



Muslim

Integration

and

Islamist Fundamen

A Cross Culture

Contrast

Table of Contents

Waves of Immigration

Current Muslim Populations

Basic contrasts of the European and American Muslim Society

Multiculturalism vs. Assimilation in Europe

Thoughts about each Muslim society from general public pre 9/11

Notes on Islamic Fundamentalism from both regions

Thoughts of terrorism by American Muslims

Sentiments of each region post 9/11

New government policies regarding Muslims in each region

Post 9/11 acts of terror

Waves of Immigration

American Muslims

- ~ First Wave - Pre-World Wars (1875 to 1908) was laborer class Muslims originating in the Middle East, immigrating for employment and increased standard of living.
- ~ Second Wave - Post World Wars (1909 to 1946) peaked in the 1930s, but halted due to WW11. Immigrants in this wave had difficulty because of the imposed discriminatory immigration laws at the time.
- ~ Third Wave - Post-War (1947 to mid-1960s) occurred mainly due to escaping political oppression. They were well educated and affluent Muslims, coming mostly from displaced Palestinians.
- ~ Fourth Wave- (mid-1960s to present) consists

European Muslims

- ~ The first wave was single-male worker immigration responding to the huge demand for labor between 1950 and 1973.
- ~ The second wave, coming after the economic disruption of the oil shock, was the arrival, in large numbers, of wives and dependents following the worker-immigration bans in many countries.
- ~ The third wave is the rapid growth of refugees and asylum seekers, starting in 1979 with the Iranian Revolution and escalating with the Iran-Iraq wars, the two Gulf wars, the Taliban-Russian war in Afghanistan, the NATO-Taliban war, and the civil wars in the Horn of Africa.
- ~ Finally, the fourth wave has been the birth of children to the earlier immigrants.

Current Muslim Populations

United States

The Muslim population in the United States:

- younger than national average
- predominately male
- most male-present religion in the United States
- Of the 3.6 million who call America their home, about two-thirds of the total are immigrants from countries where the majority of the population is Muslim
- by the year 2015, Islam will be the second-largest religion in the United States

Areas in which Muslim populations are prevalent:

- Large metropolitan areas
- NY to Washington
- California (LA and San Fransisco)
- Texas
- Midwest (Chicago-Cleveland-Detroit)

Europe

-Muslims are the largest religious minority in Europe

-2007 estimate 53 million in Europe

-Unable to know exact figures from each country as many do not ask for religion information when taking the Census

-Islam is the fastest growing religion

-Given continued immigration and high Muslim fertility rates, the U.S. National Intelligence Council projects that Europe's Muslim population will double by 2025

-Significantly younger than non-muslim population

American Muslim Society

United States

- Makes up only 1% of the population within the U.S.
- A heterogenous population
- 2/3 are foreign born
- Well-educated and has greater economic success than the average American
- Acknowledged as US citizens, not as foreigners
- Integration is facilitated in part by religious tolerance
- Among native-born Muslims, about half are African American many of whom are converts
- American Muslim women are the most well-educated female religious group, after American Jewish women
- 71% of Muslim Americans believe most people in the U.S. "can make it if they are willing to work hard."
- 1/4 of the population is Shiite

Europe

- Integration policy is primarily the responsibility of individual member states rather than that of the EU as a whole given different national histories, legal frameworks, and preferences for managing immigration.
- 11 facets of integration as set up by the EU
- Netherlands: Anti-Muslim integration beliefs and implementations
- Cultural Clashes
- Muslim women are hesitant to enter workforce

Europe

Multiculturalism: promoting tolerance and integration while allowing immigrants and ethnic groups to maintain cultural identities and customs

Assimilation:

political response to the demographic fact of multi-ethnicity which encourages absorption of the minority into the dominant culture

Examples: United Kingdom & France

from general public pre 9/11

United States

- Muslims were hardly heard/talked about until the creation of the American Muslim Council whose goals are to have a voice in local and federal issues and decisions regarding foreign policy.

Europe

- 46% of UK Muslims are second or third generation, yet still considered foreigners
- Harsh class system of Europe
- Distanced from society based by socio-economic status
- Discrimination in work force
- Reliance on welfare

from both regions

United States

- Fundamentalists reject the idea of the West
- Belief that the influence of American culture is threatening

Europe

- The Hamburg Cell and Mohamed el-Amir Awad el-Sayed Atta

Muslims

-Degree of Islamic extremists in the US is extremely lower than that of Europe

“The hijackers had little contact with American Muslims and apparently received no support from them.”

-The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United State

-Eighty-three percent of American Muslims say that suicide bombing of civilians is never or rarely justified,

post 9/11

United States

- Second Muslim elected to Congress
- 15% of Americans wanted nothing to do with Islam
- 15 to 20% had no problem with Islam
- 60% of Americans didn't know anything about Islam.

Europe

- "European public opinion of Muslims is worsening just when greater integration is so desperately needed"
- One survey by a UK-based Islamic human rights group found that 80% of Muslims polled felt harassed or discriminated against in 2004
- Political Discourse

regarding Muslims Post 9/11

United States

-Of the approximate twenty policies and initiatives implemented in the first twelve months after 9/11, fifteen explicitly targeted Arabs and Muslims.

