While the Chinese Christian Church it is still significant just in sheer numbers.

The conspiracy of silence by the Muslim world.

The narrative:

Muslims are silently cheering the terrorist agenda. If they really opposed terrorism, they would speak up.

One well know example of this narrative

Tom Friedman 2005 the famous economists wrote.

To this day – to this day – no major Muslim cleric or religious body has ever issued a fatwa condemning Osama bin Laden.”

However well before he wrote this:

57 leaders of North American Islamic organizations, 77 intellectuals, and dozens of concerned citizens:

“As American Muslims and scholars of Islam, we wish to restate our conviction that peace and justice constitute the basic principles of the Muslim faith. We wish again to state unequivocally that neither the al-Qaeda organization nor Usama bin Laden represents Islam or reflects Muslim beliefs and practice. Rather, groups like al-Qaeda have misused and abused Islam in order to fit their own radical and indeed anti-Islamic agenda. Usama bin Laden and al-Qaeda’s actions are criminal, misguided and counter to the true teachings of Islam.”

Before Friedemen wrote the 2005 article, the condemnation was persistent and global, a few more examples specifically condemning Bin Laden.

- Ayatollah Muhammad Husain Fadlallah of Lebanon
- Grand Imam of Al-Azhar seminary, Shaikh Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, Egypt.
- Pakistani Cleric Tahir ul Qadri condemned Bin Laden.
- Yusuf al-Qaradawi. He is an old-time, very popular Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood preacher
 - He even gave a fatwa that it was a duty of Muslims to fight alongside the US in Afghanistan against al-Qaeda.
- Spanish Muslim Clerical authorities
- High Mufti of Russian Muslims

Mustafa Mashhur, General Guide, Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt

Qazi Hussain Ahmed, Ameer, Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan

Muti Rahman Nizami, Ameer, Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh

Shaykh Ahmad Yassin, Founder, Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), Palestine

Rashid Ghannoushi, Nahda Renaissance Movement, Tunisia

Fazil Nour, President, PAS – Parti Islam SeMalaysia, Malaysia

and 40 other Muslim scholars and politicians:

“The undersigned, leaders of Islamic movements, are horrified by the events of Tuesday 11 September 2001 in the United States which resulted in massive killing, destruction and attack on innocent lives. We express our deepest sympathies and sorrow. We condemn, in the strongest terms, the incidents, which are against all human and Islamic norms. This is grounded in the Noble Laws of Islam which forbid all forms of attacks on innocents.

- Hundreds of Fatwas
- Thousand of individual blogs
- Hundred of Scholars, Clerics, and Prominent Muslim leaders continue to fall over themselves to condemn terrorism **and not just 9/11**

Libya

There is no justification for such wanton violence that led to the deaths of innocent Americans in Libya,

Dawud Walid, head of the Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Boston Bombings

I don't care who or what these criminals claim to be, but I can never recognize these criminals as part of my city or my faith community

Yusufi Vali, executive director for the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, the largest mosque in the Boston area.

These are acts of crime, not acts of religion

Benjamin Abdul-Haqq, an imam at Masjid Muhammad mosque in Washington

The exasperation of not being heard is causing some to throw up their hands because the perception is not matter how hard they try non-Muslims have their fingers in their ears.

Aman Ali

Nickleback is planning on releasing another album. Should I ask white people to apologize for that?

What if we equated those who bomb abortion clinics with Global Christianity? Especially the big box churches

Those who condemned the 2009 murder of Kansas late-term abortion doctor George Tiller:

The American Life League issued a "Pro-life Proclamation Against Violence Center for Bio-Ethical Reform and Pro-Lifers Against Clinic Violence.

The anti-abortion organization National Coalition for Life and Peace

Family Research Council

Americans United for Life

Concerned Women for America

Susan B. Anthony List

American Life League

Students for Life of America

Pro-Life Action League

40 Days For Life

Have you heard of any of these?

They fell over themselves to distance themselves from violence, but there is a persistent, cancerous narrative that Evangelicals are quietly cheering the death of Tiller.