

The World of Islam

Muslim Terms

Islam is the second largest religion in the world. Since Islam got its start in the Arab world and continues to employ Arabic prayers and teachings, much of the terminology is foreign to Westerners. Below are some key words and their definitions.

caliph - short for caliphate, meaning leader or religious ruler. The capital-C Caliphate is regarded as the successor of Muhammad.

Dar ul Harb - the house of the pagan

Dar ul Islam - the house of Islam

imam - literally "beliefs" It generally refers to the head of a mosque or one who leads in prayer.

Injil - the Arabic term for the New Testament. Some Muslim scholars dispute this, choosing to use *Injil* to refer only to the Islamic version of the New Testament (most Muslims are taught and believe that Christian Scriptures were "corrupted" and are no longer reliable).

Islam - "submission"

jihad - "strive" or "strike"

mahdi - "the guided one." The coming of the 12th Mahdi is considered to be one of the major signs preceding the "Last Day" in Islamic eschatology.

marabout - leader, teacher, wandering holy man. Often believed to possess magical powers.

muezzin - the man appointed to climb the mosque minaret and issue the call to prayer.

mullah - "vice-guardian," an Islamic clergyman, cleric, or mosque leader

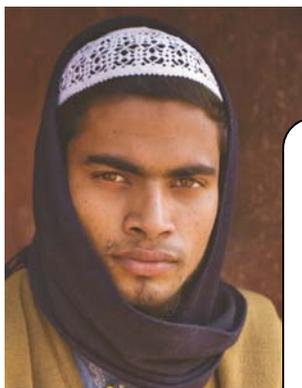
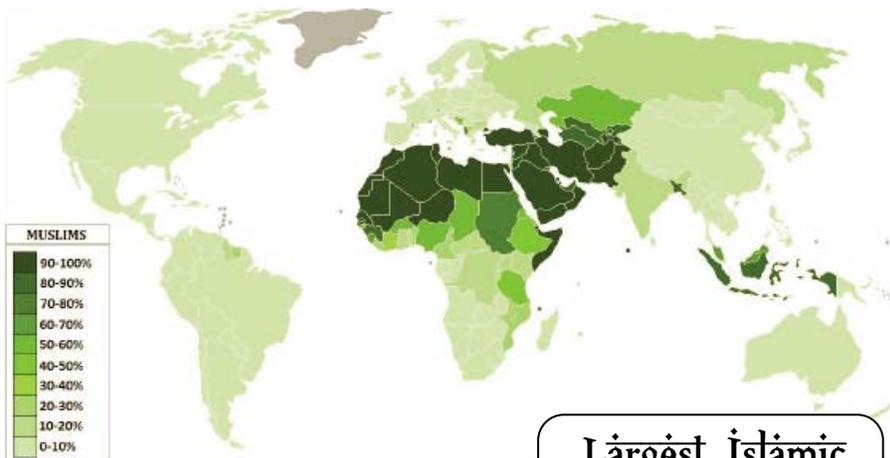
Muslim - "surrendered"

Qur'an (also spelled *Koran*, pronounced *ku-ron*) - "recitations." This compilation of revelations received by Muhammad over the course of some 22 years is approximately the length of the New Testament and is the primary "holy book" of Islam (others include the *Hadith*).

sheikh (also *sheik*, *shaikh*) - chief / head of a tribe or clan.

Shi'ite (shee'-ite) - sect that believes God speaks through men (an *imam*), similar to the Catholic Church's view of the Pope.

Sunni (suu-nee) - sect that emphasizes the written traditions, including the *Sunna* ("custom"), from which they get their name.



Largest Islamic Peoples

Shaikh	210 million
Turks	56 million
Egyptian Arab	54 million
Pashtun, North	46 million
Hausa	34 million
Algerian Arab	33 million
Java Pesisir	33 million
Persian	33 million
Sunda	32 million
Jat Muslim	30 million
Uzbek, Northern	26 million

All but one of these peoples is considered unreached.

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By the Numbers

1.6 billion - number of Muslims in the world today

85 - percentage of Muslims who are Sunni

15 - percentage who are Shi'ite

3 to 1 - ratio of non-Arab Muslims to Arab Muslims

2,858 - number of unreached people groups who are predominantly Muslim

187 million - number of Muslims in Indonesia, the most populous Islamic nation in the world

45 million - number of Muslims in Europe

6 million - number of Muslims in United States

80% - estimated percentage of Muslims who have never heard the Gospel.

1.3 billion - estimated number of "unreached followers of Islam"

1 million - estimated number of Shi'ites who have come to faith in Christ in Iran in the past 30 years

3 - average number of missionaries per one million Muslims