-Ramadan Bill

-Justice department interviews

-Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act

-Special Registration program

-The Patriot Act

Europe

**-Positive
Discrimination**

-The Council Model

**-Changes in
Immigration**

-Anti-terrorism

Post 9/11 Acts of Terror

United States

-Fort Hood, Texas,
2005

Europe

-Van Gogh murder,
2004

-Madrid train
bombings, 2004

-UK train bombing,
2005

Reaction to post-9/11 terror

United States

- President Obama
- U.S. Government
- American Muslim Groups

Europe

-In the three weeks after July 7, 2005, there were 269 hate crimes in London — mostly against Muslims — compared to 40 in the same period in 2004 compared to 35% in 1999

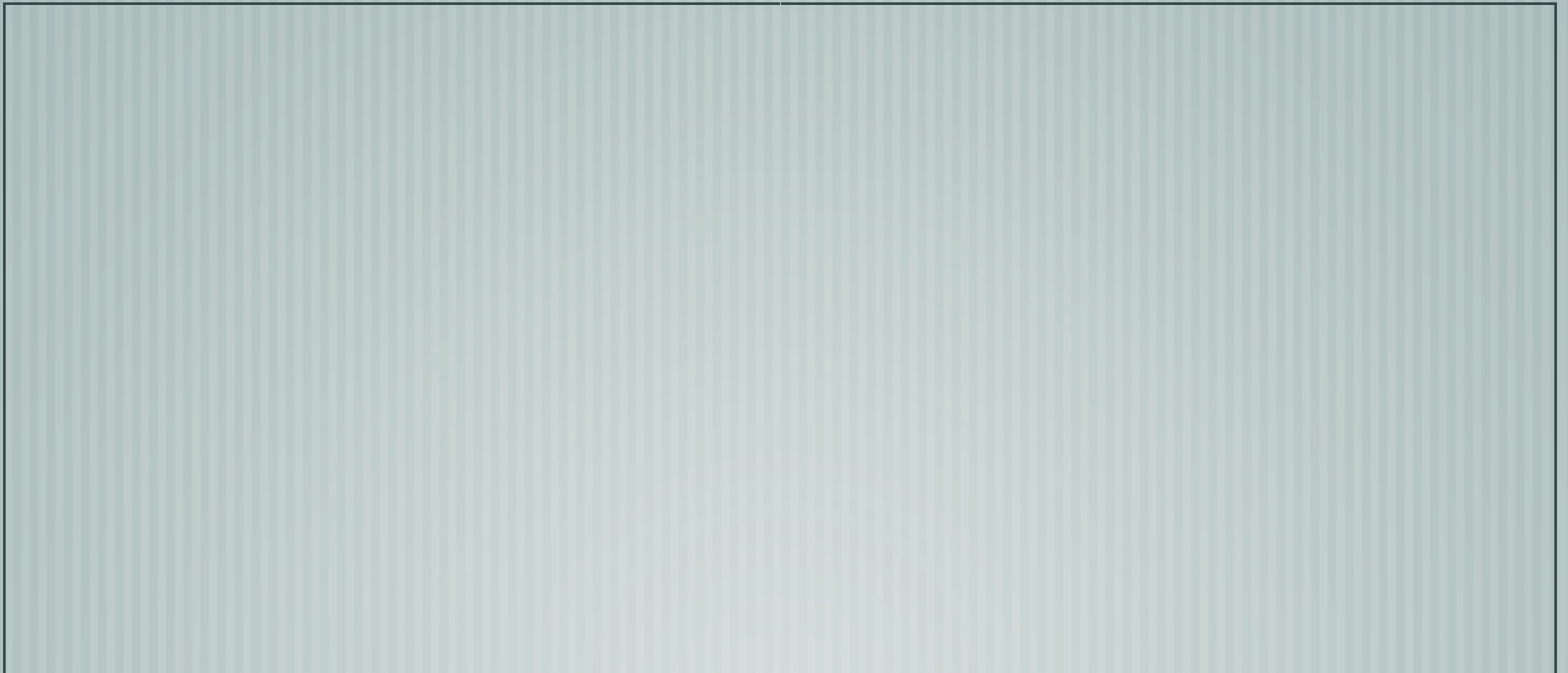
-A Pew 2006 poll shows that Muslims in Europe are much more likely to identify themselves by their religion before their nationality.

-One survey by a UK-based Islamic human rights group found that 80% of Muslims polled felt harassed or discriminated against in 2004

-Since 9/11, the nations of the EU have arrested more than twenty times the number of terrorist suspects as the United States. Because of this threat, states can take a view of domestic Muslims as 'foreign enemies,' a classification that implies a much lower level of legal and social rights and privileges.

Final Thoughts

“Among scholars of terrorism these days, the accepted wisdom is that a major reason no second catastrophic attack on the United States has occurred is that the foot soldiers of jihad are not here - at least not in great numbers. Many Muslims in this country may be angry about U.S. foreign policy, but they are not alienated from American society or values.”



Conclusion

The war against terrorism and, in particular, terrorism committed by Muslims is an ideological battle that cannot be won without the help of Muslims themselves. American Muslims are playing a crucial role in fighting the ideology that leads to terror. We urge European and Eurasian Muslims to join in that cause. If European governments are not proactive in eliminating bias and discrimination against European Muslims, the European Muslim community will become marginalized. Rather than pour their energies on helping Europe fight terror and intolerance, European Muslims will instead withdraw from society and Europe may lose a potential element in the war on terror. Moreover, the marginalization of European Muslims through bans on religious expression will substantially slow or even bring to a halt the process of integrating European Muslims into the fabric of Europe." Kamal Nawash, the president of the Free Muslim Coalition Against Terrorism