

ISLAM

(1,6 bill; 24% in Africa (esp Egypt & Northern Nigeria); the rest in Middle East, South Russia, Turkey, Pakistan, Indonesia (largest), the origin of first SA slaves brought by the Dutch VOC in 1694

Allah (Quran)

Prophet Moses ("Musa")
BC Egypt (also, Judaism & Christianity) (1300BC)

Prophet Jesus ("Isa")
(Christianity)

Prophet Mohammed (632AD)

Africa & Spain

Egypt 641 AD
Algeria 702 AD
Morocco 707 AD
N Nigeria 11th AD
(Caliphate of Sokoto), 19th AD

Spain

Caliphate/Sultanate of Cordoba
Sufi rule in Andalusia, 10th-15th AD (Cordoba, Toledo & Granada)
Muslims (Sufi), Jews (Sephardic) and Christians co-existed until the Spanish Catholic Kings (Ferdinand & Isabella) defeated the Muslims (who went back to Morocco) and in the same year (1492AD, also Columbus), expelled the Jews who then moved to Constantinople and Morocco

Arabia/Middle East

(Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem, Damascus)
(the cradle of most contemporary religions with exception of Hinduism, Buddhism & Confucianism)

Three Major Traditions (Sunni, Shia, Sufi) (85% of all Muslims are Sunni)

(most Sunni are Arabs; most Shia/Shite are non-Arabs (eg Persians/Iran); and most Sufi are from outside the Middle East/Persian Gulf, eg, Andalusia, West Africa, Asia & RSA)

Sunni (& Sufi)

1st University in Africa/Spain
• Fez (Morocco), 8th AD
• al-Azhar (Cairo), 10th AD
• Cordoba, 12th AD
(Sufi rule until 1492)

Trans Sahara Trade Route by Berbers (Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, Songhai, Borno & Sokoto. Factors: Camels & tsetse fly, 11th-19th AD) (Strong Sufi influence since 1590)

Ismailism
(since 8th AD)
(Shia/ Shiites)
(Persia)

Alawites of Syria
Ayatollahs of Iran
Iran Revolution 1979 (anti-Shah)
Hezbollah of Lebanon (anti Israel)
Houthi of Yemen

Note: since the defeat of Saddam Hussein in 2004 in Iraq, the struggle for domination of the Muslim world, rages between **Iran** (Shia) – ally of Russia in Syria, and **Saudi Arabia** (Sunni) – ally of USA in "war on terror"; **both** are fighting IS. But with growing instability in Saudi Arabia the prognosis for peace in the oil world is precarious.

The lessons: religion is never apolitical and the alliances in the Muslim world are shifting all the time.

Sufi Brotherhoods
(since 10th AD)
(mostly "moderates")
Andalusia, Egypt, West Africa, Turkey & Asia
NB: SA Muslims, since 1694 (Cape) & 1860 (Natal)

Baathist (since 1970s)
(Sunni, Political Party)
Iraq (Saddam) and Syria (al-Assad)

Sunni (Radicals)
("Allah, dollars & oil", since 1986)

Created originally by extremists in Damascus & Riyadh, as well as recently in the "ungoverned spaces" of **Iraq, Libya & Syria** (= "IS" 2013)

Salafism
"Damascus, 14th AD, eg Boko Haram; also inspired by Iran Revolution of 1979)

Wahhabism
(Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, 18th AD "madrassas")
Saudi Arabia's & Qatar's roles are puzzling. Both oppose IS and al-Qaeda, yet both are tolerant of Wahhabism which gave rise to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda. But Saudi Arabia is an ally in the "War on Terror"

Examples (without territories)

al-Qaeda/Osama bin Laden (1986); Taliban in Afghanistan (1994); Boko Haram (Nigeria) (2002); al-Shabaab (Somalia) (2005)

IS (after 2013) Califate, with territories

(anti-participation; against Western materialism; oppose the secular state, jihadism against Christianity, militant, eg, Paris, 13 Nov 2015)
(The lessons: Muslim extremism/IS and Islamophobia in the West are mutually reinforcing: as Islamists proliferate, so are rightwing political parties in France, Belgium, the UK and the USA, etc)

NB: Most terrorists are Muslims (eg, Salafi, Wahhabi & IS), **but** most Muslims (eg, Sufi Brotherhoods, Shia and other Sunni) are not terrorists. They are the largest (moderate) majority of Muslims in the World (eg, Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, the Kurds, UA Emirates, Kuwait & Morocco, Indonesia, etc). Other nations in this anti-IS bloc are France, the USA, Iran, Russia and Assad of Syria, etc. Israel is non-aligned.